

THEMESCENE

March 2016

In this issue we:

Examine a French landmark

The Eiffel Tower

With Mike Trickett



And an American one

The Statue of Liberty

With Jon Matthias



Then look deeper

The Poem on the Plinth

With Jeff Dugdale



Travel to a medical outpost

METAI

With Ray Ireson

And admire a beautiful animal

Heffalumps

With Neil Pearce



BRITISH THEMATIC



ASSOCIATION

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THE EIFFEL TOWER, page 4



STATUE OF LIBERTY, page 6



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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Much as I enjoy editing *Themescene* it does have the occasional drawback. One - inevitably - is the last-minute panic as printer deadline looms. No matter how carefully I think I've planned my diary to leave plenty of time free it never seems to work. That you normally get your magazine early in the month of issue is much more due to the diligence of the printer than it is to me. Another downside is the cycle of dates: once a quarter, regular as clockwork, leaving the feeling my life is ticking away far too quickly. Most of us know the feeling, the older you get the more time passes quickly. And this cycle means repetition of annual items which I then draw attention to in the Editorial. So if you read this Editorial and think it sounds familiar my apologies; some things just need to be said. The last issue included a report on the annual competitions, and here we are including an application form for the 2016 competitions (pages 35-36). I know last year's winner of the John Fosbery competition was both delighted and stunned when he won (and I'm told it quite impressed his non-collecting wife) so why don't you have a go? If you've never won a national competition this is your chance. There are no other rules and it's not even a thematic competition - it's anything you choose. It's judged by popular vote and no-one is going to mind if you include postcards, ephemera or anything else that catches your eye. The competitions proved a popular focus at Ardingly last year with over 50 people casting their vote for the Fosbery. Go on - have a go and show!

One thing however does not get reported on annually: our website. As flagged up in the last issue we have a brand new site at www.britishthematic.org.uk. We are most grateful to the ABPS Small Grants Scheme for making this possible. The site is still being populated but we hope will prove a valuable resource for members, and a recruiting tool to get new members.

There is a theme running through the first three articles in this issue. Starting with the Eiffel Tower, designed - obviously - by Gustav Eiffel (page 4), we go on to The Statue of Liberty (page 6) where the internal steel framework that keeps the statue up was also designed by Eiffel, and then to the Poem on the Plinth (page 9) on the base of the Statue of Liberty. It is rare that I can marshal articles from diverse writers on diverse themes and pull them together. And just how many themes are there? I can muster: civil engineering, tourism, national symbols, world fairs, transmitters, stamp design errors, poetry, immigration, and Jewish history. At least. That's the thing about thematic: it's not always obvious how to represent your theme, you need to think laterally.

Although membership renewal is set for 1st February each year, a notice was included with the December magazine to reduce postage costs. As a result many members have elected to pay early and to date about two thirds of subscriptions have been received. Should you not have paid already, a reminder will be found enclosed with this edition of *Themescene*, and it would be appreciated if this could be returned as soon as possible. And a request to all members to let our Membership Secretary Peter Denly know of any change of postal address or email, to peter.denly@uwclub.net or write to 9 Oaklands Park, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2BY. Thank you. 

CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg

EXCITING TIMES

As I write this article it's pouring down with rain, it's dark outside and it's cold. Typical British winter you might say! I don't feel sad or gloomy; however, perhaps surprisingly, I feel excited at the prospect of the year ahead. On a personal note some of you know that I shall be retiring from work in the summer and I'm excited (and a little nervous) about that. Lots more time to write up those pages and write those articles I have been promising editors – although my wife may have other plans for my time! But I believe (and hope) this will be an exciting year for the BTA and its members. I am really looking forward to seeing our new web site that may be up in a few days (and by the time you read this may well be working). So much of life these days is on the web and having a good presence will enable us to do so much.

For me Stampex is the end of winter. I know many of you can't get to it but I hope some of you will go and find those missing and elusive items from your collection. For me Stampex is a sign that summer, and the many and various stamp and postcard shows and fairs around the country, are just around the corner.

I am particularly looking forward to the Southern Stamp Show at Farnborough on 11 and 12 March. This will be a new venture for me and I am looking forward to seeing what it has to offer. Swinpex, on 11 June, will always be a favourite of mine. Located in Swindon it is a very popular show and I rarely come away empty handed. Over the past few years I have also been to a few stamp events at Perth. This year the SCOTEX show will be on 14/15th October. I like this event as it has a large selection of dealers and a selection of collectors and exhibitors I rarely see south of the border. Always exciting to see new

people and new boxes of 'stuff' to rummage through!

However, fun as all these things are, for me the highlight this year will be the New York stamp show starting at the end of May. I am hoping to see lots of good exhibits with lots of good ideas I can use in my own collection. Lots of new people to meet, particularly those from the American Topical Association, and lots of dealers to visit. I am very excited about this show and the opportunities it might bring for the BTA. I know there are many many more stamp fairs and shows in the UK. Perhaps you could tell the Editor which is your favourite?

So, despite the gloomy weather, I do feel rather positive at the moment. And, perhaps this is another advantage for philatelists – always looking forward with hope for the future! I hope that your elusive item is waiting for you at the next dealer's stand! Good hunting.



THE EIFFEL TOWER

Mike Trickett salutes a Paris icon

The Eiffel Tower, made of iron, was erected for the Paris Exposition of 1889. It is to France what Big Ben is to England – a national symbol. Construction of the Tower began in 1887 and required 300 steel workers. It was completed on time. No one lost their lives in its building except one unfortunate soul who was showing off to his girlfriend. Designed by Alexandre Gustav Eiffel the Tower met significant opposition from some. In fact the novelist Guy de Maupassant, who claimed to hate the Tower, supposedly ate lunch every day in the Tower's restaurant. When asked why, he said it was the only place in Paris where one couldn't see the Tower. The Paris authorities gave the go-ahead despite all the objections and it was officially opened on 31st March 1889.

Built to celebrate the science and engineering achievements of its age, soaring 300m (320.75m with antenna) and weighing 7000 tons, the structure consists of two visibly distinct parts: a base composed of a platform resting on four separate supports and, above this, a slender tower created as the pylons taper upward, rising above a second platform to merge into a unified column. During the day the whole structure can lean away from the sun as much as 7 inches due to the expansion of the side facing the sun. Eiffel was renowned for his expertise in erecting tall structures and as such the metal array is built to withstand the high winds that the tower is subject to. There is a lift and 1671 steps to the top. Interestingly, during the war, on the day that Hitler made a visit to the Tower, the lift was out of order! There was a sign, however, hung from the Tower during the war which read: "Germany is victorious on all fronts".




The Tower was meant to be a temporary structure and was almost torn down in 1909 when its 20-year lease was coming to an end; however it was saved with the advent of telegraphy. It was and still is a magnificent aerial mast. Beginning in 1910 it became part of the International Time Service, French radio (1918), and French television (1957). In the 1960s it was the subject of a wonderful study by semiologist Roland Barthes.

