

THEMESCENE

June 2017

In this issue we:

Take a stroll

A Day at Kew Gardens

With Chris Wheeler



Continue a study

Stamps Defining Social History

With Chris Yardley



Go Shopping

Supermarket Philately

With Jean Alexander



Get Cooking

Herbs and Spices

With Neil Pearce

Plus information about our AGM

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Volume 34, No.2. Whole Number 127

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www.britishthematic.org.uk

Essen Stamp Fair, page 59



Post Bus outside the entrance



First-Time Postcard Exhibit, page 62

As ships were built to withstand the pressures of the ice at the north pole, and it was learned that there was an abundance of whales farther south from explorers who had ventured nearer the Antarctic ice in the southern hemisphere whalers were soon tempted to venture south.

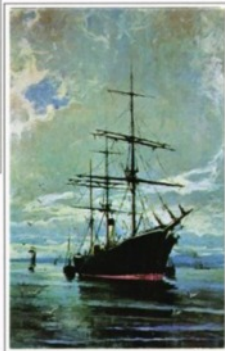


South Georgia Whaling Museum Historical Series I. Photograph taken by Edward Stone.

Greyhairs in the 1920's

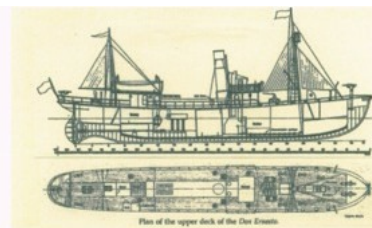
This photograph shows the entire shore whaling station, with the sensing platform, huge whale oil tanks and hundreds of casks of oil ready to ship out.

Greyhairs on South Georgia became the capital of the southern whaling fleets. This sub-Antarctic island 800 miles east of the Falklands on the same latitude as Cape Horn, was once a thriving whaling station that lasted two-thirds of a century almost entirely funded by British finance.



Dundee City Art Gallery. Painting by Charles James Lambart (1941 - 1950)

'At Anchor' The Dundee whaling vessel 'Thames'.



Plan of the upper deck of the Der Dream.



Whale harpooning - see the book and South Georgia

These Cards Published by Roy V. Hardy, no. 3147, 3148 and 3149.

The concerns of the crew were well founded. The master gunner of the "Don Ernesto" was Ludwig Beckman (1883 - 1912) reputedly the finest whaling gunner in the world. He died in 1912 aged 28, the coroner's report recording "by complicated fracture of the skull due to being accidentally struck and thrown on to the ship's deck". The recoil of the forward port harpoon gun had broken its mountings on firing and he was killed instantly. New guns were designed and installed on all catchers.

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Your June issue comes, as always, with the AGM papers (page 50). The meeting will be held on 10th June, as usual at Swinpex, where there will be around 48 dealers, making it a very worthwhile day out. The AGM will be preceded by the presentation of the Francesca Rapkin Bowl, awarded each year to the person writing the best article in *Themescene* the previous year, as judged by the Committee. This year was a close-run thing between Chris Wheeler *The Panama Canal* and the eventual winner Owen Green with *In Search of Early Life on Planet Earth*. Following the official business our Patron, Life Member and lifeblood of the Association since its foundation, Brian Sole, will present his international award-winning *Go By Cycle!*

I am writing this Editorial the day after returning from the European Championship for Thematic Philately, held at Essen (page 59). Whilst there I was delighted to meet BTA member Pierfranco Longhi from Italy. I know exhibiting is not everyone's choice, but my experience there bore out what I had been told: if you do want to compete seriously, the best place to do so is at Essen. You will get such a lot of help and support.


But of course there are different levels of competing and the BTA likes to support it at any level. In line with its remit to cover both Open philately and Postcard collecting we have this year made some major changes to our competitions. You will find the full details on page 70. There will be three competitions, each of them one frame, covering the three disciplines. This is the ideal opportunity to dip your toe into competitive waters. You will get sympathetic and helpful feedback which can pay dividends if you want to compete at club, federation or national level. Even better, your hard work is on show for all to see and enjoy. So "Have a go and show"!

On page 65 is a list of BTA Speakers: those members of the BTA who have notified us that they give displays to other societies. There must be more of you than this! If you display to other clubs, even if only in your own area, please let Charles Oppenheim know so that we can produce a more representative list. It is an ideal way for the BTA to advertise itself. This list is also on our website, but no personal details are included. People wanting to book your services need to apply via Charles.

We are delighted to welcome new members:

Jeff Hayward	New York
George Henshilwood	Glasgow
Pierfranco Longhi	Lecco
Laurie Ryan	Ohio
Howard Morgan	Chichester

With regret we announce the death of member Raymond Ireson from Canada, a regular contributor to *Themescene*.

Finally can I just remind you that we will be at Midpex on 8th July and we have a BTA meeting at Stampex on 16th September. Full details are on page 69. We hope to see you there 

CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg

I was going to start this article with the idea that, at the end of April, winter is now a distant memory and we have months of warm weather ahead of us. With hail beating on my windows and nearly freezing night temperatures I think summer is a few weeks away yet! At least it means more time in the house, trying to catch up with the pile of magazines or checking out a few well-known on-line auction sites.

Reading through some of my magazines I see that the new National Postal Museum is now planning to open sometime in July. I know that many of you live a long way from London but I hope you can manage to see the new Museum. It does promise much and I hope it lives up to its expectations. Another interesting development concerns Stampex (and I expect York as well). You can now show your collection **non-competitively**. You can show the world your collection without it being judged and scored. One frame or up to five frames (effectively 16 to 80 A4 sheets). This is a very interesting development as I know many members of the BTA have wonderful Thematic, Open or postcard collections but don't want to write it up for a competition. More details can be found on the ABPS web site -

www.abps.org.uk/Exhibiting/Exhibitions/National_Exhibitions/abps-autumn-stampex-2017.xalter

And equally interesting I was reading *Stamp & Coin Mart Magazine* a few days ago, that had mention of Modern Philately, a new Exhibition class. If I understand it correctly it is aimed at producing new exhibits by using just new stamps (defined loosely as from



1991 onwards). I hope this attracts a few more people into the hobby. Perhaps the next step is to allow an exhibit of FDCs? I know this is popular in the USA and I expect we all have some (a lot!) of FDCs. I know plenty of people who collect them and if the adverts in the stamp magazines are any marker of the interest then there must be plenty of people out there who collect them. So why not show them, perhaps non-competitively?

Lastly, may I remind you that I have a number of books and articles from the old BTA library for sale or to give away. Please see our web site for details of the books or contact me directly with your collection topic and I'll see what we have. I shall bring some of the books to Swinpex in June and any left after that date will go to a charity shop.

