

THEMESCENE

December 2016

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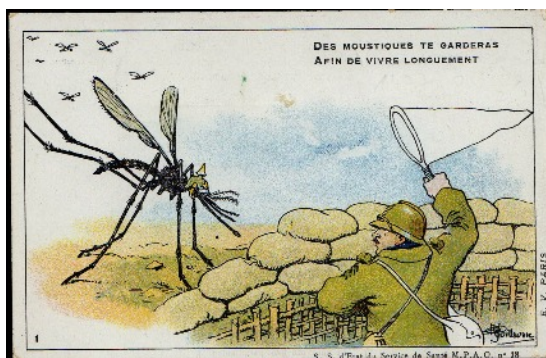
With Carol Turner



BRITISH THEMATIC



ASSOCIATION



BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

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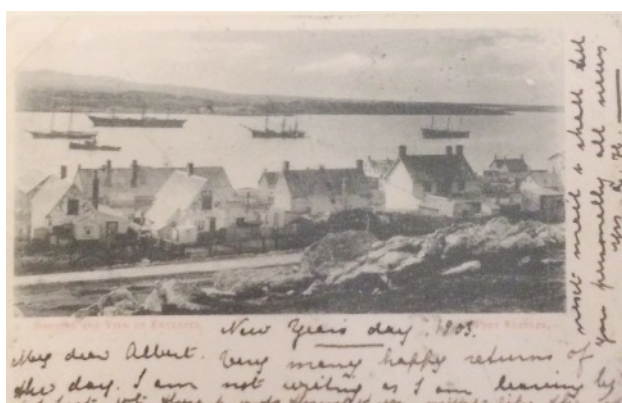
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Year of the Dog



Medical staff, World War I



SS Great Britain, Falklands



Edward IV

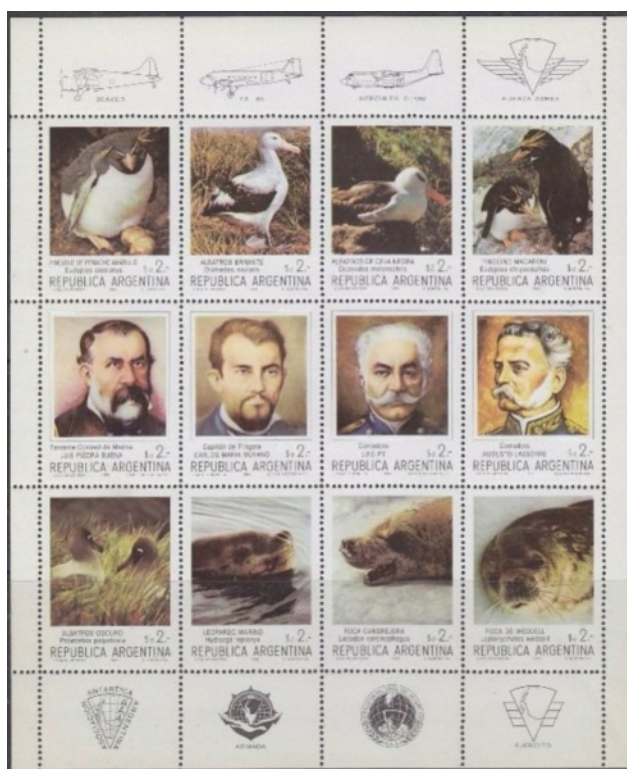
Edward V



Beethoven



Penny Black centenary



Argentina - something for everyone!

THEMESCENE

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DECEMBER 2016

THEMESCENE

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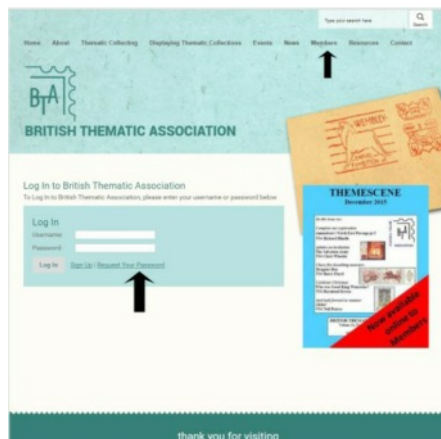
EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

The BTA profits from having a stable and hard-working committee beaver away behind the scenes in various different areas. We don't have many changes of personnel on the committee, but you will see from both the Membership Secretary's page (112) and your renewal form that Peter Denly has resigned from that position. He has done this job quietly and efficiently for twelve years, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Maintaining our membership database is vital to the smooth running of the Association, and I personally have benefited from his help and advice getting the correct circulation details for each issue of this magazine. Fortunately Charles Oppenheim has agreed to take the job over, so any changes of address or email should in future should be passed to him; address on the back of the renewal form. Please help Charles by renewing promptly.

We also owe our great thanks to Ron Backhouse who has faithfully maintained our Library for many years. It has become apparent however that it has been very little used in recent years. Nearly every issue of *Themescene* carries a list of magazine articles carefully compiled by Ron, but members are not requesting these. Your Committee have therefore taken the decision to disband the Library. The books in the Library (not the magazine articles) will be made available to members via the 'Members Only' section of our website. To check this out you will need a login. All you need to do is go to

<http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/membership/index.htm> and click on "Sign Up / Request a Password". Once logged in go to the 'Members' section where you will find the list of books. And even if you are not interested in the Library, it's worth getting a password in order to access the full text of back copies of *Themescene*. Also, a quick reminder that under the 'About' tab is a full list of the Committee, with a link to their email should you want to contact anyone.



Looking at this issue of the magazine you will see on page 118 an extended report of the 2016 BTA Weekend, held in Oxford. It is by far the most popular and most successful event we hold, and so I make no apologies about the length of coverage. However this does mean there is less space than usual for articles of general interest, but I promise they will return in the next issue.

Elsewhere in the issue please make sure you read the Chairman's Page (111). In it is a request for YOU to help Barry fly the flag for the BTA while he is in the USA. We have a report on the BTA competitions (page 136); and while on the subject of competitions congratulations to Jim Etherington, the only BTA thematic entrant at Philatapei 2016, who gained Gold with his eight frame entry *1940: A Desperate Year for Britain*. There were no Open or Postcard classes. Congratulations also to Lesley Marley for getting a Vermeil for her five frame Postcard exhibit on Whaling, at Mandurah 2016 (Australia).



CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg

Into the spotlight

I have been genuinely surprised over the last few years at the number of people who collect Thematically or collect Postcards. Perhaps surprise is not the right word – amazed might be better! I constantly meet collectors at fairs, shows, clubs, even at work, and they tell me they have a traditional country collection, or they collect postal history or some other form of philatelic collection, then, at the end they say in hushed tones that they also have a Thematic or a Postcard collection. It is as if they are embarrassed by it. I would like to change that feeling. I would like to put Pictorial collecting (Thematic, Open and Postcards) into the spotlight and out of the shadows. This is my mission and I feel excited about trying to make Pictorial collecting more acceptable, more open!

There are lots of ways we can try and do this. For example, although I hope to see more articles in the philatelic press about Thematic collecting, I really would like to see articles on Open collecting. I would like to see more Open entries in competitions; so I was very pleased to see an Open entry at the Midlands Federation competition a few weeks ago. I believe closer working with other national societies that support Pictorial collecting can also be beneficial – the exchange of magazine articles to name but one advantage.

In support of this mission I have been asked to give a talk at the ATA (American Topical Association) next year. Part of this talk will be about the BTA and this is where you can all help me. I would like to show the ATA what we collect and the many and varied topics we collect. I know many of you collect and keep your collections in stock books, some keep them on stock cards or mounted in albums. Some write them up and I expect some of you keep your collection loose, ready to be mounted at some future time! I would like ALL of you to scan the equivalent of two pages of your collection if you can and send it to me at pictorial1984bta@gmail.com. Not just stamps but any philatelic object, any Postcards or any item you have for your Open collection. I will then incorporate your scans into my talk. It does not matter how you collect, store or show your material, please send me a scan of it, preferably by the end of February 2017. Then perhaps we can surprise our American colleagues at the quality and diversity of the collections within the BTA. I am already looking forward to seeing them. 📖



**The Committee of the BTA
wish all our members
a very happy Christmas
and successful collecting
new year.**

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	151	
Family members	15	
Society members	14	
Overseas members	10	
Overseas Society members	1	
Honorary members	3	
Total number of members	195	(at 7 th November 2016)

New Members joining since the September 2016 issue

Dr. A. Thomas of Bromley, Kent

Deaths advised since the September 2016 issue

Mr. I. Paton FRPSL


We are delighted to welcome our new member and hope that the membership will prove rewarding. In the last twelve months recruitment has seen thirteen new members joining, some through BTA Committee Members attendance at various philatelic events, with many others contacting the Association through the website.