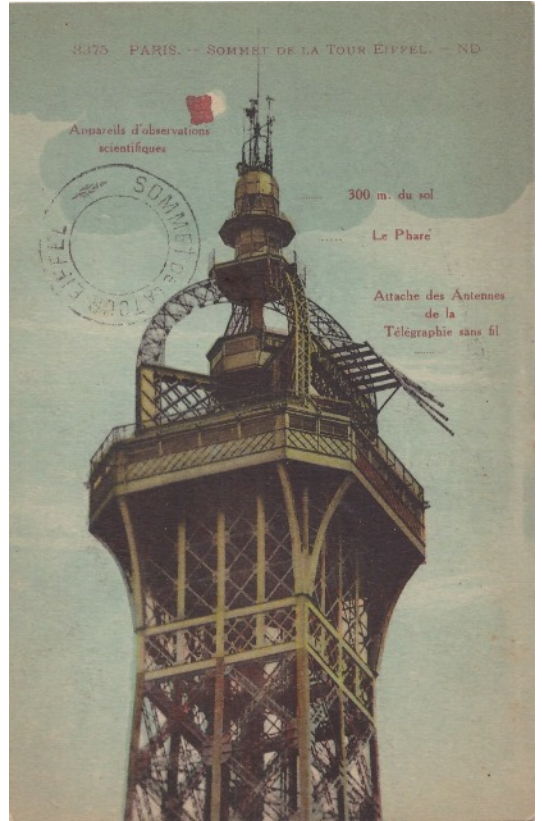
Postcards began to be issued during 1889. Since its inauguration there has been a post office on the first level of the Tower where you can send a postcard with a special Eiffel Tower cachet and cancellation.

There is plenty of historical interest. In 1910 the base of the tower was inundated in the great flood. The rest was OK! In 1954 the Eiffel Tower was scaled by a mountaineer. In 1984 two Brits parachuted off it. In a ceremony in 2007, an American woman, Erika Eiffel, famously "married" the Eiffel Tower.

If you visit the Tower nowadays you will see a bust of Alexandre Eiffel at the base and his restored office on the second floor. There is also a nice restaurant on the first floor.

About six years ago I wanted to post a card to myself with all the cancellations. Unfortunately as I was going up the Tower there was a student demo at the base and the whole Tower was shut and we had to descend and leave. So no postcard of my own yet...

All in all the Eiffel Tower is a rich source for the collector with plenty of postcards and stamps to seek out. 



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY: A SYMBOLIC THEME

John Matthias looks at the USA's most famous landmark

I collect the Statue of Liberty on stamps. It appears quite a narrow theme, although I have over 400 stamps from over 100 postal issuing authorities, and I'm always discovering more.

I had returned to stamp collecting as a hobby around about my 30th birthday and hadn't really settled on a particular focus. I was talking to my wife about New York and seeing the Statue of Liberty and, for fun, decided to group together a few postage stamps featuring the Statue of Liberty that I knew I had in some old albums.

Then I made the mistake of looking on eBay and discovering there were loads out there. I still have several to find. When we start talking about meter mail, cancellations and cachets, the numbers go up again.

I have some theories as to why the Statue of Liberty appears on so many stamps. The Statue of Liberty has become one of the most recognised landmarks in the world since it was built in 1886. Officially called 'Liberty Enlightening the World', it was the first sight of the USA seen by hundreds of thousands of immigrants to the New World, and subsequently a major attraction for literally millions of tourists. As such it has become a convenient shorthand symbol for New York, or the United States of America. In the limited space available on a stamp, if a designer wants to represent the Big Apple or the USA, odds are that the Statue of Liberty will feature.

Likewise, it is also a symbol for many 'abstract' themes. 'Liberty' is the obvious one, but the statue has been used to denote peace (Uruguay 1919), the Americas (Haiti, 1941), racial equality (Mali, 1978), and tourism (Norway 1960).

The Statue was designed by an eccentric French artist, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, and paid for by charitable donations as a 'gift of friendship' from the people of France to the people of America. Bartholdi apparently modelled the Statue's body on his wife, but used his mother as the model for the face, which is perhaps a bit unsettling.

Bartholdi could easily be the subject of a thematic collection himself, as could Gustav Eiffel, who designed the internal steel framework that keeps the statue up. Of course, Eiffel's most famous creation in the centre of Paris is one of the few landmarks to rival the fame and attraction of the Statue of Liberty.

Another key personality linked with the statue is Joseph Pulitzer, who gave his name to the most prestigious award for journalism in the world. He raised the funds in the USA to build the base the statue sits upon.



Collecting Lady Liberty

Finding out what stamps and philatelic material exist is the first difficulty to overcome when collecting a very specific theme. Some stamps only feature the Statue in the background design, meaning catalogues don't mention it. The only thematic dealer I've met with a 'Statue of Liberty' section said he had just sold all his stock! It can be frustrating.

I've been helped in my collection by joining the British Thematic Association, with some members supplying me with material. Joining the BTA also gave me access to the American Topical Association list for the Statue. But even that list is incomplete. I know, because I have stamps that aren't on their list.

EBay is another source of information, and more importantly colour images. I have used them to construct my own personalised catalogue, which doubles as a 'wants list', for things I thought I could find cheaper offline, and often have.

Key milestones

Events play a key role in the issuing of stamps featuring the Statue of Liberty. For example, New York has hosted two World's Fairs. In 1939-40, France's World's Fair stamps featured Lady Liberty. A variety of nations marked the 1964 World's Fair with stamps that feature the Statue, including several Arab countries like Egypt, Dubai and Yemen. 'First flights' also meant some countries issued stamps with the Lady on, notably Switzerland (1947) and Iran (1975).



But the main events that prompted the most stamps featuring the Statue of Liberty are:

- the American Bicentenary in 1976 (Anguilla, Bangladesh, Morocco, Niger, Samoa, San Marino, and Sri Lanka, used the Statue in their designs);
- the centenary of the Statue itself (marked by over 100 countries, including a joint issue between the USA and France);
- the one-year commemoration of 9/11, in 2002 (Albania, Cook Islands, Mongolia, Paraguay, and Zambia, were among the countries involved).



The Bicentenary stamps were particular to the country producing them, unlike the later events mentioned above that tended to be 'omnibus' style issues, with names of countries interchangeable on virtually identical designs.

The Statue's Centenary saw a huge number of mass-produced carbon copy stamp sets released by several countries. For example, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Nevis, Saint Vincent, and Tuvalu each produced huge sets of stamps commemorating the Statue's centenary, using the same photos.

However, the mass-production of these stamps did lead to one of the more interesting philatelic artefacts of the Statue's centenary – a se-tenant strip featuring stamps of eight different countries that was apparently produced to aid the manufacture of first day covers. This strip includes a stamp from St Lucia that wasn't sold elsewhere as St Lucia decided to opt out of the omnibus issue and produced its own unique stamps.

The 2002 'United We Stand' theme also saw very similar stamps and items produced by many different countries. While some countries used pictures or photos of the attacks on the Twin Towers themselves, many also opted to use the Statue of Liberty, again highlighting its handy use as a symbol for stamp designers.



'United We Stand' miniature sheets sold by a variety of nations incorporated the Statue draped in an American flag alongside their own flags. The quality of design and print was poor, with the image often looking a bit fuzzy, and getting hold of them is awkward, as with many modern issues.


Other events commemorated also create opportunities for stamp designers to include the Statue on stamps. For example, Rwanda's stamps released when Pope Paul VI visited the United Nations in New York in 1965. Presidential visits have also prompted the use of the Statue. When President Truman visited Brazil in 1947, the second Brazilian stamp to feature the Statue was issued. When Liberia's President Tubman visited the USA in 1961, the Statue was a key part of the design.