Barry collecting his award at Essen, see page 59

As the rain and hail have stopped I think I can now venture into the greenhouse. To get the best from it I need to make some improvements to it, perhaps a comfy chair and a magazine rack! 📖

A DAY AT KEW GARDENS

Chris Wheeler takes a stroll

Kew Gardens Underground station is on the District Line, opened in 1869 and the only station on the underground network to have a pub integrated in it. You cross over the lines using the recently restored unique French concrete footbridge and walk to the Victoria Gate entrance to Kew Gardens. It was through these gates that Queen Victoria passed to attend the wedding she had arranged between Princess Mary of Cambridge and Francis, Duke of Teck, at St. Anne's Church Kew, which took place on 12 June 1866. Queen Victoria approved the naming of the gates in 1889.

Further down the road, at the southeastern tip of the Gardens, not far from the Pagoda, is the original entrance: the Lion Gate. It opened in 1845, and comprises the original single wrought-iron gate supported by two pillars of yellow London brick. Across the top is a tablet of Portland stone on which sits a carved lion, commissioned by George IV in 1821. It once adorned the roof of a gate lodge on Kew Green. Designed by Thomas Hardwicke, a pupil of Kew architect Sir William Chambers, it is made of Coade stone, a ceramic material that is highly resistant to pollution and weathering.

Kew Gardens was opened in 1759 and now comprises 300 acres of gardens and botanical glasshouses, and 40 listed buildings. The Gardens are home to the world's largest collection of 30,000 living plants and seven million preserved ones. In 1781 King George III extended the Gardens to include the "Dutch House", built in 1631, now called Kew Palace. Kew Gardens became The Royal Botanic Gardens in 1840. In 2017 it is expected to receive around 1.35 million visitors.

As you stroll along the Broad Walk the first impressive site you come to is the Temperate House, currently closed for restoration. Built in the 19th century, it is the largest Victorian glasshouse in existence. It took 40 years to complete. Next is the famous Palm House, completed in 1848, the first large scale structure using wrought iron. It is considered to be the world's most important surviving Victorian glass and iron building. Its panes of glass are all hand-blown.

Further along is the Princess of Wales Conservatory, Kew's largest conservatory, opened in 1987 with ten separately computer controlled climatic zones; and what a variety of plants and habitats it contains!

These days you can eat in the Pavilion Restaurant. The original timber-framed Tea House was burned down in February 1913 by two suffragettes during a series of arson attacks across London.

The famous Pagoda is a folly built 1761-62. It is the oldest surviving structure of the original gardens. Passing the Pagoda, you walk through trees along Cedar Vista, with the Japanese Gateway on your left, and then the delightful Queen Charlotte's Cottage, covered in creeper, which is surrounded by thousands of bluebells in Spring.

You arrive at the central Lake, next to which is the Sir Joseph Banks Building, opened in 1990, where the study of economic botany (plants with valuable uses) takes place. It is also a magnificent corporate hospitality venue.

A quick climb, and you walk around the new Treetop Walkway, opened in 2008. It is 60 feet above ground and takes you into the canopy of a woodland glade. Up here you can look out across the Gardens and see the gaps where hundreds of trees were lost in the Great Storm of 1987.



Victoria Gates, from a 1908 postcard



Lion Gate (undated)



The Palm House



The Tea House, before and after Suffragette action



The Pagoda



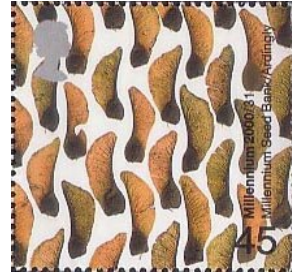
Kew Palace




In 1959 Kew Gardens had the tallest flagpole in Britain at 225 feet. Made from a single Douglas Fir, it was given by Canada to mark both the centenary of the Canadian Province of British Columbia and the bicentenary of Kew Gardens. The flagpole was removed in 2007 after damage by weather and woodpeckers.

Returning to the south east side of the Gardens you can see the formal gardens and statues in front of Kew Palace, influenced by the advice provided by ‘Capability’ Brown.

Looking to the future, Kew is becoming increasingly important in cultivating and preserving specimens. It works closely with the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place in Sussex.



This is where the future is: preservation and regeneration. Its Mission statement is “to address man’s need to manage earth’s environment by increasing knowledge and a better understanding of the plant kingdom: the basis of life on earth”.

If you leave by Brentford Gate on the River Thames and walk down Ferry Lane to the southern end of Kew Bridge you will find the ferry that takes visitors across the river to the northern side and beyond. 



Pier and Ferry

POSTAGE STAMPS DEFINING SOCIAL HISTORY: AN EXAMPLE OF COLD-WAR POLITICS. PART 2

Chris Yardley continues his study

Post-war Germany

A study of German stamps allows me to compare and contrast how the science stamps of East and West Germany tell different messages over a defined period of time. At the end of World War II Germany was divided into two ideological countries for 42 years. East Germany as a member of the Russian dominated 'Eastern Bloc' issued a series of confirmations of achievements on postage stamps that included strong 'science' messages during 1949-1990, before the reunification of Germany. These reflect the political emphasis of Government at that time. The nature and style of the Russian parent's propaganda is very obvious in its stamp issues over time as shown in some of the illustrations on page 46. Following this review I discuss comparisons in the issue of 'science on stamps' messages from East and West Germany.

1) East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, (DDR)

Early stamps from East Germany emphasised that government would pursue an interest in science and technology. Just nine months into the new constitution, in 1950, its first definitive set of ten stamps was issued celebrating the *250th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences*, based in Berlin. The stamps are small, as are many definitive issues from all countries. They are printed in a single colour, the portraits are formal and display a gravitas reflecting the status of the Academy of Science. The new country is also, perhaps, staking a claim to these famous celebrities as having been born in what is, now, East Germany, or worked there in the case of Euler. The set emphasises the scientists from three centuries, not their scientific achievements and is a pointer to the policies, under guidance from the USSR, which the new country will follow. The theme is also nation-building looking back at famous scientists of the past. The message is part mirror and part lens.

Just one affirmation of the role of science was made in the 1953 Five Year Plan although the set comprised eighteen images of 'workers' fulfilling their roles. A 'scientist' was included shown in his 'white coat' and working with a microscope. Other images in the background suggest his work will contribute to industry as a whole. The figure '5' designating the Five Year plan is prominent as the reason for the issue. It is a political message. It is a lens exhorting people to support the Five Year Plan and the new reality of the country.