Included with your copy of the December *Thamescene* will be found a notice concerning the renewal of your membership for the coming year. We are pleased to advise that it not been necessary to increase the sterling cost of subscription, so the rate remains the same as last year, as under:

UK Members and family membership	£18
Euro Area Members and family membership	£22 (€30)
All other areas Overseas	£24 (\$US35)
Overseas Societies	£25 (\$US37)
Affiliated organisations	£20

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

The late Ian Paton was Membership Secretary from 1991 to 2004, at which point I accepted 'the challenge' of the role. After twelve years I now find it necessary to hand on my responsibilities and Prof Charles Oppenheim will take over as Membership Secretary as from the end of this year. **So please note the new return address for your subscription renewal form when sending off your payment.** Members using the PayPal system should note the new copy email address.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

THE PANAMA CANAL

From: John Hayward, by email

I read with great interest Chris Wheeler's *The Story of the Panama Canal* in September's edition of *Themescene* and in particular how it came to be built precisely where it is, because its location has huge philatelic connotations and I wonder if Chris is aware of these.



The story goes that in the last decade of the 19th Century all the indications were that the canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans would be built through Nicaragua, some way north of its eventual location. This was because it could be more easily built via some large lakes almost at sea level, and without the need to excavate huge amounts of rock and earth, all of which would be less expensive than routing the canal via Panama. Just as operations were about to start a history-changing philatelic event occurred: Nicaragua issued a stamp showing a smoking volcano alongside one of the lakes through which the canal would pass. This was manna from heaven for the influential lobby group in the United States which was all in favour of routing the canal via Panama. The lobby group arranged for a whole series of envelopes with the Nicaragua volcano stamp affixed to be sent to every US Senator, thus drawing their attention to the dangerous route. A subsequent vote in the US Senate overwhelmingly opposed financial support for the canal via Nicaragua, and of course the rest is history.

From Richard Hindle, by email



I read with interest the article on the Panama Canal. The locks were designed to take a United States Navy battleship, so that the fleet could move between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans without having to go around Cape Horn. Roald Amundsen in the *Fram* was one of the first ships to pass through the canal. While he was waiting for the canal to open he sold cards to help sponsor his proposed expedition to the North Pole. These are quite elusive as there are only 12 recorded, but more are coming to light!

BUTTERFLY AND MOTH COLLECTORS

From Vladimir Kachan, sent to Lesley Marley and forwarded

I write this letter to you because you are National Delegate of Commission for Thematic Philately.

My name is Vladimir Kachan. I am Vice-chairman of the Union of Philatelists of Belarus and thematic philatelist. I am a serious philatelist and for 40 years I have collected philatelic materials of the world with butterflies and moths. I am looking for and study old philatelic

materials of the world with butterflies and moths and write philatelic articles with my research. More than 50 of my articles about butterflies and moths in philately have been published in thematic philatelic journals of the world (including THEMESCENE December 2003 and December 2005). An article about me and my hobby was published in the journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations FEPA NEWS in January 2014.

I have a philatelic exhibit "World of Butterflies and Moths" which was awarded a Large Vermeil medal at the world philatelic exhibition PORTUGAL-2010 and PHILANIPPON-2011.

I am looking for friends/philatelists to exchange philatelic knowledge and philatelic materials with butterflies and moths. I have duplicates of very many philatelic materials of the world with butterflies and other insects: postal stationery, FDCs, special cancels, meter marks, mint sets of stamps, also much information.

I can help in the creation of or improvement of butterfly (insect) philatelic exhibits. Perhaps in your philatelic society there some thematic philatelists with and interest in butterfly (insect) topic?

Waiting for answer.

Yours sincerely, Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Email vladimirkachan@mail.ru

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STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Barry Floyd

The term “Stained Glass” or “Art Glass” refers to glass which has been coloured by adding metallic salts during its manufacture. The coloured glass is often crafted into stained glass windows, in which small pieces of glass are arranged to form pictures or patterns, traditionally held together by a latticework of lead strips. The resultant windows may alternatively be described as illuminated wall decorations.

The colouring of glass has a history going back many thousands of years. The Egyptians, Romans and Phoenicians excelled in the manufacture of small coloured glass objects. They represented a sophisticated art form and a craft requiring artistic skills to conceive an appropriate and workable design. Traditionally one associates stained glass windows with cathedrals, churches and other significant buildings although the decorative art remains popular today: prevalent in luxury homes, commercial structures and contemporary places of worship.

Evidence of stained glass windows in British churches and monasteries dates from the seventeenth century. In 675 AD Benedict Biscop imported workmen from France to glaze the windows of the monastery of St. Peter in Monkwearmouth.

Superb examples of the work of French illuminated decorators are to be found in the three rose windows of Chartres Cathedral, dating from 1233 AD (*fig 1*).

In post-Renaissance times, due to theological schisms in Europe, the need to produce sacred art was largely curtailed. Although coloured glass continued to be made in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the craft sadly declined and skills were lost.

It was not until the second half of the nineteenth century that a dramatic transformation of churches began to take place again, and there was a serious attempt to rediscover the techniques of the mediaeval glazier. Today almost all British parish churches and cathedrals contain examples of stained glass windows created in the Victorian era.

Contemporary glass paintings, while featuring rather different patterns and themes, are nevertheless indicative of the successful revival and mastering of skills by modern wall decorators.

Examples of stained glass on stamps may be found from many countries around the world. Here, in this brief essay, we confine ourselves to illustrations from Europe.

One of a set of ten stamps, Austria 1993, devoted to monasteries and abbeys, the 6s value features a glass painting at Mariastern Abbey in Gwiggen (*fig 2*). It shows the pious figure of St. Benedict of Nursia.

In a set of four honouring French art (France 1967), a multi-coloured 1F stamp offers a clear depiction of window makers engaged in creating a stained glass pane for St. Madelaine's Church in Troyes (*fig 3*).

Gibraltar marked the 1700th anniversary of the death of St. George, the patron saint of England in 2003. His cross forms the national flag of England and features in the Union Jack. However many other countries also claim St. George as their patron. According to legend, he was (like his father) a soldier in the Roman army and was later revered as a Christian martyr. His dragon-slaying image, reflected in the stamp - with the dead beast at his feet - was apparently derived from an event in Beirut, Lebanon (*fig 4*).



*Fig 1
Chartres
Cathedral*



Fig 2 St. Benedict

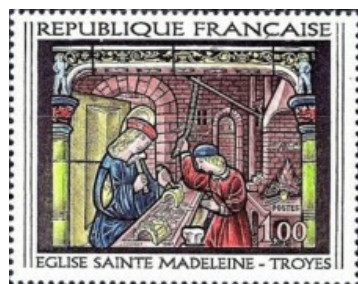


Fig 3 St. Madeleine's Church



*Fig 4 St.
George*



Fig 5 Great Britain 1992



Fig 6 Guernsey



Fig 7 Switzerland 1969, 1971

Two sets of stained glass stamps from Great Britain are featured in this essay. The first set of three marked Christmas 1971 (*back cover*). The 2½p value reflects the dream of the Three Wise Men; the 3p value illustrates the Adoration of the Magi; while the 7½p value portrays the Ride of the Magi.

The second set also commemorated Christmas with clear reproductions of religious window illustrations. The low value 18p stamp portrays the Angel Gabriel, seen in St. James's Church, Pangbourne, Berkshire. The 24p stamp shows Mary the Madonna with the infant Jesus, located in St. Mary's Church, Bibury, Gloucestershire. The eternal issue of portraying the innocent baby alongside his virgin mother appears in many stained glass windows and paintings. The 28p value depicts 'King with gold' in Our Lady and St. Peter's Church, Leatherhead, Surrey. The 33p stamp shows the adoring shepherds, seen in All Saints Church, Porthcawl, Bridgend; while the high-value 39p stamp portrays 'Kings with Frankincense and Myrrh' from Our Lady and St. Peter's Church, Leatherhead (*fig 5*).