Subversion, mistakes and irony

Perhaps the most interesting use of the Statue in the 'state visit' context was Bulgaria's issue to celebrate Soviet President Khrushchev's visit to America in 1959. This was the second time the Statue had appeared on a Bulgarian stamp while the country was ruled by communists (the first time was to celebrate a stamp exhibition in 1947). Was this a deliberate act by a subversive designer to include an image of freedom and liberty on a stamp? I'd like to think it was.



You'd think that such a globally recognised symbol wouldn't be the case of mistaken identity. And yet in 2011 the US Postal Service did just that, using a photo of a replica in Los Angeles in a close-up on their 'Liberty Forever' stamp (inside front cover). (They also used the photo without permission and ended up getting sued by the photographer!). And finally, collecting a theme like this gives me an excuse to buy all kinds of weird and wonderful covers, as long as the Statue of Liberty is present somewhere. It throws up some ironies, not least a recent acquisition of an envelope with Lady Liberty on the stamp, and a hand-stamp indicating it was sent from a resident of a Californian women's correctional facility, who presumably was not at liberty at all.

I would like to thank BTA members Peter Wood and Margaret Morris for their support with my theme. If any other BTA members have items they think may interest me, please email me on matthias@ntlworld.com 

THE POEM ON THE PLINTH

Jeff Dugdale remembers America's immigrants

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free....."*

This stirring imperative evokes the promise of "the golden door" - to security and happiness and beyond that to The American Dream. This topic of much American literature is often quoted in the context of refugees arriving in the New World at the start of the twentieth century, hoping to escape from economic, political and/or religious oppression.

Less well known are author, location and the possibility of philatelic commemoration. The quotation comes from a sonnet called *The New Colossus* engraved on a bronze plaque on the lower level of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which was a gift to the people of America from the French people and designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.

The statue itself represents Libertas, the Roman goddess of Freedom, who in Bartholdi's creation bears a torch and carries a tablet on which is given the date of American Declaration of Independence. The historical affinity of the French and the Americans in throwing off oppressive rulers, respectively royalty and nobility and the British is very strong.



In order to fund the pedestal on which Liberty stands, an auction of art and literature was conducted by a dedicated Art Loan Fund and donations were sought from various prominent artists of the time. One of these was Emma Lazarus (1849-1887), born into a well-connected and wealthy family of Sephardic Jews whose origins several generations earlier were in Portugal. Lazarus wrote poetry and also translated poems by Goethe and Heine from the German. But her interest in her Jewish ancestry which led her to write her most famous works grew from her own reading of George Eliot's controversial novel *Daniel Deronda* (1876). In this the eponymous hero saves a young Jewish girl called Mirah who was about to drown herself and goes on to learn about the historical persecution of Jews when he meets her brother Mordecai.


Lazarus also learned of the pogroms which were then driving many hundreds of persecuted Ashkenazi Jews literally "beyond the Pale" to the Eastern seaboard of the United States. Better known than the sonnet she reluctantly contributed to the Art Loan Fund were her *Songs of a Semite*, written in 1882 which inspired her to raise funds of behalf of destitute Jews in order to establish the Hebrew Technical Institute in New York to help young unemployed men to train and so support themselves.

However, the text of Lazarus' 1883 sonnet makes no direct connection to Jewish persecution. Rather, in recognition that from the days of the Puritan Pilgrim Fathers onward, religious persecution and freedom to worship as you wish were major reasons for emigration to the New World. She writes sentiments which have an all-embracing context:

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
 With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

The reference in the first line is to the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, a giant edifice of the sun god Helios which straddled the harbour of Rhodes acting as a beacon to sailors, as shown Greece 1947. The Statue of Liberty of course appears on many US stamps most of which concentrate on its upper half with just a few showing the pedestal which houses the sonnet within. (Shown USA 1940 and 1954, and France 1939).



The connection with France is cemented when you realise in how many guises Liberty appears on French stamps. Since 1944 Marianne de France with her Phrygian (or Liberty) cap has featured on French definitives and commemoratives in over a dozen different designs, some by famous artists : shown here are examples from left 1944, 1960 and 2011. 



METAI 1964 - 1965:

EASTER ISLAND AND THE MEDICAL EXPEDITION

Purchase of an unusual postcard prompted Ray Ireson to do some research

Easter Island (indigenous name Rapa Nui) is located in the South Pacific Ocean, some 2,300 miles west of Chile, of which it is a dependency. Forming a triangle fourteen miles long by seven miles wide, the Island has an area of 45 square miles. Its highest point is 1,969 feet above seal level. The arid landscape has no rivers or streams, but rain collects in the partly bog-covered crater lakes of several volcanoes. Water from the extremely deep crater of Rano Kau, which is about 1,000 yards wide, is piped to Hanga Roa, the main settlement, on the west coast.

The climate is sub-tropical, with an average temperature varying from about 25C in January to about 21C in August. Average annual rainfall is about 40 inches. September is the driest month and the heaviest rainfall occurs in June and July. Trade winds from the east and southeast are dominant. From September through to March the Humboldt Current, which has an average temperature of about 21C, washes against the Island.



Indigenous plants are few. The toromiro tree is the only wild tree. Today only 31 wild flowering plants, fourteen ferns and fourteen mosses are reported. Grass and small ferns dominate the barren landscape. A number of cultivated species of plants were imported partly from America, and partly from Polynesia before the arrival of Europeans. The principal of the species, the sweet potato, was cultivated extensively as it became the people's staple diet. Other imports were sugar cane, bananas, taro, yams, chilli peppers, a small variety of pineapple and coconut. Some years ago the Chilean government began a programme of reforestation.

As with plants, indigenous animal life is just about non-existent. Before the arrival of human beings the only vertebrates were fish or seabirds. There were also a variety of spiders, insects, worms and the Polynesian rat. Missionaries introduced sheep, cattle, pigs and horses. Sheep have become especially numerous since a French sheep rancher began commercial ranching in 1870.

The island population represents the easternmost settlement of a basically Polynesian subgroup, although non-Polynesian physical and linguistic traits have been noted among them since the time of European discovery. The original Rapanui vocabulary has been lost and a Tahitian dialect was introduced by missionaries who established themselves there in 1866. However today the lingua franca is Spanish. This islanders consistently divide themselves into descendants of two distinct ethnic groups, the 'Long Ears' from South America and the 'Short Ears' from Polynesia. Nevertheless intermarriage is common and the influx of foreign blood has become increasingly dominant.

In the old days the economy was based on sheep farming, cultivation of the sweet potato, chicken rearing and coastal fishing, but in the late 1960's an international airport was constructed, and the Island is now an important hub of the South America - Pacific air traffic, which has brought an influx of tourists thus diversifying and boosting the economy.



The first European to discover the Island was the Dutch Commodore Jacob Roggeveen in 1722. It was Easter Sunday when he came across this isolated spot in the Pacific, hence the name he gave it. Roggeveen's landing party opened fire on the natives, leaving more than a dozen dead. He stayed only one day, but wrote in his log of "the remarkably tall stone figures that caused us to be filled with wonder". An expedition dispatched by the Spanish viceroy of Peru rediscovered the Island in 1770. They spent four days ashore and reported a population of 3,000 persons of extremely mixed physical appearance. The next recorded visitor was the renowned British navigator Captain Cook, who arrived in 1774. A civil war seems to have raged before his visit: he found a decimated, poverty-stricken Polynesian population of only about 600 to 700 men and fewer than 30 women. He also observed that the large stone statues were no longer venerated, most of them having been deliberately toppled over.