In 1956 to celebrate the *110th anniversary of the Carl Zeiss Factory* three stamps were issued. Two showed images of the two principal scientists : Carl Zeiss (1816–1888), optician and Ernst Karl Abbe (1840–1905), physicist and optometrist. As will be seen in this article, Carl Zeiss is celebrated thirteen times on the stamps of East Germany and once by West Germany.

The next year East Germany commenced a series celebrating *Scientists' anniversaries*. In the same format as the 1950 set, three anniversaries, each from different centuries, are included. Euler is featured again, The set is a continuation of the nation-building theme

of the 1950 celebration. The message is classic. Under the protection of the flag all aspects of life look to science and technological development. Featured are agriculture, manufacturing, research, defence and the provision of infrastructure. Again these messages are part mirror, part lens.

The East German endorsement of the Russian space achievements began in 1959 with the first landing of a Russian rocket on the moon. Two years later a three stamp set was issued to mark the first manned space flight. 'Space' dominated the publishing programme of the DDR issuing authority for twenty years with 260 space related stamps. This is further discussed later when I look at the issuing policies of West Germany and compare them to East Germany.

A year later, 1964, the DDR, (the acronym was now being used as the main country index), on the occasion of the *15th anniversary* of the country celebrated with a fifteen stamp set using science and technology as symbols of achievement. Every stamp illustrates, (juxtapositioned), the image of an industry and a generic worker carrying his or her tools of the trade. A different background colour is used, using strong colours throughout basically a consistent design. Female figures are shown in three images.

In the midst of the 'space' achievements the DDR ran a series of four sets that featured *celebrities' birth anniversaries*, an extension of the earlier issue. These issues commonly featured scientists as 'celebrities'. Three of the six stamps from the 1981 4th series are shown as examples. There are twenty such scientists honoured with stamps following this format issued annually between 1977 and 1981. They are interesting stamps within the development of my study as they show contextually the reason the scientist has been chosen as a celebrity as well as his life dates.

The head dominates the image. The context is shown but with the exception of the botanist one would have to be a scientist to determine the significance of the graph shown or the mathematical formula. The three images are good examples of a transition from using the scientist's portrait to tell the message, to the introduction of context.

The 35th anniversary, 2nd issue, of the country was marked with the issue of three stamps solidly representing what the issuing authority saw as two technical achievements. A third stamp showed 'the military' and military equipment, which is outside of the scope of my study. The two stamps showcase the development of : 10pf : East Ironworks, 25pf: Schwedt Petro chemical complex and these are named. This issue is also tied with a new symbol, a tapestry in the national colours, and rather than Russia's iconic 'hammer and sickle' the logo includes a hammer and a pair of compasses. The DDR is unabashedly celebrating what it sees as technology successes, mirrors of achievements.

The DDR 1985 set celebrating the end of World War II in 1945 is semiotically integrated. Although of different colours each stamp shows a 'red flag' enclosing a prominent index that defines the years under review, 1945-1985. The title of the stamp issue is shown vertically at the left hand side of each stamp. Two icons are used in a combined image; the tools of the trade for the 'workers' depicted. Two images show smiling figures, which are appropriate, while the workers shown engaged in their business are concentrating upon the task in hand. Women are shown on two of the four stamps indicating the importance of women to the country's technical and scientific advancement. Recognisable people are shown on the lower value stamps. The indices, the country and the value of the service being pre-paid, complete the message.

The last three science related issues of the DDR, before it was absorbed into the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990, were :
1990, Lilienthal '91 European Airmail Exhibition, historic flying machine designs (4),

1990, 125th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union (4), and 1990, the 21st meeting of the International Astronautics Federation.

Summary - the science stamps of East Germany

East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, (DDR), existed for 42 years. Although in the thrall of Russia, DDR pursued a different regime and style, to a certain extent, promoting science and technology. The DDR did not promote its ambitions through Five Year plans. Its successes were celebrated on a time-line of anniversaries of the establishment of the country. The DDR as an entity was celebrated with a strong emphasis on the 'nation' prospering under the national flag. People benefiting from the effects of science and technology were the theme rather than the textual statement of aspirations. The events that were celebrated had an East German context and did not generally look outside its boundaries, except to mark the Russian space-race triumphs. Its science issuing policy began to look at the outside world in the year before it rejoined with West Germany in 1991.

A comparison of the science stamp issues of East Germany and West Germany

Having studied East Germany it is appropriate to comment upon what policies were adopted by West Germany. Within the boundaries of East Germany the Western Sector of Berlin functioned as an entity known as West Berlin. Some stamps issued by West Germany were also issued by West Berlin, with the additional index of 'Berlin' added to the issuing authority name. Each regime followed its own political ambitions. East Germany issued approximately twice as many postage stamps as West Germany over the period in total. Only in 1949, 1964, 1986 and 1987 did West Germany print more stamps than the DDR; these were the years when the (everyday) definitive, multi-value stamps were issued.

East Germany under the influence of the Soviet Union issued, in total, 30% more science stamps than West Germany, suggesting that a communist government was more dependent on science for future growth and meeting targets, and saw the postage stamp as a more potent communications medium than a democratic government, at least during the 42 years of separation. The total number of all stamps issued during this time was :

- East Germany 3,061
- West Germany 1,292 }
- West Berlin 763 } : total West Germany and West Berlin of 2,055.

Geographically West Berlin was within East Germany. West Berlin issued 65 of its own 'science' stamps although some issues were identical to the West German issues but in these cases the index, the name of the issuing authority was changed. Two stamps from the two sets of *Famous German Women* of 1986-1989 are shown. The celebrants are - 60pf : Dorothea Erxleben, (1715-1762), the first female medical doctor in Germany, 130pf : Lise Meitner (1878-1968), Austrian-born, later Swedish physicist, and 140pf : Cécile Vogt (1875-1962), neurophysiologist and pharmacologist.

The two parts of Germany handled a specific event differently according to their political imperatives. In the case of the *100 year anniversary of the telephone* a user, who looks very much like Philipp Reis (1834-1874), is shown on the West German stamp continuing the promotion of him as the inventor of the telephone, but he is not identified on the Berlin stamp or the East German issue.

The way the divided Germanys acknowledged the development of space research is quite different. Eastern Germany, whilst under the influence of the Eastern Bloc, used the



Academy of Sciences



Five year plan



Scientists' anniversaries



Celebrities' birth anniversaries, 1981



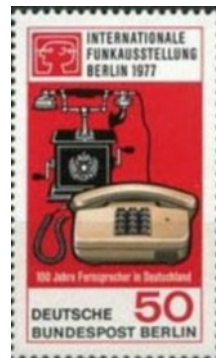
35th anniversary of the DDR



End of World War II



Famous German women



Anniversary of the telephone



West Germany 'Space' issue

Russian space successes as propaganda for the communist system. 68 space stamps were issued equating to 24% of all (283) the science / scientist stamps issued.