The Channel Island State of Guernsey issued four stamps featuring stained glass windows in 1973. The 2½p value shows an oddly blond-haired Jesus, haloed with a red cross and in the role of The Good Shepherd. He is embracing a lamb. The pane is to be found in Saint Michel Du Valle Church. The 20p stamp bears another image of the ever-youthful, blue-clad Madonna and Child. Their eyes are cast downwards, but the source of their interest is not revealed (*fig 6*).

A set of seven stamps featuring recent stained glass windows was issued by Hungary in 1972. The 60f value, created by the artist F. Sebestenyi, depicts his impression of a sixteenth century scribe seated at his desk, and another - a standing craftsman - admiring the work of his fellow artist. The 1ft stamp shows the Holy Family on their flight to Egypt, following the edict against newborns by Herod; while the 2ft value portrays the Nativity by L. Sztchlo.



Eight stamps showing nineteenth century window panes in Jersey's parish churches were issued to mark Christmas 2015 (*back cover*). Their creator was Henry Bosdet whose work is celebrated for its richness in colour and balance in composition. The stamps depict the haloed Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary during Annunciation, when he tells her that she will bear the son of God. Two of the stamps depict windows located in St. Brelade's Church. In the 64p stamp Gabriel is holding a lily, a symbol of virginity, and is addressing Mary in the adjacent 73p stamp. The Virgin Mary is wearing a deep blue cloak, a colour still associated with Mary today. In the stamp she is seated before a lectern bearing an open book showing the text "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given".

The Swiss issued a series of stamps devoted to the art of stained glass wall decorations. They appear under the heading of Pro Patria ("For one's country") stamps to benefit social and cultural charities. The 1969 30c + 30c is a fairly traditional design of the fine figure of St. Christopher bearing the infant Jesus on his shoulders while poling across a stretch of water. It is difficult to describe the ultra modern 50c + 20c 1971 stamp 'Christ Passion', created by the artist B. Schorderet, but one can nevertheless admire the work for its bright colours and patterns (*fig 7*). It may be said to summarise contemporary trends in the time-honoured art of creating beautiful stained glass panes. Long may they continue. 📖

FUN WITH PHILATELY: BTA WEEKEND 2016

It didn't feel like two years since our previous gathering in Oxford, but here we were again, displays in hand and ready to go. After its usual convivial start with a glass of Pimms, rapid-fire displays and an excellent dinner, we were hugely entertained by Paul Leonard showing *Alice in Wonderland and Beyond*. Those who know the work of Gerald King (1) had some inkling of the subject matter, but his cinderella stamps and covers were much augmented in this display by material, including drawings and sketches, loaned by Mr King himself to the speaker especially for this event.

'Alice' has always been a subject of fascination, and while the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Alice in Wonderland* was ignored by Royal Mail, they did very recently issue a set of stamps, and so the display started with some GB publicity material, PHQ cards, plus a fridge magnet. It was this attitude by Royal Mail in 1965 which first triggered Gerald King to design his own tribute to Lewis Carroll.

Wonderland, Paul explained, is a state of mind. However it does have some hard facts. It covers 364 square miles (the number of spots on a set of playing cards), and its dream currency is one golden slumber made up of 40 winks. You begin to get the picture. The first definitive issue of one wink and three winks was followed by a seven wink "too late" fee stamp - of course featuring the white rabbit. The rate, incidentally, was one penny per ounce up to one crooked mile. Inevitably errors occurred including a worn plate, graphically shown on a later stamp featuring the Cheshire Cat which slowly disappeared as the plate wore out.



An alternative to the stamps was a 'William the Unready' envelope: a fine example was shown addressed to Alice Liddell herself. An emergency inflationary issue was needed for one million golden slumbers, this featured an "Eat me" watermark. (By the way, watermarks can only be seen by moonbeam).

Commemoratives followed. The first running of the Caucus Race led to an Olympic Games issue, the event being organised by the Dodo. Later commemoratives included the Umpteenth Renewal of Olympic Games; the Festival of Oceanography; and the first lizard in space, who unfortunately crashed to earth landing in a cucumber frame, leading to a very attractive piece of crash mail.

The Alice material alone would have made a wonderful display, but Paul also brought along other King material, including stamps of Lundy featuring a Lundy PUC pound (Puffin Union Congress).

There is a more serious side to all this, as displayed here by correspondence between Gerald King and his printer. The display finished, fittingly, with a photo of Gerald King operating a perforating machine.

This was a splendid start to the Weekend. We have titled each one of these events "Fun With Philately" and Paul's talk, enlivened by a delivery which kept everyone smiling, more than lived up to that.

(1) King, Gerald (1978) *Alice Through the Pillar-box and what she found there* Whizzard Press

The next morning we were treated to one of the country's top thematic displays. Hot on the heels of her success at New York, large gold medal winner Lesley Marley showed her *Whale's Tale*. This is a story that starts around 250 million years ago, when our planet consisted of two large land masses plus one continuous ocean: the origin of animal life on earth. From this the cetacean family - whales, porpoises and dolphins - slowly evolved, and today different species have colonised the world's oceans and largest rivers.

They are warm-blooded air breathing mammals who spend all their life in water. Ironically the largest whales feed on the smallest of sea creatures: plankton, which is made up of organic matter including krill, a shrimp-like creature. The mysticeti whales filter their food via baleen: plates of keratin suspended from their upper jaws. Squid and fish comprise the diet of cetaceans with teeth, known as the odontoceti. The orca, or killer whale, is the only cetacean that feeds on warm-blooded animals, feeding on seals and penguins as well as fish.

Man's first encounter with whales was probably about 8,000 years ago, as evidenced by Norwegian rock carvings. His first use of the whale would have been as food, followed by the use of blubber as a fuel; and his ability to hunt animals was helped by the fashioning of tools such as harpoon heads, made from whale bone.

The size of the creatures must have been frightening to early hunters, and they became part of folklore, for instance illustrated populating otherwise blank spaces on early maps. In Greek mythology Poseidon, king of the ocean, was often portrayed riding a hippocampus, accompanied by dolphins and carrying a trident. The Old Testament tells the story of Jonah, who was swallowed by a whale and set down on dry land after three days and three nights. In Inuit mythology Sedna was the mother of the sea. She was killed by her outraged father, who severed her fingers as she clung to his canoe. As each digit fell into the icy water it turned into whales, seals, fish and walrus.

Early man hunted in boats, but later ships were built, square-rigged with three masts; around 100 to 150 feet long. These carried boats which were launched by the whalers to pursue their quarry. The animals were harpooned then lashed to the ship. The blubber was stripped off while the animal was on board and by the mid-nineteenth century the ships carried the equipment to render the blubber down to oil, stored in casks. The whole process became industrialised by the invention of the explosive harpoon gun, the steam powered whaler, and factory ships which remained at sea and processed the whale.

This was a grim chapter of the display, only touched on here. The reason for this dangerous and barbaric trade was explained in the next chapter "The products that put the whale on the world's most ignominious shopping list". It had many uses including candle wax. Spermaceti, the head oil from the sperm whale, burned with a clear and steady smokeless flame. It illuminated not only homes but locomotive headlamps and lighthouses. Spermaceti oil is also an excellent lubricant, and was used in precision instruments including clocks and watches. The demand for whale oil was boosted when it became a product of soap manufacture. Further great quantities were used in the woollen industry. Oil was added to the wool after it was washed and cleaned but before it was spun into yarn. A more recent demand was in the manufacture of margarine. In the twentieth century advances in chemistry allowed fresh oil to be hardened into fat, which was used for margarine.

Finally we came on to preservation. Global pollution through pesticides and detergents, plus polluted air, are killing marine life. The white fin river dolphin of the Yangtze River has recently become extinct. But there is hope. The search is on for substitute products, there are international agreements protecting the animals, and in 1961 the World Wildlife Fund was founded. Is it too late to "Save the Whale"?

On Sunday Peter Wood showed *Ireland's Invasion of the World*, his title taken from the book by Miki Garcia (1) whose opening sentences - "Ireland is complicated. So are its people" - set the scene for the display. Diaspora means dispersion from homeland, and Ireland currently has the greatest in the world, with 100 million people worldwide, a phenomenon that started well before the nineteenth century. This display looked at the Irish and their descendants.