Although the population did recover, in 1862 disaster struck in the form of slave traders who swooped down on the Island and carried away about 1,000 men to work the fetid guano deposits off the Peruvian coast. Several months later the Peruvian Government returned the fifteen who had managed to survive. But they brought smallpox with them and that epidemic decimated the population still further. By 1877 it had dwindled to 111.

Peace finally settled over Rapa Nui when Chile annexed it in 1888, and since then population figures have increased steadily. The Chilean Navy administered the Island and operated an island-wide sheep farm. A civilian governor was later appointed and development continued apace. Formerly the Island's principal link with the outside world was a naval transport dispatched by the Chilean Government once a year, carrying enough supplies to see the Islanders through for a further twelve months. A naval doctor provided free medical attention and a group of nuns offered education. A hospital and school house were eventually built.

Much later came plans to expand the rudimentary airfield (used by the Chilean air force) into a commercial airport of international dimensions. Its creation would undoubtedly bring about radical changes in the Islanders' lifestyles.

MEDICAL EXPEDITION TO EASTER ISLAND

This is really a story of the determination of one man, Dr. Stanley C. Skoryna, medical researcher and Associate Professor of McGill University, who conceived the idea and became Director of the expedition. When Dr. Skoryna heard about the airport project he felt that this was a unique opportunity to study the health and disease of an isolated community under ideal conditions which would disappear once the airport became operational.



The expedition was to be the Canadian contribution to the International Biological Year under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation. It was composed of 38 scientists, mostly from Canadian Universities, plus representatives from Chile, United Kingdom, United States, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden. It was supported by the Royal Canadian Navy's 11,000 ton mobile repair vessel *HMCS Cape Scott*, under Commander Charles Anthony Law. It was the first time the Canadian armed forces had participated on a large scale in a biological and medial expedition.

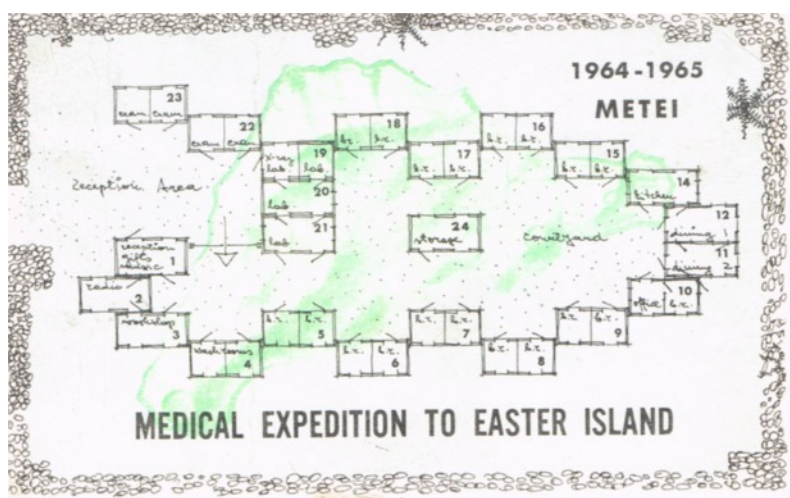
The ship departed from Halifax on 16 November 1964, with the American and Chilean members joining her in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Balboa, Panama. She arrived at Easter Island on 13 December with 150 tons of supplies. The complete camp, situated on the south-west shore at Hanga Roa (the main settlement) was set up by the ship's officers and crew in six days. The collapsible aluminium trailers were equipped with an electric generator and a solar still to provide domestic water.

Examination of the islanders started four days later and was conducted in family groups, numbering on the average eight to ten individuals. Each was put through a series of tests, consisting of medical and dental examination, X-ray, anthropometry, work physiology, and laboratory sampling such as smears for bacterial cultures, blood serum etc. Veterinarians and biologists studied the flora and fauna.

Accompanying the scientific group, to later report on its activities, was David MacFarlane of *The Montreal Star*. On behalf of the newspaper he presented 298 children with gifts of some sort, such as sweets, costume jewellery, jack-knives, notebooks, drawing books, soap, detergents etc. The children were allowed to come up and choose their own gift from those displayed on the tables. Afterwards, the children sang and danced for the group. MacFarlane wrote that nothing had prepared him or the expeditionary group for the reactions they received from the Islanders.

After two months of fieldwork the objectives of the expedition had been accomplished and preparations were made for the return journey to Halifax. *HMCS Cape Scott* retraced her outward route via the Panama Canal, arriving back in Halifax on 17 March 1965.

On his return to Montreal MacFarlane was asked about his impressions and whether he would like to go back to Easter Island. He replied that just like Roggeveen in 1722 everybody marvelled at the monolithic statues which were still standing. The Island is still famous for those statues, the like of which are to be found nowhere else. 📖



METAI postcard. See inside back cover for postal side with METAI label

HEFFALUMPS

Neil Pearce admires a much-loved animal

As young children we had some difficulty in pronouncing ‘Elephants’, and their correct spelling was also a source of some frustration. But now that we are grown-ups it is re-assuring to know that our childish interest in these intriguing animals remains and that furthermore, we may study miniature images of them as they appear on stamps.

Thematic collectors of wild creatures may soon come to realize that it is really too vast a topic to sustain overall. Countries far and wide have been issuing sets featuring wildlife both great and small and the popularity of such stamps continues to the present day.

Selecting one animal to focus on is therefore a preferable option, so why not elephants? They appear frequently enough in the philatelic issues of countries where they are indigenous and they show sufficient variation in their portrayal to make collecting them greatly interesting.

The following selection of elephant stamps will, we trust, confirm our faith in the appeal of these large animals for thematic collectors. We have limited our choice to representative items from Africa (*Loxodonta africanus*) and Asia (*Elephas maximus*) from whence the two distinct species of the animal originate. Attention will focus upon their distinguishing characteristics and related philatelic traits.

All elephants have a number of distinctive features. The most noticeable is an intricate multi-purpose trunk or proboscis which comprises 40,000 muscles, invaluable for grasping objects, for drinking and for breathing. An exceptional sense of smell is also a feature. They have large ears which flap to control body temperature, and incisors, enlarging into tusks, which can be used for digging, moving obstacles or as weapons against potential predators.



The Chinese *se-tenant* issue of 1995 marked the 20th anniversary of China - Thailand diplomatic relations; it shows two groups of Asian elephants approaching each other before meeting in a river.



The elephants illustrated in Vietnam 1986 are of the Asian variety, with generally level backs and smaller ears than those of their African cousins. The second 1d. stamp depicts a small calf suckling from its mother. This dependence may continue until the calf is three years old or more. The first 1d. stamp shows a mother elephant and young daughter. The females tend to live in family groups, led by an individual matriarch, usually the oldest cow. Other stamps in the set illustrate adult male (bull) elephants with well-grown tusks and long, ribbed trunks. They tend to leave family groups on reaching maturity, living alone or

with other males until they search for a mate in a state of aggression known as *musth*. One stamp shows a tamed working elephant lifting a log, while another shows a small group of adult females.