West Germany and the separate West Berlin postal authority did not enthuse over the 'space-race' and over the 42 years of their existence they issued only three stamps, of which two carried no textual explanation of the icon used as the image. The image of the US Space Shuttle, which was being designed in the mid-1970s to make its first orbital flight in 1981, is a recognition of the Space Programme in the West and very much in the news when issued, but treated as matter-of-fact by West Germany. In contrast the 68 East Germany space stamps were larger than normal, very colourful and carried a textual and, often, an additional space motif in the illustration to emphasise the particular space achievement.

Summary of the science stamps of the two Germany's and the more recently Reunified Germany, (from) 1992

8.8% of all the stamps issued by the German postal authorities between 1871 and 2015 have shown a science. The three classifications that dominate these science stamps are

A named scientist and an event	38.2%
An event or anniversary of science in the abstract	28.7%
Scientific images in general	15.2%

Chapter Nine. Conclusions

The postage stamp exists as a viable lightweight and portable mechanism to pre-pay postal services and transmit information around the world. My study in looking at the science on stamps messages of ten different countries shows such examination can provide a truly international perspective. Science messages on stamps fulfill a wide spectrum of objectives from the purely celebratory acknowledgement of the achievements of a scientist to the massive techno-nationalistic developments of the twenty first century. The basic reason for raising a science issue might be nation-building, civic education, notification of political decisions, events or celebration of anniversaries, public health advice, (propaganda even), for which science is the medium of choice. The science issues raised are far-ranging and serve as a continuing reminder to the wider community by providing a perspective and meaning to the role of science and technology.

From a social history perspective the prevailing science issues of the twentieth century have been examined. I have shown that stamps as a communication medium have developed from providing simple portraits of the scientist or sketches of equipment through to experimental narratives and images to provide a picture of what a country believes relevant at the time. Knowing the date of issue permits a detailed story of the social history of science to be developed. Postage stamps are, therefore, major media artifacts.

Semiotics has proved to be a most useful perspective through which to study the qualitative role of signs in human culture and social interaction as a process to analyse how the message representing science is conveyed to the public. Through the use of signs, ideas, ideals, objects and philosophy have been disseminated, mainly in a non-confronting way, but there have been stamp issues that do confront, challenge and change behaviours.

The postal administrations have, on average, chosen a science issue for one stamp in ten. The proportion of science issues to all others has been increasing from around the year 2000.

The postage stamp is an audience-based local medium containing a message made available, through everyday use that adds to the literacy of political science. It is a means

of disseminating information in an engaging manner, without any pressure, that may well promote conversations with the public. As I have argued, the move towards contextual images that seek to challenge or engage the public, the stamp as a lens, may well reflect the trend in science communication from a deficit model to models that seek to raise awareness or promote engagement with science.

Although less standard mail is being sent, the issue of postage stamps and the opportunities to share messages with the public is expanding. The postage stamp or its equivalent will be raising the issues of science for a long time.

The theory, practice and research in social history is the richer because of the existence of the postage stamp. 📖

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:
SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER
BTA JOINT MEETING WITH RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP
AT AUTUMN STAMPEX
12.00 - 14.00
*Please bring along up to 12 sheets, ideally of railway
interest***

XX

T H E M A T I C P R I C E L I S T S

Periodic price lists covering most themes available to customers hardcopy or via email. Please write, phone or email me with your interests, also scarce and rare List

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BTA NEWS

IAN PATON AT THE RPSL 22 JUNE 2017

The display at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London will feature material from the recent bequest of late BTA Life Member Ian Paton. The first half of the display will feature his thematic collection on various aspects of the history of the United States of America. The second half will comprise his King George VI Leeward Islands. The AGM will take place at the RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London, at 16.30.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES 2018

The 2018 Programme will be announced in due course, but we can already tell you of one confirmed meeting. There will be a joint meeting between the BTA and the Glasgow Thematic Society at the Dewar Centre in Perth on Saturday 21 April 2018, as part of the Annual Scottish Congress. It will be an open meeting with attendees invited to bring along a short display.

Full details to follow in due course.

ADJUSTMENT TO SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 2018

New issues of *Themescene* are now available in electronic format on our website from the date of publication. Your Committee recognises that some people prefer electronic format, and so from 2018 there will be a change to our membership structure. Print subscriptions (UK £18.00; Euro area £22.00; overseas £24.00) will remain unchanged. But if you want to receive *Themescene* electronically only, then there will be a basic subscription of £15.00 irrespective of where in the world you live.

To access e-Themescene now go to

<http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/themescene-issues.htm>

You will need to log in first. Go to

<http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/membership/index.htm>

And click on "Sign Up" to get a password if you do not already have one.

DISPOSAL OF BTA LIBRARY

A reminder that the BTA is disposing of its Library. Please see

<http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/theme-checklists.htm>

for a full list of books. If you are interested in these, or any articles on a thematic topic (we have far too many to list) please contact our Chairman Barry Stagg bastagg@btinternet.com

You will need to log in to our website. If you do not have a password go to

<http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/users/index.php> and click on "Sign up".

Items can be collected from Barry at Swinpex, by prior arrangement.

AGENDA

For the 26th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held on Saturday June 10th 2017 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting published in Themescene September 2016
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016
6. Election of Officers
The following Officers have been nominated or are willing to stand for re-election:

Barry Stagg	Chairman
Jim Etherington	Vice Chairman
Anne Stammers	Secretary
Peter Wood	Treasurer
7. Election of Committee members
The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Charles Oppenheim	Membership Secretary
Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor Themescene
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Steve Cross (co-opted)	Displays Organiser
Currently	Lesley Marley	FIP Representative
Currently	Jon Matthias	Webmaster

There is one vacancy for a Committee member
At present a co-opted member of the committee Steve Cross is willing to stand for election.
8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of
Grahame Boutle Examiner
9. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by June 4th 2017.