There was Irish emigration to the USA from 1700 onwards, firstly from the better-off Ulster Presbyterians. Three Irishmen signed the Declaration of Independence. From 1815 the poor started emigrating, culminating in those escaping the Irish Potato Famine from 1845. Some of them, or their descendants, became hugely successful, including Henry Ford, Jean Kelly, Bing Crosby, Jack Dempsey, Grace Kelly and John Kennedy. There was also emigration to Canada, encouraged by cheaper fares, but some of those slipped in to the USA through 'porous' borders.

Australian Irish included the famous, such as Dr. John Flynn, founder of the Flying Doctor service, and the infamous, such as the notorious outlaw Ned Kelly.

From around the world Argentina boasts Chez Guevara, descended from one of Argentina's oldest and most distinguished Irish families; Chile has Bernardo O'Higgins who fought for freedom from Spain; South Africa has the place-name Donnybrook, and Sir Thomas Cullinan, founder of the mine from which the Cullinan Diamond was extracted.

The display then moved to Great Britain. After the collapse of the Roman Empire Irish monasteries sent out missionaries to various places including Iona, Lindisfarne and Malmesbury. Moving forward to the English Civil War Daniel O'Neill fought on the Royalist side in the English Civil War. In 1688 the Protestant William of Orange defeated the Catholic James II at the Battle of the Boyne. The resulting Treaty of Limerick allowed Gaelic chieftains to leave Ireland; many of whom then supported Catholic monarchs in Europe.

Also famous on the military side is Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery; Irish regiments fought in World War I and there was an Irish PALS regiment. The first person to be awarded the Victoria Cross was Charles Davis Lucas, from County Armagh. The Duke of Wellington was born in Dublin (although clearly not proud of the fact, he was quoted as saying "being born in a stable does not make a man a horse"). On the philatelic side William Mulready was born in County Clare, and Henry Archer, inventor of the perforating machine, was the son of an Irish landowner.

Finally we have to pay our respects to the Irish navvies who built so much of the UK's industrial landscape, including canals, roads and railways. Many were employed by Wimpey's or Sir Robert McAlpine and have now been immortalised in a song by Dominic Behan *McAlpine's Fusiliers*. Check it out on YouTube.

- (1) Garcia, Miki (2015) *Ireland's Invasion of the World: the Irish diaspora in a nutshell* History Press

*Placename in Australia:
Avoca, Victoria, named
after the village in County
Wicklow*



There were four sessions of members displays held throughout the Weekend, covering “Six Sheets in One Minute”, “Latest Acquisitions”, “Letter A or B” and “Your Choice”. This resulted in an impressive 67 different displays, from:

Crawford Alexander

- “Horrible stamps by horrible people”, which is to say stamp issues under Saddam Hussein of Iraq.
- One very large miniature sheet for a stamp exhibition, featuring multiple stamps in which we were invited to look for our own theme.
- Postcards of British pleasure steamers and piers, including Bannerby, Barra, Bruichladdich, Bunessan and Broadford.
- Flying boats, including one that flew under the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge; and the *Samoan Clipper*, a Pan American aircraft which developed an oil leak while flying in American Samoa in 1938; it exploded, killing all the crew.

Jean Alexander

- Postal stationery featuring waterfalls of Brazil, about which she is “nuts” (think about it).
- Waterfalls of the Ryukyu Islands in which a proposal for a stamp design later became a fiscal; and 2003 personalised Swiss postal stationery cards, ordered online for delivery to friends and family without ever having visited the country.
- Airletters featuring waterfalls, including one from New Zealand which the New Zealand Post Office are unable to identify.
- Supermarket philately (the full story to be told in March 2017 *Thamescene*)

Mike Blackman

- Umbrella-themed material including exhibition postcards; Tweedledum and Tweedledee sheltering under an umbrella; the parasol ant; the umbrellabird and umbrella jellyfish.
- Transporter bridges, of which there are only six around the world. Consisting of a tower each side of a river, joined by a track holding a gondola, most were built in the 1890's to early 1900's. They were needed where the water was tidal, or ship's masts too tall, and an ordinary bridge unsuitable.

Pauline Boddy

- Nineteenth century trading notices relating to tea.

Wendy Buckle

- The Book Trade, including intellectual property rights, bookbinders, booksellers, book fairs, the International Book Year and World Book Week.
- University libraries, starting with the Bodleian, founded in 1598, and Cambridge, founded in the fifteenth century. Earliest shown was Krakow, 1364.

Grace Davies

- United Nations venues from 1946 to 1950, starting with the first meeting in London in 1945, followed by the USA, France and New York. UN first issued stamps in 1951.
- Stamps and cinderellas relating to Eric Gill, sculptor, type designer, stamp designer and pacifist who helped set up the Catholic peace organisation Pax.
- ‘After the War’ (or cessation of hostilities), from Boer War to World War II.

Peter Denly

- The Battle of Trafalgar, featuring the people, weapons, ships including (of course) *HMS Victory*. Plus a letter of 1797 from the Battle of Santa Cruz in which Nelson was wounded and subsequently lost his arm.
- 1940 centenary of the Penny Black, an A - Z of countries other than Great Britain featuring stamps, covers, postmarks and labels.
- A Halfpenny, a study of the Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax, operational between 1813 and 1839. Marks included forwarding offices, inspectors' marks, exemptions and redirected mail.
- Various ships including the *SS Normandie*, built in France and taken over by the Americans in World War II; the *SS Ohio*, involved in the Malta convoys in World War II; and various nuclear-powered vessels.

Jim Etherington

- Examples from six series of postcards produced in 1940, covering the British Expeditionary Force, the Blitz, people awarded the Victoria Cross and the Women's Royal Air Force.
- Postcards of armed cruisers which became part of the British Northern Patrol in world War II.
- Postal history of the Advanced Air Fighting Force, the air component of the BEF. They went to France in 1939, using Westland Lysander aircraft.

Malcolm Gascoyne

- Having just started to think about collecting spices, a "starter for 10" of early acquisitions were shown including a 1610 map of the Spice Islands; a 1764 map of Lagos and a Crusader coin.

John Hayward

- The Ofoten Line, the most northern railway track in the world, running from the Port of Narvik to Riksgränsen on the Norway–Sweden border. Illustrations were shown of the terrain, the navvies who worked to build it, and iron ore trucks.
- The Swedish mining company LKAB: Luossavaara-Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag and the railway line which serves it, running from Kiruna in Sweden to Narvik in Norway. Thanks to the Gulf Stream the port of Narvik remains ice-free all year. Covers and photos were shown, also iron-ore pellets picked up (literally) while John was on holiday there.

Lesley Marley

- Postmarks with cancellations and stamps featuring whales.
- Stamps and die proofs featuring krill.
- A selection of countries featuring whale stamps.
- Whaling associations of South Georgia, including the whaling boats and a letter to Christian Salvesen whaling company concerning the ship *Salvestra*. Also stamp designs featuring the blue whale.

Janet Nelson

- The Bible, including UNESCO Year of the Bible, The King James Bible, the Welsh Bible and the use of the Bible for swearing oaths.

- The Albatross, based on what Janet described as “Wikipedia research, a sort of philatelic twitching”. Various species and habitats were shown.
- The Water Cycle. Janet’s entry for the Fosbery Trophy in 2015. A non-linear display of the hydrological cycle.

Charles Oppenheim

- Nineteenth century items relating to patents including a USA patent agent advertising envelope; a US Patent Office cover with annotation “if undelivered please pass on to an intelligent mechanic”; and a Mulready with an advertisement for patent law books - unfortunately the books were out of date by the time of the advertisement. Also two US Civil War tax silver paper tobacco seals.

Ian Reed

- Biographical display on Joseph Haydn, court composer to the Esterházy family, who developed the sonata.
- A variety of music-based items including a piece of music posted in Taunton in 1850; an 1864 lottery ticket; some humorous postcards and the Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos shown on a banknote.
- Ludwig van Beethoven. Born in Bonn, he moved to Vienna aged 21, and became a pupil of Haydn. Hugely successful during his lifetime, he died in 1827.

Brian Sole

- PHQ cards with special handstamp cancellations. Postcards including trams, trains and Amy Johnson.
- Cycling items including 50th anniversary of the Cyclist Touring Club; the Bournemouth Milk Race, signed by the then Mayor of Bournemouth; Raleigh industry covers with slogan postmarks; and Coventry private post advertising.
- Bicycles on postcards including the penny farthing, the safety bicycle and ladies cycles.
- ‘Gong Hey Fat Choy’ the Cantonese for Happy New Year. Illustrated with Jersey Chinese New Year miniature sheets from 1996 to 2007 and Hong Kong sheets from 1987 to 1998.