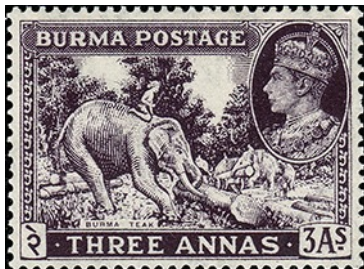


The Laotian stamps (1958) show domesticated elephants. The 10c issue features two persons aloft each animal, with wire carrier baskets for carrying loads while the 20c stamp shows an elephant head decorated with an attractive

headpiece. A fine image of an elephant's head appears in the 1K issue of the 1982 set of Laotian stamps. The 2K stamp again shows the value of elephants as carriers of cut timber while the 3K stamp confirms their role as people carriers.

The final set from Laos (1994) features the role of prized elephants in ceremonial events around the country. The 140K stamp shows a well-decorated animal, with costumed driver participating in a street procession. The 400K stamp shows a stationary elephant located within a pavilion - apparently good natured and patient - while the higher-value 890K issue returns to a street parade, with another well-behaved animal and faithful rider. It is noticeable that none of the creatures have tusks, these having been removed.

Two Thai stamps (2003) were issued to mark the tenth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and South Africa. They provide appropriate illustrations of the two main species of elephants. The left-hand stamp depicts an Asian animal while the right-hand stamp shows one from Africa. As noted, the Asian elephant is somewhat smaller than its African counterpart, with smaller ears and shorter tusks.



The 1948 3 annas stamp from Burma illustrates again the important role of elephants in transporting timber, in this case cut logs from the teak forests with which the country was formerly well endowed. In 1946 Burma issued a vertical 3 annas and 6 pies stamp (not illustrated), the highest value in a set of four stamps issued to commemorate the victory of the Allies at the end of World War II. The country had been virtually overrun by the Japanese who inflicted terrible

hardship on the Burmese as well as Allied prisoners of war. The stamp shows a well-decorated elephant against a background map of the country. Recently a seven-year-old white (albino) elephant – much revered - was captured in Myanmar.



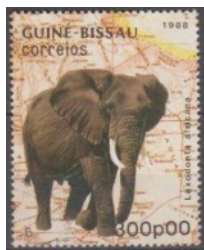
The Ceylon 1938 commemorative issue on the occasion of the ascendancy of King George VI to the British throne saw fourteen pictorial stamps portraying different aspects of life in Ceylon. The 50c stamp shows a small group of wild elephants enjoying a visit

to a river. Queen Elizabeth II paid a visit to Ceylon in 1954 and, to mark the event, a single

stamp was issued. It shows three adorned elephants participating in a ceremonial procession on behalf of the youthful monarch.



Turning to Africa, and to the far west of the continent, the tiny riverine state of Gambia issued a set of 16 stamps in 1938. They all depict an elephant beneath a palm tree: a scene derived from the Colony Badge of the time. However the Badge smacks of rather desperate nostalgia, because elephants had long since been hunted to extinction in Gambia. The last known specimen was shot in 1913. Today Gambia is a republic within the British Commonwealth.



A former Portuguese colony, Guinea-Bissau achieved independence in 1974. A colourful set of seven stamps was issued in 1988, featuring wild animals found within its territory. The 300p. value offers a fine image of an adult bull elephant. Shortly after achieving republican status within the British Commonwealth in 1965 Nigeria

issued a set of 14 stamps featuring the country's wild life. The 1d. stamp shows two adult elephants and a young calf.



Moving across to East Africa, the three British-administered states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika jointly issued stamps from 1933 until each country achieved independence, after which each state produced its own stamps. The 15c stamp shown is one of 14 which largely depict wildlife

but also include Mt. Kilimanjaro and the Owen Falls Dam. On achieving independence in 1963 Kenya issued 14 stamps illustrating many aspects of life in the country. Among them was the 1s/30 value stamp promoting tourism, with a view of the Treetops Hotel. This provides a vantage point for observing wild life, including elephants, as they come to drink at the nearby pools. While providing attractions for visitors they are sadly also the target for poachers, with the ivory from tusks being in high demand beyond the African continent.

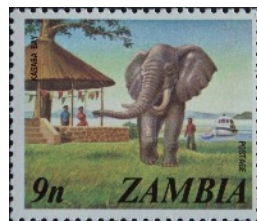
Wild animals on stamps have been featured on numerous occasions by the state of Burundi, formerly part of a Belgian colony in East Africa. Well over 100 images of indigenous wildlife are to be viewed on Burundi stamps. The neighbouring state of Rwanda marked the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Environmental Programme with ten stamps featuring aspects of the country's own rich environment. The 20c stamp (not illustrated) depicts a charging bull elephant, with a smaller companion.



Formerly the Belgian Congo, then the Congo Republic (Kinshasa), the central African state was renamed Zaire in 1971 and became the Congo Democratic Republic in 1977. The 1979 issue of eight stamps (and two mini-sheets) was to commemorate a Zaire (Congo) River Expedition and the 4K issue shows an elephant alongside a floral symbol of the country.



An impressive set of seven stamps featuring both Indian and African elephants was issued by Tanzania in 1991. The SG catalogue describes the three lower value stamps as showing Asian animals. However the 10/- stamp depicts the rather larger ears of an African beast. The 15/- issue shows the versatile trunk of an elephant uprooting a small tree, while the 25/- stamp portrays a mother with calf. The four higher values stamps illustrate African animals in various poses: trumpeting, bathing and on the move across the savannah. They can travel up to one hundred miles a day in search of food and water.



The importance of Africa's wild life in attracting visitors on safari from foreign countries is shown in the 1964 2/6d. stamp from Zambia, one of a set of 14 featuring the economic life of the country. It shows a tourist with raised camera. guarded by a ranger, enjoying the close viewing of an elephant and

calf in the Luangwa Game Reserve. A further Zambian issue to focus on the country's wildlife is from another set of 14 stamps covering various aspects of rural activity In the country. A large elephant is pictured close to a lodge on the shores of Kasaba Bay.



We conclude this overview of elephants on stamps with an amusing illustration of an animal wrestling with the trailing rope-and-anchor of a manned balloon. It features an episode in the heroic story of *Round the World in 80 Days* by the author Jules Vernes. 📖

Recommended Reading:

R. Sukumar, *The Living Elephants: Evolutionary Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation*. (Oxford University Press, 2003).

BTA NEWS

BTA WEEKEND 30 September - 02 October 2016

We have three guest speakers booked:

Paul Leonard The Humour of Gerald King

Lesley Marley A Whale's Tale

Peter Wood Ireland's Invasion of the World

There will be four sessions of members displays, giving everyone the opportunity to show something if you want to, plus social get-togethers in the evenings. The full programme was published in December *Themescene*. Many thanks to all those who booked so promptly. We only have a very few rooms left, so if you are thinking about coming but have not yet booked, please use the booking form in December *Themescene*, or contact organiser Anne Stammers at annies1@btopenworld.com


BTA WEBSITE

Our new website, at www.britishthematic.org.uk should have gone live by the time you read this. It will be an invaluable resource for members, and we are most grateful for a grant given by the ABPS Small Grants Committee to help us achieve this.