The meeting will be followed by a display by Brian Sole: *Go by cycle!*

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary)

Dated: 29th April 2017

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
Account for the year ended 31 December 2016

2015	INCOME	2016
3,693	Subscriptions	3,421
800	Legacy (Donations 2015)	393
390	Grant from ABPS for website development	-
52	Sales and other income	35
16	CD net income	-
-	Weekend surplus	612
3	Bank Interest	3
<u>4,954</u>		<u>4,464</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
1,800	"Themescene" - Printing and distribution expenses	1,835
-200	less : Advertising Income and Donation	-360
12	Meetings (incl. AGM)	64
259	BTA Cup expenses	144
-39	less : entry fees	-15
264	Committee Meeting expenses	-
89	Publicity and Web Site	88
220	International -net	-
520	New Website development	624
-	less: funded from reserve £624	-624
123	Insurance	124
211	Affiliations	213
56	Administration expenses	170
-	Binders (book value written off)	132
<u>3,315</u>		<u>2,395</u>
670	to London 2020 Reserve (Website Reserve 2015)	612
969	SURPLUS	1,457
<u>4,954</u>		<u>4,464</u>
	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016	
	Accumulated fund	
5,961	Balance at 1.1.2016	6,930
969	add : Surplus for the year	1,457
710	Weekend Events Reserve	710
-	London 2020 Reserve	612
670	Website Development Reserve (£624 utilised 2016)	46
<u>8,310</u>		<u>9,755</u>
	Represented by:	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
5,214	Current Account	6,206
132	Stock of Binders	-
<u>10,236</u>		<u>11,096</u>
-1,308	less: Subscriptions Received in advance	-944
-618	less: Amounts due or Received in advance	-397
<u>8,310</u>		<u>9,755</u>



Hon Treasurer, P.J.Wood



Hon. Examiner, G.C. Boutle

23/3/2017

SUPERMARKET PHILATELY

Jean Alexander goes shopping


A lot of thought always goes into the start of a thematic or social philately collection, or it should do. The main areas of discussion are around cost, availability of material and also the scarcity of the material. This does not always happen, but that does not mean the collection is of less interest. In the case of Supermarket Philately none of this took place.

Supermarket Philately was born at the hairdresser's in September 1971. The magazines which used to be found there were normally a great mix of new and old but all women's magazines, not a place normally associated with stamps. The *Woman's Realm* of September 1971 carried an advert from Heinz offering six Christmas stamps in exchange for eight Heinz soup labels from their canned range.

With such a lowly start this seemed very innocent when the required labels were sent off. The resulting First Day Cover and stamps came as a great surprise. The stamps were sent in a presentation pack. This format had only been started a few years before with the Shakespeare issue of 1964. This was followed by Cadbury offering a booklet for labels from their chocolate finger packs, Kellogg's offer of a FDC from their cereal packets and many other companies joining in.

Having seen the result of various companies including stamp products in their offers Royal Mail thought this might be good for them, but they turned the idea round. They started to put offers on their booklets with a view to attracting customers. Their offers included postcards, booklets on gardening, cooking and even miniature bears.

In 1991 a little teddy bear would be sent in return for two covers from any of the then current stamp booklets. However to get all six different little bears was a challenge, with only three appearing to be available for the collection. However last year (2016) solved the problem. Ebay to the rescue with all six bears and an additional six popped up one day. They are now completely settled in their new home and attended the thematic weekend in Oxford in last October while the other six went on the Teddy Bears' Picnic.

Not to be outdone, Parcel Force produced their own bear in 1995 in a more suitable size for parcels. 



HOW I STARTED: DISCOVERING AND HAVING FUN WITH THEMATICS

Sue Thatcher

I can't remember starting to collect stamps or who prompted it; I always assumed it was my father until he told me recently that he thought it a very boring hobby! My sisters also collected and we were fortunate to have a relative whose work gave her access to a lot of foreign stamps. However, I was the only one of the family who continued collecting in the long term. My father joined his company's philatelic society so that I could buy and sell through their book system and I collected fairly generally throughout my life, even when bringing up a family and lack of resources had an impact.

I had no contact with other philatelists until I joined a society about seven years ago where I was constantly advised, "you must specialise". Although I no longer collected from so many countries, I couldn't determine what to concentrate on until a meeting with the subject 'Something beginning with E' made me realise I had other options. One member's display was on 'Stamps of the Value of Eleven', another's was 'Evacuees', both of which were fascinating. I had always thought Thematics was collecting birds, flowers, animals, trains or such like and I didn't have any particular interest to follow but that evening I realised that if I found a suitable topic I could join in at such events.

'Something beginning with F' and then 'G' passed with no inspiration and by the time the programme got to the letter 'H' I was really putting pressure on myself to come up with a plan. Only one woman, in a society with quite a few female collectors, ever put anything up at meetings and I felt I was letting the side down! Then, looking through my British stamps, I realised that many of them, directly or indirectly, depict the history of Britain. I've always been interested in history so I listed the stamps I had in historical order and found there were sufficient to tell a coherent story.

That first display, 'A History of Britain from the Ice Age to the Tudors', using only British stamps, went well so I decided to cover the Industrial Revolution for the letter 'I'.

I was advised that I had the makings of a good display but that I should include a greater range of material. Interestingly, I have been able to cover far more of the history of Britain, and the Industrial Revolution, by introducing foreign stamps and other philatelic items than when using purely British items. The Norman and Plantagenet periods are also France's history, much of which French stamps cover very nicely.

In researching I approach from both angles: reading up on the history and finding references to people or places sends me to look for stamps covering them and when perusing stamps or catalogues I seek people, castles or places that might be relevant to the period I'm covering. In this I've found the Internet, particularly searchable online catalogues, invaluable. I have chosen only to use material from countries involved in the period in our history that I'm covering. I feel that stamps from other countries would be out of place and so far I haven't found this self-imposed restriction to be a problem. My display now starts with the dinosaurs and I'm working on the Civil War period; there's a great deal of history to cover before I even get to the introduction of the postage stamp!



A history of Britain



French influence on British history



Unlikely Quakers?


Richard Nixon

Victoria Wood



Transported to other realms

I have also put other thematic displays together. Recently I prepared one about the Quakers for an evening on the letter 'Q'. I found a surprising number of entrepreneurs, social reformers, scientists, politicians and entertainers who have been honoured on a stamp who were listed as "Famous Quakers" - some of the names were very surprising too!

The thematic approach lends itself to thinking laterally about a subject and has enabled me to contribute to society meetings even though I don't have any rare or special stamps. For the subject 'Transport' I didn't have interesting material for a traditional display but used stamps covering English authors and literature to illustrate how one can be *transported* to all sorts of places, real or imaginary, the past, present or far into the future, by a good book. I got a good reception for it in a society of traditional philatelists and postal historians and demonstrated that with thematics you are only limited by the scope of your imagination. 