Barry Stagg

- Bows and Arrows. Including hunting bows, crossbows, William Tell, Robin Hood, archery on horseback, sporting bows, and the left-handed archer

Anne Stammers

- A selection of old postcards of Henley, mainly the Regatta, and also a few bucolic scenes of roads with sheep on them, now the A4130, a dual carriageway between Henley and Oxford.
- Postal history items including a ship letter for the *Gem*; a ‘Via Diamante’ handstamp on a Brazil bulls eye cover; an 1860 cancel for ‘Diamond’ in New York; and a registered postcard from the Italian ‘Diamante’.
- A Miscellany of A’s and B’s including an Acacia Gold Mining Company letter; the amethyst, a variety of quartz named from the Greek a (“not”) and méthystos (intoxicated”); the Greeks believed the stone protected its owner from drunkenness; and the Beaconsfield Gold Mine in Tasmania.

- Gems and jewellery, including gem cutting, leather and bead jewellery and engagement and wedding rings. Agathon Fabergé, younger brother of Carl, was a philatelist as well as jeweller.

Sue Thatcher

- A History of Britain starting with the the William of Normandy's invasion, his establishment of castles and the Domesday Book; the civil war of Stephen and Matilda; King Henry II who married Eleanor of Aquitaine; Richard I; John I and his battle with the barons over Magna Carta; the Wars of the Roses and finally the defeat of Richard III, the last Plantaganet king and the last king of Britain to die in battle.
- The Industrial Revolution, which started at the end of the eighteenth century, affecting both towns and the landscape. Covered trades including wool, transport including roads and canals, and coal and tin mining.

Peter Weir

- Medicine in World War I and the treatment of wounded soldiers. Featured a variety of postal history including field service postcards and German military hospital cachets. Stamps on this theme have suddenly increased with the centenary of World War I.
- Treatment of the wounded soldier. In the Crimean War 21,000 British men died, 16,000 of them from disease. This loss caused the military to consider better systems of treatment. Haslar Hospital at Gosport already existed; the Royal Naval Hospital was built at Netley on Southampton Water. Jean-Henri Dunant founded the Red Cross in 1863 after touring the field of the Battle of Solferino and witnessing the suffering of soldiers. During World War I basic medical facilities improved. The Royal British Legion was formed after World War I.

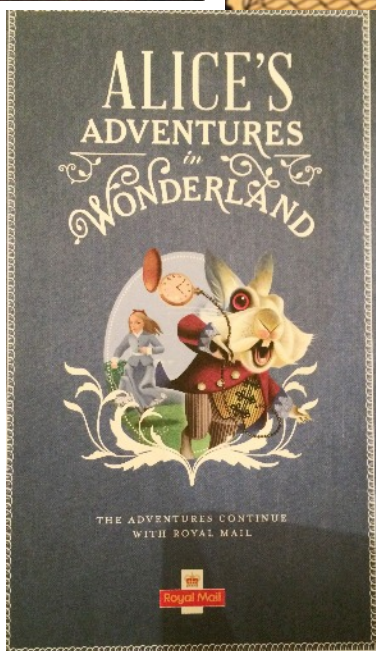
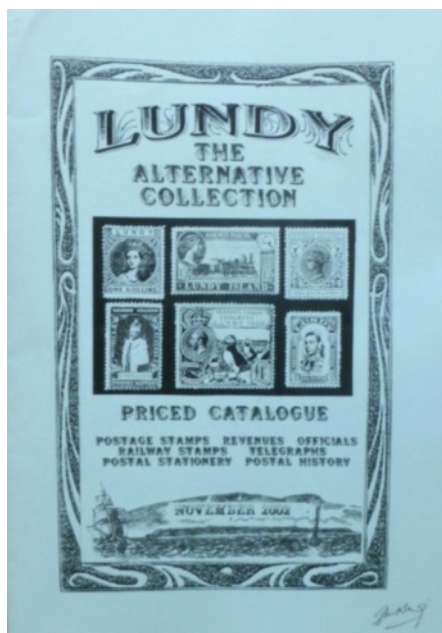
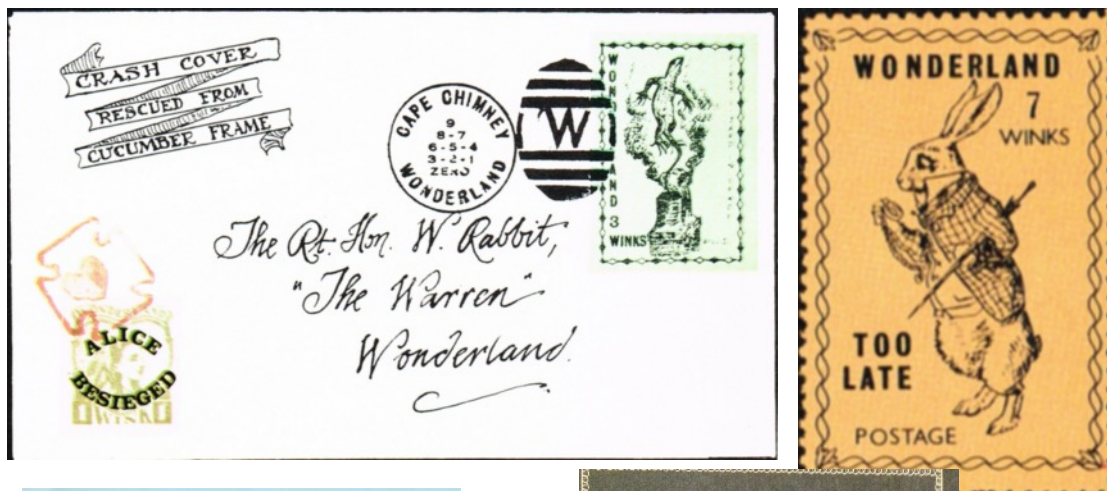
Morva White

- 'An early twentieth century warhorse': story of the steam tug *Sansom* which was commissioned to replace the *Cissy* in the Falkland Islands in 1898. Among other incidents she put out a fire on the SS Great Britain, and saved 300 lives when the SS Aravia beached. She broke her moorings in a gale in 1945 and remains a wreck on the Islands.

Peter Wood

- Guinness advertising, including labels, postal stationery, postcards and perfins. Some featured the Guinness mascot toucan; who knew the advertising slogan "See what toucan do" was invented by Dorothy L. Sayers?
- The recent acquisition of a Canadian General Service Medal with bar for the 1876 Fenian Raid by the Fenian Brotherhood, an Irish Republican organization who were based in the United States, on British army forts, customs posts and other targets in Canada, led to the collection of ephemera including letters relating to the medal.
- The story of Dr. Thomas John Barnado who was born in Dublin, came to London to train as a missionary and stayed to found the Barnado Homes. Also the charity Boys Town founded as an orphanage. Its logo is a picture of a boy carrying a younger boy on his back, captioned "He ain't heavy, Father, he's my brother": a phrase which inspired the Hollies song.

Alice in Wonderland and Beyond:



A Whales Tale. "The world's most ignominious shopping list":



Candles



Perfume



Soap



Cosmetic cream



Watch making: airmail postcard from Le Clocl, centre of the Swiss watch making industry

Ireland's Invasion of the World:



Chez Guevara looking suitably swash-buckling



William Mulready

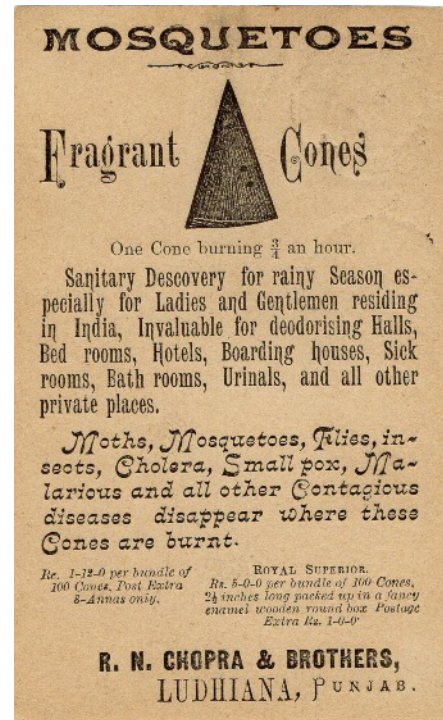


The model for this painting by Boucher was Marie-Louise O'Reilly, born in Rouen to Irish parents. At age 17 she became mistress to King Louis XV

HOW I STARTED

Carol Turner

How did I Start? Going back to the 1950's my father marked 'O' level GCE papers, and on envelopes containing the exam papers I saw many higher value GB Wilding stamps. My brother, four years older, collected these and I copied him getting his leavings. As we moved from primary school our stamp interest waned as other interests (and school work) intervened.