HERE AND THERE

WORLD STAMP SHOW NEW YORK 2016

Friday 3rd June has been designated Topical Collecting Day at this exhibition and the American Topical Association will be holding a meeting. The programme will be:

- 
- 11:00 Informal Gathering of Members of Worldwide Thematic Associations
 - 13:00 ATA Annual Meeting Presentation by Dr. Damian Läge, former President of FIP Thematic Commission:
"Developing Your Story: The Key Concept of Thematic Philately"
 - 15:00 Dr. Damian Läge will lead a walk through thematic exhibits.
Members of the BTA will be joining the ATA at its 'Informal Gathering'.
The ATA will occupy booth 1276 - 1278 throughout the Exhibition.

NEW FACILITY FOR BIRD AND MARITIME COLLECTORS

BTA member Paula Cant and her husband Philip have set up what they think is the world's first online stamp packet. Membership is free, allowing each member to view the Packet online before electronically passing it on to the next person. Then they email Philip with their wants, paying by either PayPal, cheque or bank transfer. Because no actual postage is involved it is an international operation, with members currently in the UK, France, Norway, Poland, Madeira, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Canada. There is a no-quibble returns policy in case of there being any problem with an item.

The e-packet is currently limited to birds and maritime material, and operated in association with the Ship Stamp and Bird Stamp societies, but you do not need to be a member of one of these societies to join the e-packet.

For more details please see the website www.e-packet.co.uk/

HERE AND THERE continued

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN . . .

The 2016 Philatelic Congress will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6BW from Thursday 21 July to Sunday 24 July 2016. It is being hosted by the Cambridge Philatelic Society. The venue is outside the historic city of Cambridge but with good bus and road links to the City Centre. The philatelic theme for the event is “Islands” with talks and displays on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The programme starts, however, with a talk and display from the Cambridge Philatelic Society archive on the postal history of Cambridge, and a talk on the history of the private Cambridge University College stamps and their suppression by the Post Office.

On the Saturday afternoon for the early bookers, as numbers are limited to twenty participants, there is a guided Postal History walking tour of Cambridge. For others and accompanying non-philatelists there are the other attractions of Cambridge such as the Fitzwilliam Museum, just one of eighteen museums and galleries in Cambridge. There are the historic Cambridge University Colleges, two free sculpture trails, the Corpus Clock, the daily market and shopping centres. For the more energetic there is punting on the River Cam. There is a hop on-hop off tour bus which will take you around the main sites including out to the American Cemetery.

The Congress Banquet will be in the historic Dining Hall of Peterhouse College that dates from 1290. The RDP Ceremony will be held in St John’s College Chapel on the Friday afternoon.

. . . AND COLLECTORS OF CONGRESS MATERIAL

A new study group has been established: the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group, for those who collect material relating to this event which has run since 1909. The first Chairman is Colin Searle. Meetings will be held around the country. For more information see their website

<https://sites.google.com/site/pcgbstudygroup/home> This has a mountain of archive material.

ORIGINAL IDEAS IN STAMP ACTIVE COMPETITION

This year’s Stamp Active competition, sponsored by The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Stanley Gibbons Ltd, again proved that there are young collectors around who have imaginative ideas when it comes to creating a stamp exhibit. The judges (Christine Earle, John Davies and Richard West) were delighted to see that the majority of the exhibitors were entering the competition for the first time, and there were many original ideas evident. Thanks to The Royal Philatelic Society London for kindly hosting the judging, and to the Philatelic Traders’ Society for providing the opportunity to display the entries at Spring Stampex.

The winners of the major awards were:

Kidstamps Trophy (for the best overall exhibit): Sara Llewellyn – Making Music

Best entry in Class A: Joseph Likeman – How ships have changed our world

Best entry in Class B: Rachel Hall – The Art of Philately

Best entry in Class C: Sara Llewellyn – Making Music

Best entry in Class D: Amy Morrison – On the Ice

Schools Trophy: Doonfoot Primary School.

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL FAIRS, MEETINGS AND EXHIBITIONS

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 2 April | Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies
Stamp and Postcard Day | Victoria Baptist Church Hall
Eldon Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1UE |
| 15 - 16 April | Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies
87th Scottish Congress
www.scottishphilately.co.uk/Congressmain.html | Dewars Centre, Perth
PH2 0TH |
| 16 April | Kent Federation Spring Rally | Mascalls School, Paddock Wood
Kent TN12 6LT |
| 23 April | Spring Stamp Essex
www.stampessex.org.uk/about_aeps.asp | County Upper School, Beetons Way
Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RF |
| 15 - 16 July | York Stamp and Coin Fair
www.stampshows.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=5 | Grandstand, York Racecourse |
| 21 - 24 July | Philatelic Congress of Great Britain | Belfry Hotel
Cambourne, Cambridge |
| 23 July | Kent Federation Summer Rally | Norton Knatchbull School
Hythe Road, Ashford
Kent, TN24 0QJ |

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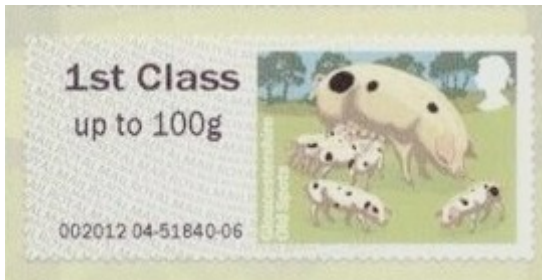
**IAN OLIVER
5 BEECH ROAD STIBB CROSS
TORRINGTON DEVON EX38 8HZ
TEL: 07941 39 14 66
FAX: 01805 601111
E-MAIL: ian@newstamps.fsnet.co.uk**

HOW I STARTED

Colin Mount went from Farmer to Fellow [of the Royal]

If anyone had said to me thirty years ago that I would have started a thematic collection I would have said 'no way', and thinking back I suppose it all started by mistake. Like most collectors I started collecting stamps as a boy, and a school stamp club enabled me to buy stamps at very reasonable prices. But it was not until I got married that, when going through my schoolboy effects, I discovered my collection of mostly Australia which I continued to develop. My new wife was working as a secretary in Cambridge while I spent my day managing a pig farm at Kingston near Cambridge.

Just by chance my wife happened to mention to her boss that I had started collecting stamps again, and again by chance he was the Secretary of the Cambridge Philatelic Society and suggested I join. It was here that I met Derek Ray, the then President of The Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society (later to become The British Society of Australian Philately) and he persuaded me to join, and so my journey into organised philately had begun.



But it was several years later before my thematic collection started. When I became Chairman of the Hampshire Philatelic Federation I informed the Council that I was going to visit all affiliated societies and give displays to promote philately throughout Hampshire. A certain gentleman by the name of Frank Pegley suggested that I should do a thematic on pigs. And so "Pig in the Post"

was born, and having been involved in the pig industry for all my working life, I thought it would be quite simple. How wrong can one be.

After joining the BTA I started with a 16 page entry in the John Fosbury competition at "Thematica" in 1992, competing against 26 other entries. The competition was judged by the public by popular vote, to my surprise I won, and the rest is history. I thought I knew a bit about the pig industry, but I learnt so much more about the history, development and how the pig has touched many of us in so many different ways.