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AT AUTUMN STAMPEX
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interest*

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HERBS AND SPICES

Neil Pearce

The Oxford English Dictionary defines ‘spices’ as “one or other of various strongly flavoured or aromatic substances of vegetable origin, obtained from tropical plants, commonly used as condiments or employment for other purposes on account of their fragrance or preservative qualities”.

Spices derive from the bark, root, flower bud, gum, resin, seed and fruit of plants, and feature rare essential oils and oleoresins: highly volatile chemical compounds that impart to spices their special flavour and aroma.

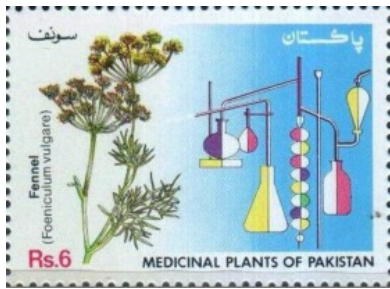
A global search for spices led to the discovery of many new lands and continents on the part of the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and English explorers. Indeed, spices were the catalyst for the reshaping of the world, allowing map makers to fill in details of formerly *terra incognita* territories.

Over the centuries spices have been used to enhance food, and they continue thus today to contribute a welcome tastiness to assorted meals in many countries around the world. Spices are particularly popular in Asian cuisine, commemorated by Malaysia in two sets of stamps on Traditional Festive Food. Malaysians comprise several different ethnic groups, and these stamps feature the Makanian Tradisional (Traditional Food) of the Malay, Chinese, Indian, and - from former Borneo (East Malaysia) - the inhabitants of Sabah and Sarawak. During festive occasions a wide variety of food dishes may be served which vary in cooking styles, taste and decoration, all featuring spices.

The spices shown in the sacks (bottom illustration, next page) are fennel seed, turmeric, chili, coriander and white pepper. Fennel is a plant of the celery family with yellow flowers and leathery leaves. It propagates well by seed and is a highly aromatic and flavourful herb, similar to that of aniseed. It has both culinary and medicinal uses. The seed pods are similar in shape and size to an oak acorn. Dried fennel seed is brown or green in colour when fresh, turning slowly to a dull grey as the seed ages. For cooking the green seeds are optimal. They are widely used in Malaysian dishes, particularly those derived from the Indian subcontinent, although they also feature in Chinese five-spice powders. Roasted fennel seed may be consumed as an after-meal digestive and breath freshener.

Turmeric is a perennial plant of the ginger family. When not used fresh, the aromatic rhizome is boiled, dried and ground into a deep orange-yellow powder. Most turmeric that is used is in the form of rhizome powder. It is one of the key ingredients in a number of Malaysian dishes, mostly savoury, helping to enhance flavours and to add distinctive colouring: a rich custard-like golden yellow. Turmeric is considered auspicious and holy in Hindu culture, and features extensively in religious and wedding ceremonies. Turmeric can also be used fresh and is an ingredient in various pickles and sauces. It is also a feature of traditional or folk medicine, promoted as a remedy for stomach and liver ailments and a wide range of diseases and skin conditions.

Chilli, or chilli pepper, originated in the Americas and, in an interesting reverse flow in the story of the spice trade, was brought to South East Asia by Portuguese mariners in the sixteenth century. It is also possible that Spanish colonists from Mexico, crossing the Pacific to the Philippines, may have introduced the chilli to Asia. Today chillis are an integral part of Indian-style cuisine, and are a feature of many Malaysian dishes. The pods or berries are



Fennel



Turmeric, chilli, coriander




Peppercorn



used fresh or dried, when they are often ground into powder or made into a paste. Kept to hand, fresh red and green chilli peppers are used to flavour many curries. The substances that give them their intensity are capsaicin and related chemicals. When consumed they bind with pain receptors in the mouth and throat to create a strong sense of heat. Nutritionally, red chilli contains large amounts of vitamin C, which substantially increases the uptake of other ingredients from e.g. beans and grains, while chilli peppers are also a good source of B vitamins.

Coriander is a common annual herb with feathery leaves and pinkish flowers. All parts of the plant are edible, although the fresh leaves and seeds or dried fruits are the parts most traditionally used in Malaysian cooking. Coriander is commonly found both as whole dried seeds or in powder form. The seeds can be roasted before being ground to enhance and alter the aroma. Ground coriander seed loses flavour quickly in storage and is best ground fresh. The seeds have a lemony citrus flavour when crushed, sometimes described as warm, nutty, spicy and orange-flavoured. The leaves have a different taste from the seeds, albeit with citrus overtones. They spoil quickly when removed from the plant and lose their aroma when dried or frozen. Coriander roots have a deeper, more intense flavour than the leaves, and are frequently included in soups and curry pastes. Like many spices, coriander contains antioxidants which can delay or prevent the spoilage of food seasoned with this spice.

Pepper is derived from a flowering vine cultivated for its fruit, which is dried and used as a seasoning spice. The fruit is known as peppercorn and, depending on how it is treated, produces black pepper: cooked and dried unripe green fruit; or white pepper: fruit seeds with the darker coloured skin of the pepper fruit removed. This is usually achieved by “retting”: soaking ripe red berries in water to soften and decompose the flesh, which is then removed to leave the naked white seed. There are also other varieties such as green, orange, red and pink peppers. Pepper is the world’s most traded spice, and one of the commonest added to Malaysian dishes. Ground white pepper is often used for light-coloured, creamy sauces, and in salads where black pepper would visibly stand out. It has a slightly different flavour from black pepper and a less irritating effect on the senses. Like many eastern spices, peppers are not only used for seasoning but serve as ingredients in various forms of traditional medicine. They are credited with combating various minor illnesses such as constipation, earache and indigestion, and are also believed by some to combat serious ailments such as heart disease, liver problems and lung infection.

Readers wishing to learn far more about spices may enjoy
Turner, Jack (2005) *Spices: the history of a temptation*. 

A3 PRINTER FOR SALE

John Hayward has a 6 year old Cannon iX4000 A3 printer for sale for £25. Ideal for printing those double pages for your thematic exhibit. Contact John on 01276 29246 or by email on ssasman@btinternet.com.

Either collect from:

18 Waverley Drive

Camberley

Surrey

GU15 2DL

Or collect from Swinpex on 10th June

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY

Wendy Buckle reports

This event is held every other year, and has always been well supported by BTA members. The competition has eight different classes, plus Champions Class. Entries from the BTA were Barry Stagg *Parachuting Through the Ages* (Class 4: Sport and Leisure); Anne Stammers *Rocks to Riches* (Class 2: History & Organisations) plus myself *Paper Past and Present* (Class 5: Transport & Technology). Joining the UK contingent was David Griffiths of Thames Themes in the Champions Class with *Here Be Dragons* plus BTA members Lesley Marley and Peter Weir.