After graduating from university in the late 1960's I found a job in the Minehead area and fell in love with the area but knew no-one. During some casual chat I mentioned I once collected stamps and immediately was invited to the next meeting of the local philatelic society (now stamp club). Why not go, I was made to feel very welcome and found, unusually I believe, about one quarter of the members were women. The guest speaker showed what I thought was a fantastic display of New Zealand stamps. It opened my eyes to the possibilities of stamp collecting.

What to collect? I was advised to accumulate anything that appealed that was cheap, and something would grab my attention. The stamps of North Borneo seized my imagination so a collection was born. After joining the Sarawak Specialists Society and having learnt a great deal of basic philately, my collection had grown to the point where more expensive items were needed to fill gaps. By the late 70's my collection had grown to a point where I was uncertain how to develop it. Do I specialise in postmarks, postal history, varieties etc? Whilst deciding, I looked back to my accumulation and noticed a bias towards nature. I thought a small collection was required, so I excluded plants, animals, fish and birds; but what about insects (excluding Lepidoptera - butterflies and moths - too many of them). I soon fell over the 1962 World Health Organisation Anti Malaria issues, most showing mosquitoes. A bit of research into the history of Malaria, and I was hooked into a new collection. Just collecting stamps was not quite satisfying enough. On seeing Joan Burgess's display of Law and Order in the 1980's inspired me to do more research and expand into the history of the disease, its treatments, discovery of the parasite and its vector, control methods etc. My 'small collection' now includes other philatelic and non-philatelic items housed in eight albums plus fifteen albums of specific anti-malaria issues and three or four cover albums of items waiting to be disposed of or included.

There has long been an association with Malaria (Paludism) and marshy areas and I was lucky to find an early example of type 13 cds of La Palud in France dated 2 Aug 1835. Many thousands of remedies were tried over the years by notable physicians and local herbalists with little success. An advertisement on a postal stationery card from India in 1894 makes incredible claims about disease prevention. A version of one of the 16th Century legends about the discovery of the curative properties of the bark of a Cinchona Trees is nicely illustrated on a drug company promotional picture postcard from Romania in 1939. By 1795 Alexander von Humboldt was alarmed at the destruction of 25,000 cinchona trees annually in one area alone to supply the demand for bark from Europe. Later discoveries led to the manufacture of pure quinine (Republic of Congo SG 483 and Rwanda SG314). Eventually better drugs were developed and appropriate dosages worked out. It was not until 1894 that mosquitoes were proved to be the vectors (transmitters) of Malaria to Man and many efforts were employed to control the offending insects including ploughing land to reduce breeding sites (Netherlands meter mark) and the spraying of insecticides (Nicaragua SG 1892 with printed back-stamp and or Flytox meter mark).

Disease has always played a part in Military engagements by reducing manpower. Malaria devastated troop numbers in the summer/autumn of 1916 on the Eastern Front. The French Military issued a series of 10 humorous picture postcards from their Medical Service to the men depicting '10 Commandments' for Malaria Prevention to be strictly followed along with another three showing the benefits of taking Quinine.

I am not a competitive person at any level but entering the odd competition does force me to really examine my collection, note the gaps in the story and try to adapt or fill that hole. 

BTA AND BRITISH POSTMARK SOCIETY JOINT MEETING: STAMPEX 17 SEPTEMBER

A joint meeting between the BTA and the BPS was enjoyed by 17 attendees. The range of material shown demonstrated the huge overlap between the interests of members of each society, not to mention the fact that three people there were members of both societies.

Displays were by:

Brian Sole. BTA and BPS member

Sixteen sheets from his thematic collection on Cycling, including the 50th anniversary of Derby Touring Club; World and Olympic champions; the 1982 Milk Race; slogans for the Isle of Man Cycle Race from 1964 to 1969; Millennium GB issues and Penny Farthing charity ride at Glamis, Forfar in 1979.

John Hayward. BTA

Having just sold his collection and in the process of building up a new theme John has been buying material from Thematic-Club (<http://thematic-club.com/page/index.php>). When sending covers the insert is often a commemorative cancel on cover in its own right. Ten covers were shown which depicted Swiss slogans and commemorative cancels on various themes from the 1979-80 period.

Michael Dobbs. BPS

Thirty sheets of a very thematic "Buses and Philately" including early meter marks from United Services Transport and Lincolnshire Road Car Co., commemorative postmarks of Walsall Trolleybuses and Swindon Corporation, meter marks from Badgerline and National Express and various Postbus items.

John Fowler. BPS

This study of Ink Jet Printing from the 1990s demonstrated not only what a detailed and complicated subject it is, but also how you have to be eagle-eyed to spot changes and new designs. Both standard and experimental postmarks were shown, from Gloucester and Darlington in 1993 and London Foreign Section trials in 1995 which included Postage Paid Impressions, Sealed under Permit items and postage paid items. The thirteen covers shown suggested that this is an area thematic collectors should not ignore, with emblems such as crowns used.

Wendy Buckle. BTA

Papermaking is a very old industry and one which required a great deal of power and so mills were constructed on rivers and villages grew up around those mills. The theme of papermaking was illustrated with a variety of postal history covers with the place name "Papermill Village" "Papiermuhle" and similar examples in various countries. Also shown were illustrated meter marks, commemorative cancels, and a USA fancy cancel for Kimberly-Clark Paper Mill.

Peter Weir. BTA

From his extensive collection on Blood Peter showed studies of slogan cancels for blood donor appeals in Great Britain. The first ever cancel was in 1947 with the slogan “Blood Donors Still Urgently Needed”. Examples of slogans used in campaigns from various locations from 1965 onwards were shown, including the slogan marking 50 years of the Army Blood Donor Supply in 1989 and those used in Scotland “Blood Donors Save Lives”; 1998 marked the 50th anniversary of the National Blood Transfusion Service and a number of commemorative postmarks were shown and finally a commemorative cancel for Tony Hancock “The most famous blood donor of all”.

George King. BPS

This display represented a study of TNT Post UK (owned by Dutch postal operator PostNL) end-to-end delivery in London and Liverpool, showing the wide variety of indicia used on mail. TNT also used inkjets and labels to mark this mail. The service started as a trial in West London in April 2012. On 11 May 2015 Whistl suspended its door-to-door delivery service in London, Liverpool and Manchester and subsequently the operation was closed down and staff made redundant. Whistl reverted back to using Royal Mail for the “final mile”.

Peter Wood, BTA

His collection under the title “It’s an Irish World” began with a striking pre-stamp straight-line IRELAND cancel. The display also featured World War I naval censor marks, ship names relevant to Ireland including *HMS Boyne* (as in Battle of), meter marks for St. Patrick Missionary Society, wrappers from Eason & Sons Newspapers in Dublin, Irish meter marks covering various topics including those featuring the shamrock, transport, linen and industry and a fancy postmark for the *Titanic* (built in Belfast). He also showed a very unusual item, a cover postmarked London W1 on 5 DEC 1975 with the two-line cachet UNABLE TO DELIVER / POLICE EMERGENCY - it was addressed to 25A Balcombe Street, NW1 and the siege of Balcombe Street took place at No 24 from 6 to 12 December 1975; this was an incident involving members of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Lesley Marley. BTA

From her collection on whales Lesley showed some lovely early whaling letters from Tristan Da Cunha and Hawaii, plus the whaling factory ship *Willem Barendsz II* built in Rotterdam in 1955. There was also mail from the Falklands and also whales which featured in Franco type machines used in Germany. Lesley did say that she found it very difficult to find anything to do with baby whales! The display finished with modern Antarctic cruise ships.

Barry Stagg. BTA

Parachuting and parachutists were featured having extracted a few items from his parachuting collection, including the Red Devils in 1970; the various materials used for parachutes including silk, nylon and Teflon, meter marks from parachute manufacturers; a commemorative postmark from Modesto, California of one of the first American All-Black parachute infantry the “Triple Nickles” (555th Parachute Infantry Battalion) tasked with fighting fires in the American Northwest during World War II as a result of

the Japanese sending over balloon bombs, training schools, and the Tatton Park Training Centre in the 1940s.