I soon realised what an incredible animal the pig was and still is. It not only turns up on our plate as pork or bacon, it has helped in the early production of diabetes vaccines, and its heart valves have saved many a heart patients life. If you go back through history



you soon realise that the pig we see today bears very little resemblance to the heavy shouldered wild pig that still roams many forests throughout the world today. The modern pig has been bred to produce meat, and as the old pig tends to lay down a lot of fat, companies like The Pig Improvement Company set about selecting lines that produce succulent meat using DNA profiles. I have around 400 sheets written up but have decided to completely re-write the collection, having now given over 160 displays, the highlight being when

I had the honour to be invited to display at the Royal.

JERSEY NEW ISSUES 2016

05 January	Lunar New Year: Year of the Monkey
06 February	RAF Search and Rescue: 75 th Anniversary
09 March	The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria: King George V
21 April	Her Majesty The Queen's 90 th Birthday
29 April	The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge: 5 th Wedding Anniversary
03 May	Europa: Think Green
11 May	Einstein's Theory of General Relativity
07 June	Jersey Old Motor Club
05 July	Popular Culture: The 1950s
04 August	The Great War - 100 Years. Part 3: Battles
22 September	Links With China: Waterfowl
06 October	Jersey Myths and Legends
04 November	Jersey Seasons: Winter
25 November	Christmas: Father Christmas in Jersey



King George V

Year of the Monkey



RAF Search and Rescue



GROUP MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

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

Astro Space Stamp Society

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

Web: www.astrospacestampsociety.com

Bicycle Stamp Club

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

Web: <http://bicyclestamps.tripod.com/>

Bird Stamp Society

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

Email: tony.statham@sky.com

Web: <http://www.birdstampsociety.org>

Captain Cook Society

Mr I. A. Peel, 13 Caudry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF12 0LW.

Web: <http://www.captaincooksociety.com/ccsu1.htm>

Concorde Study Circle

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

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

Glasgow Thematic Society

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

Guild of St. Gabriel

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

Masonic Philatelic Club

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

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

Scout and Guide Stamp Club

Mr. T. Simister, 1 Falcon Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8AY

Web: <http://www.sgsc.org.uk/index.shtml>

Ship Stamp Society

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

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

West of England Thematic Society

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

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

MONACOPHIL 2015

Lesley Marley reports

My husband and I along with a friend and our Chairman Barry Stagg and his wife made the trip to Monaco in December to the Philatelic show which is held every year by the Club de Monte-Carlo. This year it held the 3rd International Polar Exhibition which is held every three years; if you have any interest in the polar regions it was a show not to be missed.

This three day exhibition was an open show to all polar orientated exhibits, a competitive section evaluated by an international panel of judges plus a non competitive section for those who prefer a more personalized style of presentation to do it your way. Each category allowed single frames and multi frames at a reasonable price of €10 per frame.

There was a Yesterday and Today section so as to give the same chance to contemporary material as to a more classic one, with *Yesterday* class up to 1945 and *Today* class from 1945. This allowed a good mix of materials to be used, they were all housed in part of the hall of the Prince Albert IIs top car collection which you were able to view. You were able to peer into igloos to see polar bears, reindeers and penguins. In all there were 68 entries to admire and wished you owned some of the pieces, Ah well just dream on Lesley! The winner of the Thematic Class was Lev Safonov with ‘Polar History of Russia’ who received a gold medal.

Included were lectures on polar topics with PowerPoint, some were in French but you were still able to follow the talk. A visit was arranged to the Oceanographic Museum which was my highlight of the stay. I spent hours learning more about Albert I and his explorations, hopefully to enhance my own exhibit. The aquarium in the basement was just amazing with marine life from all over the world.



The theme of MonacoPhil 2015 was ‘The Arctic Campaigns of Prince Albert I’. A miniature sheet was produced with a portrait of Albert I on one stamp and an Arctic scene on the other. The artist and engraver Morck was there and I was able to get mine signed. There were 20 different artists and engravers at the show who were very willing to talk about their work etc., not just polar works but stamps from many other countries. There were also 25 postal administration stands along with 48 stands with dealers and auction houses.

The receptions were all free, but the formal dinners you had to pay for. At the Palmares reception which was given by the Postal Museum in London they highlighted their new building and the underground railway which will be opened for visitors.

Monaco was very easy to get around, a lot of outdoor escalators, tunnels and elevators, and a bus which was so cheap and allowed you to hop on and off at different stops. The trip from Nice airport was also easy, we all enjoyed our time there. 📖

VIEWS FROM MONACOPHIL 2015



Host building



Lesley and enticing display



Mr and Mrs Barry Stagg



EXHIBITING PAGES: FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

18 - 19 March	Milano 2016	Milan, Italy
24 - 26 March	Collecta Fair, Exhibition and Seminar	Ljubljana, Slovenia Thematic event
25 - 26 March	Brievenbeurs Cover Fair	Gouda, Holland
08 April 2010	NORDIA 2016	Jyväskylä, Finland http://nordia2016.net/in-english/ <i>FEPA recognition</i>
12 - 17 April	EUROSPACE 2016	Prague , Czech Republic <i>FEPA recognition</i>
22 - 24 April	INPOSTA 2016	Näfels, Switzerland www.inposta2016.ch/
26 April - 01 May	LUBRAPEX 2016	Viana do Castelo, Portugal
05 - 09 May	BALKANFILA 2016	Tirana, Albania www.balkanfila.org/pag/exhibitions.php <i>FEPA recognition</i>
06 - 08 May	HUNFILA 2016	Szombathely, Hungary
12 - 14 May	Deutsche Meisterschaften der Thematischen Philatelie	Essen Germany www.dmth.de/bedingungen.htm
14 - 16 May	Exfimo 2016	Mondorf-Les-Bains, Luxembourg
18 - 19 May	27e Journée Maximaphile	Trifolion Luxembourg
19 - 22 May	Paris - Philex 2015	Paris, France
20 - 22 May	ROSSICA 2016	Berlin, Germany <i>FEPA recognition</i>
26 - 29 May	EuroScout and World Collectors Meeting	Vienna, Austria www.worldscoutcollectors.org/en/
28 May - 04 June	World Stamp Show New York 2016	Javits Centre, New York, USA www.ny2016.org/ <i>FIP recognition</i>
10 - 12 June	WESTFILA 2016	Roeselare, Belgium www.westfila2016.filacontact.be/

10 August 2015	Bangkok 2016	Bangkok, Thailand
12 - 14 August	HALLFRIM 2016	Halmstad, Sweden www.hallfrim2016.se/
24 - 28 August	ODESSAPHILEX 2016	Odessa, Russia <i>FEPA recognition</i>
25 - 29 August	GMUNDEN 2016	Gmunden, Austria www.bmsv-gmunden.at/gmunden-2016/ <i>FEPA recognition</i>
14 - 18 September	EXFILNA 2016	Zaragoza, Spain
16 - 18 September	Thematic Seminar	St. Pölten, Austria
07 October 2016	OSTROPA 2016	Germany
21 - 23 October	Thémafrance	Toul, France
21 - 26 October	PHILATAIPEI 2016	Taipei, Taiwan http://taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016/en/# <i>FIP recognition</i>

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HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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

For a free sample copy, write to:

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



On 17 February Royal Mail issued a set of six stamps plus miniature sheet commemorating 500 years of Royal Mail. Not surprisingly this prompted a very large number of special handstamps. Here are just a few:



Just4Kids by Lise Whittle

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

AROUND THE WORLD!

Stamps come from all over the World,
but why not start collecting stamps showing the World?