As a first-timer there a number of things that impressed me. You are expected to put your own displays up in the frames, but you will get endless help from friendly local volunteers. The frames hold three rows rather than four, which makes viewing for the person of shorter stature much easier. Each frame is adjustable in terms of space between rows, making the overall appearance better balanced and more attractive. But perhaps best of all, the Championship runs alongside the Essen Stamp Fair, attended by around 70 dealers plus 37 stamp issuing authorities. Many of the dealers of course do not attend UK shows, and there were several good quality thematic specialist dealers attending. It was all too easy to spend too much money!

The event ran over three days. It included an afternoon seminar: "How to improve the importance of a thematic exhibit" (to be reported in the next issue of *Themescene*), the awards dinner, and the jury critique on the last morning. Between scouring dealers and looking at the 44 competition entries I think we all found our time was fully engaged. The awards dinner was hosted at Stadgarten Essen-Steele, built in 1897 and now an events



centre. This was a rather nerve-racking occasion, since the results are not announced until after the meal. First, second and third places in each category are read out, and those people presented with their certificates. Only right at the end of the evening do you get a sheet with all the results. Congratulations to Anne who received a second place and Barry a third.

I had not been looking forward to the jury critique, but in fact it was incredibly useful and encouraging. That plus ideas and advice from Lesley and David, both extremely experienced and successful exhibitors, have given me ideas, and more importantly enthusiasm, to try and improve my entry. Next stop Essen 2019! 📖

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. K. J. Elston, 21 Copperbeech Close, Harborne, Birmingham, B32 2HT.

Email: masonicphilatelicclub@yahoo.co.uk

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/>

GROUP NEWS

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB

There will be a stamp exhibition on the theme of Freemasonry to celebrate its 300th anniversary. This will be displayed in the Plymouth Guildhall on Thursday 20 July from 10.00 to 16.00. The Exhibition will be situated in the same area as the Panda Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fair which visits Plymouth several times a year.

Admission is free, and all collectors, Brethren and others will be welcome.

The Chairman, Magazine Editor and President of the Masonic Philatelic Club will be in attendance. Included in the display will be the Club's Smiler Sheet of GB stamps, and commemorative cover. The Isle of Man set of six stamps plus first day cover issued on 11 May to commemorate the tercentenary of Freemasonry will also be on display. Each stamp depicts a different Masonic symbol.



GUILD OF ST GABRIEL

At the Annual General Meeting on 18 March 2017 the Programme for the following year was agreed:

21 October 2017	The New Testament	David Hague
18 November 2017	Something old; something new	Members displays
17 February 2018	Letters P, Q, R	Members displays
17 March 2018	AGM and competitions	
21 April 2018	Cathedrals of Europe	Derek West
19 May 2018	The Editor entertains	
16 June 2018	TBA	



Meetings are held at St. Wilfrid's Convent, 29 Tite Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 4JX.

EXHIBITING PAGE: A FIRST-TIME POSTCARD EXHIBIT

Lesley Marley describes the process

Early in 2016 I was asked if I would like to show my collection of postcards in the Australian National Stamp Exhibition due to be held in Mandurah, Western Australia in November 2016. As my sister lives there I thought she might like to see some of my work, so I accepted.

All I had was a one frame exhibit on American whaling; when I found the requirement was for five frames I nearly threw in the towel then and there. How could I possibly expand? You have to tell a story, and also have some knowledge of the postcards you were showing; also, did I have enough older postcards to make a decent exhibit?

Well it took me three months to come up with an idea and to get it onto paper.

"There She Blows" A brief outline of the Whaling Industry

Whaling as a hunting activity is of considerable antiquity. Through random strandings of beached whales, and aboriginal methods of catching, mankind became fascinated with his formidable prey (even today a beached whale is quite an exciting event). He recognised the problems involved in the chase and conversion of the huge carcass into oil and other useful commodities. Now old whaling ships and towns are historic monuments, museums and tourist attractions.

The whaling industry was declining as the postcard era was flourishing, but the last remaining whale ships and whaling scenes were depicted on many cards. This exhibit has cards from many areas, and produced by many different companies. Besides some of the cards, the logo of the company that produced the card has been inserted, and the printing process where known added along with the country of printing. There are photographic cards where the subjects were taken at the moment of interest, many in difficult circumstances and produced for sale next day for public interest.

Well I managed to come up with an Exhibit Plan with seven chapters:

1. Whale stranding and Aboriginal hunting methods.
2. Whales that were pursued by the whalers.
3. Ships that followed the prey.
4. The Chase.
5. The cutting up of the whales.
6. The invention of the Harpoon Gun.
7. The Legacy

The outcome was that I received 80 points - a large vermeil medal - which I was very pleased with.

Comments from the judges were:

- An interesting topic with plenty of scope for expansion and development.
- Lovely Title page and Plan.
- Knowledge of the postcards is lacking on a number of pages.



Norwegian full-rigged barque 'Cate' of Farsund at the Grytviken whaling station on South Georgia 1920-21



Grytviken South Georgia in 1920-21 with a steam whaler at the pier. The foreshore is littered with whale bones, later these were cooked and ground up for fertiliser.



Three cards Published by Roy V. Hardy

A whale on the flensing platform



At Grytviken, Cumberland Bay, across from King Edward Point the Government Centre. The station was opened in 1904 by Capt. C.A.Larsen. Whaling ceased in 1965.



Hektorja Whaling Station South Shetland



New Fortune Bay Whaling Station South Georgia was built by the Ocean Whaling Co., it closed at the end of 1920-21 season and the machinery moved to Stromness Bay.

I wrote the exhibit on double pages to give a better layout and more room, and I have chosen just a few cards for you to see. Bearing in mind five frames is 40 pages, equal to 200 postcards in the exhibit, these are just the tip of the iceberg.

I would recommend anyone asked to do an exhibit to go for it; it focuses the mind and makes you appraise what you have in your collections and their condition. And how rewarding it is when you finish the last page. I learnt a lot from the exercise and now I have some nice pages to show to the club rather than just a box of postcards. 📖



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BTA LIST OF SPEAKERS

If you wish to book any of the above displays please contact Membership Secretary Charles Oppenheim at c.oppenheim@btinternet.com. Please ensure you state which display you are interested in and offer a range of dates and times available.

If you would like to be added to this list please notify Charles Oppenheim.