Keith Downing. BPS and BTA

Provided a display of postal markings associated with British Railways Travelling Post Offices (TPOs): a display on Railways which deftly illustrated how postmarks enhance a thematic collection. He gave an explanation of the TPO service and terminology used to enable us to understand the terms Up / Down, Side 1 / Side 2, single or double ring handstamps, as well as the use of the Bag Tender handstamp over Christmas (i.e. mail not sorted on the trains). Aspects covered included different Day Service and Night Service postmarks; “sides” where crews went out one day and back the next; publicity runs for trains; and under-franked mail, including desperate attempts to pick up postage due marks from an unwilling post office who preferred to deliver under-paid mail at no extra charge.



SCOUTING AROUND THE WORLD

Display by Hallvard Slettebø FRPSL at the Royal Philatelic Society London

The 'Royal' has relatively few Thematic or Open displays, so when one does appear it's a fair bet that it will be something special. And 'something special' is certainly what we saw at their 1pm meeting on 27th October. Hallvard Slettebø, stamp collector and Scout since a child, has an absolutely stunning collection of material which has been recognised by Large Gold medals at international events. In 52 frames he showed different classes of philately, all with rare, and sometimes unique, material.

1. World Scouting: its path to success

A thematic exhibit demonstrating the significance of Baden-Powell's original concept and the development of Scouting to become today's world-wide movement.

The 'prelude' to scouting was Lord Robert Baden-Powell's service in the army, including in the second Anglo-Boer War where the city of Mafeking was besieged, leading to the introduction of a siege mail service. On his return to civilian life Baden-Powell wrote *Scouting for Boys* and organised the first Boy Scout Camp at Brownsea Island in Poole harbour. Boy Scout and Girl Guide units were formed in Britain and then world-wide. As Chief Scout and Chief Guide Lord and Lady Baden-Powell travelled extensively, retiring to South Africa. The Boy Scout uniform of a broad-brimmed khaki hat, neckerchief folded into a triangle, shirt and shorts was adopted. The fleur-de-lys was chosen as the Boy Scout emblem. St. George was designated patron saint of Scouts. Popularity of the movement was spread in part by its adoption by royal families or presidents. In each country its national organisation is broken down into groups and then troops. The overall body is the World Organisation of the Scout Movement; its Secretariat is the World Scout Bureau, established in 1920 in London and now based in Geneva. Today there are different parts of scouting including Beaver and Cub Scouts for younger members, and Rover Scouts for those over 16; plus sea Scouts and Air Scouts for those with that particular interest.

The skills and principles which are the building blocks of scouting also instil life skills, such as leadership, consideration, helping others and taking responsibility. There are also the practical skills learned at scout camp. Camping and the outdoor life are central to scouting. Scout mail is not just something to encounter at Christmas. It has been used in times of war and oppression when normal postal services have broken down. Today the highlight of the calendar is the World Scouting Jamboree, held every four years.

This precis cannot do justice to the depth of treatment illustrated through a wide variety of material.

2. Scout Mail in Displaced Persons Camps

A traditional exhibit documenting local postage stamps, postmarks and mail delivery services related to Scouting, issued for and used by inhabitants of Displaced Persons Camps in Europe after World War II.

3. Scouting in the United Kingdom

The story of the Scout and Guide movements in the UK up to 1957, illustrated entirely through postal history. It particularly focused on the postal history of the 1957 9th World Jamboree, held at Sutton coalfield, celebrating the Jubilee of the Movement.

4. Scouting in Norway

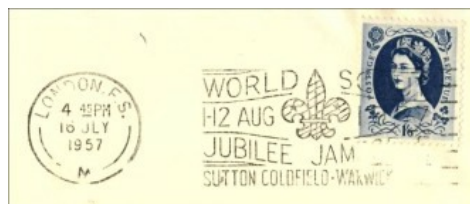
An obvious specialisation for Hallvard Slettebø, being himself Norwegian. Another postal history exhibit, showing the Scout and Guide movement in Norway up to 1957. Postage usage of all thirty of the earliest Norwegian Scout postmarks was shown.

5. Scouting in Europe

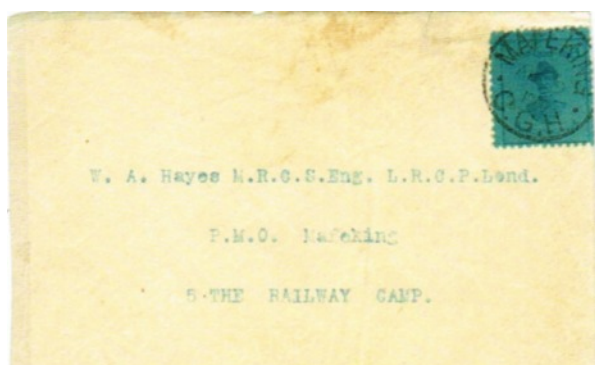
An A to Z of the postal history of Scouting in Europe up to 1957.

6. Scouting Overseas.

Another A to Z of postal history, again up to 1957.



Frank Walton (President RPSL and Scout Leader), Hallvard Slettebø, Paul Barnes (1st Cookham Scout Troop), Christine Earle (proposed the vote of thanks)



Mafeking AP 9 1900, one of only four recorded first day on cover usages of the narrow format Baden-Powell stamp



Baden-Powell writes home to his brother in London. Ms annotation "O. A. Service R. Baden-Powell Major Genl"

Members of the Royal Philatelic Society London can access the entire display on the 'Recent Displays' section of the RPSL website

AN UNUSUAL STAMP SHOP

Barry Stagg spots a useful resource

On a recent holiday to Norfolk I found an unusual thing – not some rare butterfly but a stamp shop within the grounds of the National Trust property at Blickling Estate. I wanted to mention this to you not to give it some free publicity, but because not only was its philatelic stock largely made up of donations, it had two interesting collections, both for sale. The first was a wide range of books and catalogues at very reasonable prices. For instance, I found a whole world Scott catalogue (C to F) for £4! But secondly they also sold empty albums and clean album pages, often from discontinued lines. Dozens and dozens if not hundreds of them. And lots and lots of stamps for you to sort through. So, if you find yourself in Norfolk with a few hours to spare please drop in to see them (If I remember correctly although the shop was on NT property it was outside the paying zone). All their details can be found on their web site

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blickling-estate/news/fundraising-to-the-letter-at-blicklings-stamp-shop>

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BTA COMPETITIONS

South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention at Ardingly 8 October 2016

Brian Sole reports

Thanks to the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, the BTA was able to display the entries to the 2016 BTA competitions at its Autumn Convention, held at Ardingly Showground. The competition frames were near the BTA table, which was manned by Wendy Buckle, Lesley Marley and Brian Sole throughout the day.

Once again there was only one entry to the two-frame BTA Cup competition, but Grace Davies was a worthy winner with her entry *The Dove and Olive Branch - Symbols of Hope and Peace*, judged to Large Vermeil standard.

Visitors voted for their favourite entry in the 'no rules' John Fosbery Trophy competition. Janet Nelson was the narrow winner with *1,000 years of Annoying the French*. The title was amusing and Janet showed examples of various battles in which the French had been overcome. In second place, one vote behind, was Erene Grieve's *The Written Word*. This was well thought out, describing the early handwritten letters and the different types of pen through the ages, concluding with computer printers. The remaining three entries all gained votes. Stuart Hogg's *The Horse* described the working and the sporting horse with appropriate material and a good write-up. Ron Gillard's summary of the life and works of Alphonse Mucha included beautiful examples of Mocha's artistry, mainly with stamps from Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately Roger Pascoe's entry went astray in transit and enquiries are continuing. However, he was able to show photocopies of his very colourful *Gems in the Air*, a study of dragonflies and damselflies through their anatomy, habitat and breeding cycle.