Some stamps celebrate the beauty of the World with lovely photographs or drawings; others have a message to tell about it, often about how we must take care of our planet.



On the right is a round stamp from Indonesia showing someone taking a bite out of the World. The words around the stamp read;

'SEVEN BILLION DREAMS, ONE PLANET, CONSUME WITH CARE'.

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



Every stamp tells a story. This American stamp (1933) shows the voyages of an American polar explorer called Richard Byrd (1888 - 1957). He was a pilot and polar explorer, and his expeditions included flying and sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic Plateau. He claimed that his expeditions had been the first to reach both the North Pole and the South Pole by air. However, his claim to have reached the North Pole is disputed. This stamp was only used for letters posted at the base camp of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition in the territory of the South Pole.



The stamp from Thailand (*right*) celebrates World Post Day 2015, and shows a parcel being carried across the World.



This 1981 Swedish stamp (*left*) shows a blind boy feeling the raised surfaces on a globe so he can learn the shapes of countries by touch.

Antigua and Barbuda produced a stamp (*right*) in 1996 showing Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy in a rocket leaving Earth in 'From The Earth To The Moon'.



Here is a stamp from Sri Lanka (*left*) showing happy children celebrating World Children's Day in 2006.

STAMPS OF THE WORLD CATALOGUES

You can find details about your stamps and what they are worth in catalogues. The most popular catalogues are a set called 'Stamps Of the World' published by a company called Stanley Gibbons. You will need 6 big catalogues to list all of the stamps in the world, and the whole set costs £275! Luckily most libraries keep a set you can look at for free.



Write and tell us about YOUR World Collection! Write to;

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

LIBRARY LISTING

The library has some 3900 articles filed in cartons. *Themescene* regularly lists brief details of newly added articles.

All articles are listed on computer under topics, eg Sport, War, Medical, and so on, then sub divided into different categories eg Tennis, Football, World War II: Battles, Nurses: Blood and so on.

If you would like to see the articles we have on your topic the Librarian can easily send you a list by email and you can then let him know which ones you would like to see. The Librarian wants to avoid making photocopies but if the number of pages involved are not excessive he will email scans. This also applies to our overseas members. If it is not practical to email lots of scans he is prepared to post our original articles to UK members on the understanding they will be returned without undue delay. When returning the articles they must be accompanied by postage stamps that can be used, to the value he used to send the articles. Cheques are not wanted. These options allow members to see the articles in colour and make their own copies.

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Motor Cycles

5 Hayward, J. Despatch riders Stamp Magazine 3/2015

Motor Racing

3 Beukes, P. German Domination in Grand Prix Motor Racing 1934 - 1939 ThemNews 11/2014

1 Lovell, G. Village stamps its mark (A postal history of Silverstone) Silverstone Magazine

2 Lovell, G. 50 years of Silverstone Stamp Magazine 10/1988

Nelson Mandela

6 Silver, J. Mr Charisma [Nelson Mandela] Stamp Magazine 2/2014

Parachutes

4 Stagg, B. Chuting Stars Stamp Magazine 10/2013

Peacekeeping

6 Simpson, S. Peace in our time Stamp Magazine 10/1999

Penguins

3 Hulse, J. Happy Feet ThemNews 11/2014

Polar Exploration

5 Pendleton, S. Danger in the Antarctic Gibbons Stamp Monthly 2/2014

		Politics	
3	Long, J.	Politicians who died violently	ThemNews 2/2015
		Postal Services	
4	Hewlett, M.	Posted for Delivery on Christmas Day	Stamp Magazine 12/81
		Rail Transport	
6	Norris, D.	Fast track to excitement [Orient Express]	Stamp Magazine 3/2014
		Red Cross	
4	Kappel, A.	Victim support	Stamp Magazine 11/2013
		Religion	
2	Mallik, P.	Saint Sofia Cathedral in Kiev	ITS Stamp News 1/2014
		Seiges	
3	Whittle, C.	The Siege of Mafeking	ThemNews 8/2014
		Shakespeare	
5	Dugdale, J.	Dramatic effect	Stamp Magazine 5/2014
		Silver	
4	Charrach, J.	Silver through the ages	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 9/2013
		South Africa	
6	Silver, J.	Mr Charisma [Nelson Mandela]	Stamp Magazine 2/2014
		Statues	
2	Lewis, B.	Cristo Redentor [Rio]	Stamp Magazine 12/81
		Turtles	
5	McClaren, M.	Malaysia's turtle power	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 9/2013
		William I King of England	
1	Hague, D.	William The Conqueror	Gabriel 4/2014
		Windmills	
2	Van Den Bogaard, R.	Collecting windmills	Stamp & Coin Mart 3/2014
		World Wars	
4	Buchan, J.	FDCs of the German-Occupied Channel Islands	Stamps 3/1981
2	Gruene, A, F.	Last letter home (Battle of the Falkland Is 1914)	Stamp Magazine 2/2015
6	Wright, J.	War footing (Post Office in W W 1)	Stamp Magazine 12/14

BTA PROGRAMME 2016

- March 11th - 12th **BTA Table, thematic sales and recruitment drive**
Southern England Stamp Show
Farnborough Leisure Centre
Westmead, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7LD
[Web: www.southernenglandstampshow.com/](http://www.southernenglandstampshow.com/)
- May 14th **BTA Regional Meeting 2pm - 4pm**
WORPEX (Worcester Philatelic and Postcard Society)
Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, Worcester,
WR3 8HN.
Web: <http://worpex.com/worpex-2016/>
- June 11th **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker**
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive
At: Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
- September 17th **Joint Meeting with British Postmark Society.**
12.30pm
Autumn Stampex
Business Design Centre, Islington
National competitions, all major classes
- September 30th -
October 2nd **BTA Residential Weekend**
Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel, Abingdon Road,
Oxford, OX1 4PS
- October 8th **BTA Competitions:**
Fosbery Trophy. 16 sheets. NO RULES
BTA Cup. 32 sheets, judges to National standards.
BTA Regional Meeting (to be confirmed)
At: South of England Stamp Fair
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
www.sussephilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

2016 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 8 OCTOBER 2016 10.00am – 4.30pm

The BTA will be showing entries at this exhibition for the **John Fosbery Thematic Trophy** and the British Thematic Association trophy, or **BTA Cup**.

The **John Fosbery** competition is a fun competition. If you dislike the difficult rules of thematic philately, this is the one for you! You will need to enter **16 standard size sheets**, all portrait orientation, on ANY theme, inside clear protectors. There are NO OTHER RULES and NO ENTRY FEE. You can include photos, cigarette cards etc in addition to stamps, to tell a story. Visitors to the exhibition, not judges, choose their favourite exhibit. The entry with the most votes wins.

Alternatively, you may have received a thematic award at club level and want to take it further, perhaps to Federation or even National level. You should enter the **BTA Cup Competition**. This is 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 higher-level thematic competition. 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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS:

Friday 23rd September 2016. (Entrants will be advised where to send exhibits).

SHEETS REQUIRED

Monday 26th to Thursday 29th September 2016, but no later.

British Thematic Association Competitions 2016

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)

NameTel 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.....





NEW ISSUES

The stamps below are reproduced with the kind assistance of Harry Allan,
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Reef fish



Airport project

Jeux des Iles de l'Océan Indien Disaster Risk Reduction



Windmills



Paintings of Main Street