THE RESULTS

BTA CUP

Grace Davies The Dove and Olive Branch - Symbols of Hope and Large Vermeil
Peace



*Grace receiving the
Cup from Brian.*

*Paris Peace
Conference 1946*



THE RESULTS

JOHN FOSBERY THEMATIC TROPHY

Janet Nelson	1,000 years of annoying the French	Winner
Erene Grieve	The Written Word: the Tools and the Trade	Second
Roger Pascoe	Gems in the Air: Dragonflies and Damselflies	
Ron Gillard	The Birth, the Death and the Resurrection: Summarising the Works of Alphonse Mucha	
Stuart Hogg	The Horse: our Eternal Friend	



Janet, Brian and John Fosbery Trophy



*Portrait of
Alphonse Mucha,
designed by M.
Svabinsky*

*The French got very
annoyed when an
international conference decided that
the Prime Meridian should be based on
Greenwich*



*Dragonfly Sympetrum
dilatatum*



*'Grand Pardubice' a notoriously
dangerous race*



Ancient writing and modern technology

EXHIBITING PAGE: AUTUMN STAMPEX

The main focus of the Exhibiting area was the King George VI Collectors Society. Following their exhibits were some lovely entries in the classes of interest to us. BTA members showed:

THEMATIC

Grace Davies Toward United Nations 1 frame Large Vermeil

These pages aim to show how history repeats itself. They use as illustration three global efforts to prevent war by international cooperation, creating the International Peace Bureau, the League of Nations and the United Nations. A story of optimism and failure.

David Wiskin Vice-Admiral William Bligh RN FRS 8 frames Large Vermeil

The story of William Bligh, famous for the 'Mutiny on the Bounty'. However this was only part of his navy career, which included: Battle of Copenhagen under Nelson, Battle of Camperdown under Duncan, the 'Breadfruit' voyages, Governor of New South Wales and serving under Captain Cook on his last voyage.

OPEN

John Davis The Story of Niuafo'ou and its Tin Can 8 frames Gold
(Canoe) Mail Service

Story about the origins of Niuafo'ou, its geographical location, history, discovery and development and commemoration of its Tin Can (Canoe) Mail Service from its inception in 1882 to its demise in 1983. See *Themescene* June 2016 page 62 for illustrations from the exhibit.

Richard Hindle Study of the Postcards, Mail, Labels and 1 frame Vermeil
Cancellations from Amundsen's *Maud*
Expedition 1918 - 25

A study of the postcard designs and wording, the mail and labels from the expedition. See *Themescene* June, September and December 2015 for the full story.

POSTCARD

Brian Sole Cycle Past, by Postcard 2 frames Large Vermeil

The early cycles, from Boneshaker to the Safety Bicycle in various designs, and the cycle's place in social, war and competition activities.

The Cinderella class attracted an impressive twenty entries. BTA member Jean Osborne showed "Labels of the 1924 and 1925 Wembley Exhibition" and "Labels of the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition, London".

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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

For a free sample copy, write to:

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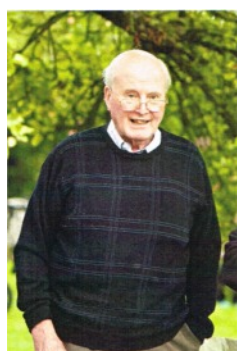
Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB



OBITUARY:

IAN PATON MA FBCS FRPSL 1932-2016

For 33 years Ian was employed by a multi-national American engineering company. In 1958 he worked on the installation of a valve mainframe computer and in 1958 he began designing mainframe computer-based systems for an IBM machine. He was elected a Fellow of the British Computer Society.



Every five years he was sent to Canton, Ohio on business trips. Whilst there he visited libraries, museums and historical sites to expand his knowledge of American history. His schoolboy interest in stamp collecting was rekindled by a visit to Philypia 1970 and he decided to combine his interests of stamp collecting and American history. He entered "An American Panorama 1789-1912" to the Stampex competitions each year, and in 1983 was awarded a silver-gilt medal and received the Omniphil Trophy as the best exhibit in the Thematic Philately Class. He became a member of various national societies and associations, joining the BTA in May 1984. Whilst enlarging his American stamp collection, Ian visited overseas International stamp exhibitions. Trips to Europe included Stockholm, Genoa, Milan and Paris. In 1988 Ian retired and moved to Cambridge.

Ian was appointed Assistant Secretary of the BTA in 1990 and Membership Secretary from July 1991. His knowledge of computer systems proved to be invaluable. He set up a computerised membership system from scratch and created a classification system for the hundreds of potential themes of members. He also produced lists of thematic speakers and maintained a record of all thematic talks throughout the UK, and passed it to stamp magazines for publication at regular intervals. Ian was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1994 and remained a paid up member until he died.

Despite all his committee work, Ian continued to build his own stamp collection and to enter International stamp competitions. At HAFNIA 2001 Ian was only the third exhibitor from Great Britain to be awarded a Gold medal in the Thematic Philately Class. His entry was entitled "From Texas Statehood to the Assassination of President McKinley". It gained him 92 marks and a Special Prize. Ian also gained Gold medals at AMPHILEX in Amsterdam in 2002 and in WASHINGTON 2006 with the same title.

Ian also provided articles for stamp magazines, and in particular *Themescene*. He was the first recipient of the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl, for his article "The Brothers Perry and their Place in American History".

In 2004 Ian stood down as Membership Secretary of the BTA and in recognition of his meticulous maintenance of the BTA records for 13 years, he was elected to Life membership of the BTA. Ian ensured that the changeover to Peter Denly took place smoothly.

On 10 March 2005, on its 21st anniversary, BTA was privileged to be invited to display material to Fellows and Member of the Royal Philatelic London. Fifty frames were filled including Ian's contribution "Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War, 1861-65".

Sadly, Ian's wife Helen had died after a brief illness a few years earlier. It was the second tragedy in his life, because David their only son had been killed in a car accident in Spain, whilst still a teenager. On a personal note, I am pleased to have known and enjoyed the friendship of Ian for over 30 years. Rest in Peace, Ian.

BS

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.)

WHAT'S CURLING?

How many Winter Sports can you think of? Skiing, skating, snowboarding and ice hockey are just a few, and you have probably collected lots of stamps showing these, but have you ever heard of curling, and have you ever seen curling stamps? *"Isn't that what happens when my stamps aren't flat, or isn't it something girls do to their hair?"* you ask. That's true, but curling is also a great winter sport.

Curling is a game where two teams of players slide stones on ice towards the centre of a circle marked on the ice. Traditionally it was played outside on frozen ponds (an old curling stone found in a Scottish pond was dated 1511), but today it is usually played in ice rinks. People who play curling are called 'curlers'.



The stones are called curling stones, (or 'rocks'), and are special smooth polished stones made from very hard granite rock, with a handle on top. They often have a band around them, with the team's colour on.



Two teams play against each other, and each team has four players. Each team has eight curling stones. Curlers wear rubber-soled shoes to run on the ice. They slide the stones across the ice towards the target, and when both teams have thrown all of their eight stones, points are scored for the stones which end up closest to the centre of the circles. This is then repeated eight or ten times, and the team with the highest number of points wins!

It sounds easy - just take turns sliding a stone along the ice? But there are tricks and skills that can be used. The curler can slowly spin the stone so that it turns as it slides, making a curved path. This might be done when a curler has already thrown several stones into good positions, and they want to curve their next stone around them, without bumping into the other stones. Or it might be used to deliberately move a stone which is in the way!



Another skill is where two team members take turns as 'sweepers' and run on the ice using brooms to sweep just in front of the stone as it slides down the ice. This changes the ice just in front of the stone,



making a smoother and more slippery path. The team leader is called the Skip, and the whole team work together to choose the best path for each stone to get it closest to the target.

Curling has been an official sport in the Winter Olympic Games since the 1998 Winter Olympics. Great Britain have won several medals for curling at the Olympics, including Gold for the Women's Curling Team in 2002.

Look out for stamps showing curling, or start a collection of your own favourite winter sport

Write and tell us about YOUR stamp collection, and to collect your free junior stamp album write to:

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

BTA PROGRAMME 2017

- February 15th - 18th **Spring Stampex**
Business Design Centre, Islington, London, N1 0QH
National competitions, including Thematic, Open and Postcard.
Application forms can be downloaded from
http://www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Exhibitions/National_Exhibitions/16-02-17_Spring-Stampex.xalter
No BTA meeting
- May 20th **Joint Meeting with Guild of St Gabriel**
Members displays of 12 sheets with a religious theme or association
St. Wilfrid's
29 Tite Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 4JX
- June 10th **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker**
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive
At: Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
<https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicsociety/swinpex>
- July 8th **Midpex**
BTA table, thematic sales, and recruitment drive
Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
Leamington Spa
CV31 1XN
If you are coming by rail there will be a shuttle service from the station
<https://midpex.wordpress.com/>
- October 14th **BTA Competitions**
At: South of England Stamp Fair
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php

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Happy Christmas

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