Dr. J. Alexander	Waterfalls of the World
Mr. B. Asquith	Faster Than a Bullet
Mrs. W. Buckle	The Write Stuff
Mrs. G. Davies	Peace - All Aspects
Mrs. G. Davies	Nobel, The Peace Prize and Laureates
Mr. J. Davies	1890 Penny Post Jubilee
Mr. J. Davis	A Hundred Different Ways to Deliver Mail
Mr. J. Davis	101 Years of Tin Can (Canoe) Mail of Niuafu'ou
Capt. P Denly	Man's Marine Adventure
Mr. J. Dugdale	Man in space
Mr. J. Dugdale	Opera/Ballet
Mr. J. Dugdale	Literature, English etc.
Dr. J. Etherington	1940 - A Desperate Year for Britain
Mr. Jim Gray	Golfilately
Mrs. M.I. Morris FRPSL	Aspects of Astronomy
Mrs. M.I. Morris FRPSL	Time
Mr. C. Mount	Pig in the Post
Prof. C. Oppenheim	It's Patently Obvious
Prof. C. Oppenheim	Chess
Mrs. J. Osborne	Medicinal Plants
Mrs. J. Osborne	GB Exhibitions (Philatelic and non-philatelic)
Mr. I.A. Peel	Capt James Cook – his Early Life and 1st Voyage
Mr. I.A. Peel	Capt. James Cook – 2nd and 3rd Voyages
Mr. I.A. Peel	Capt. William Bligh – The Man and his Mutinies
Mr. B.J. Sole FRPSL	Go by Cycle
Mr. B.J. Sole FRPSL	British Greetings Telegrams
Mr. B.J. Sole FRPSL	Thematics – How to Display
Mr. B. Staggs	Parachuting
Mrs A. Stammers	Rocks to Riches
Mr. M. Turnbull	Music
Mr. M. Turnbull	Aviation
Mr. M. Turnbull	World Overprints
Mr. L. Yandell	Church Architecture

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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

Royal Mail, 35 – 50 Rathbone Place, London, W1T 1HQ

Annual subscription £12.25 UK. Subscription address:
 Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9PB



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.)

This theme is inspired by Mr. John Morris

I-SPY MY FAVOURITE TREE

Do you have a favourite tree? Have a look around where you live or in a park or garden, and decide which your favourite tree is. But what *kind* of tree is it?



The tree on the left is called an Oak tree. The tree on the right is called an Ash tree.



How are they different?

Take a look at the leaves on the tree. This will help you to find out what kind of tree it is. You might need to ask someone you know, or look in a book or search online. Look at the bark as well, some trees have rough bark, some have smooth.



These stamps from Jersey show leaves and seeds from four different trees. Look carefully and you can see the tree name on the stamp - 'Silver Birch', 'English Oak', 'Beech' and 'Lime'.

When you have worked out what kind of tree it is, stand back and have a good look at the shape of the tree so that you remember it the next time you see one.



The trees shown in these stamps from Jersey are **Ash, Elder, Birch, Horse Chestnut, Hawthorn and Common Oak.**

Make an I-Spy Trees booklet

There are hundreds of stamps available showing trees, leaves and seeds. Make your own I-Spy Trees booklet to take with you when you go out looking at trees.

To make your booklet, take a few sheets of plain paper and fold them in half. Staple or tie them together in the centre of the fold to make a little booklet. Mount your tree stamps inside. Take your booklet outside with you, and tick off the trees in your book when you find them outside. You could show it to your teacher and class at school. **You could enter a fabulous one page stamp competition about your favourite tree - go to www.stampactive.co.uk and click on 'Competitions'.**

If you would like some free tree stamps (junior collectors only please) ask the person who looks after you if you can send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Just4Kids

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

BTA PROGRAMME 2017

- June 10th **Annual General Meeting and display by Brian Sole**
Go By Cycle!
BTA table, thematic sales, BTA Library sale, and recruitment drive
At: Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotal 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/>
- Sept 16th **BTA joint meeting with Railway Philatelic Group**
12.00 - 14.00
Please bring along up to 12 sheets of railway interest
Autumn Stampex
Business Design Centre, Islington, London, N1 0QH
National competitions, including Thematic, Open and Postcard. *See ABPS website for details*
- October 14th **BTA Competitions**
At: South of England Stamp Fair
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.Php
See next page

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

2017 COMPETITIONS

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

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017 10.00am – 4.30pm

The BTA is making the following changes for the 2017 competitions:

The **BTA Cup** will become a 16-sheet One Frame competition and no longer require 32 sheets. Entries will continue to be judged under the National Thematic Philately Rules and Regulations; see next page.

The **John Fosbery Trophy** will continue to be a 16-sheet One Frame competition but will be subject to the Rules and Regulations for National Open Philately competitions; see next page. Visitors to the Exhibition will no longer vote for their favourite exhibit.

The **Brian Sole Trophy** will be a new 16-sheet One Frame competition for **Picture Postcards** subject to the National Postcard Rules and Regulations; see next page.

The winner of any of these competitions will not be allowed to enter the same exhibit in the same competition at any time in the future.

Every exhibit must have an Introductory Page as the first sheet. All sheets must be enclosed in protectors and the pages numbered at the foot of the page.

There will be an entry fee of £10 for each competition. A receipt will be issued and must be produced if collecting the entry after the Exhibition has closed. All three competitions will be open to all and not restricted to BTA members.

Two judges will be appointed who are qualified in judging Thematic Philately and/or Open Philately exhibits at Federation or National level.

Please complete the Entry Form and send it to –

Steve Cross, Fairmead, Marshfoot Lane, Hailsham, E. Sussex, BN27

2RE

Telephone: 01323 840323; e-mail: steve_cross58@hotmail.com

Closing date for receipt of Entry Forms: Friday 29th September 2017.

Please send sheets to the same address between

Monday 9th to Thursday 12th October 2017, but no later.

AWARDS. The Minimum points required to achieve LARGE GOLD level is	90.
For Gold level is	85
For Large Vermeil level is	80
For Vermeil level is	75
For Large Silver level is	70
For Silver level is	65
For Silver Bronze level is	60
For Bronze level is	55
For Certificate of Participation	below 55

MARKING Thematic Philately – BTA Cup

Treatment	Title and Plan	15	
	Development	15	
	Innovation	<u>5</u>	35
Knowledge, Study & Research	Thematic	15	
	Philatelic	<u>15</u>	30
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	<u>20</u>	30
Presentation			<u>5</u>
TOTAL			<u>100</u>

MARKING Open Philately – John Fosbery Thematic Trophy

Treatment & Importance	Title & Plan	10	
	Philatelic Treatment	5	
	Non-philatelic Treatment	5	
	Philatelic Importance	5	
	Non-philatelic Importance	<u>5</u>	30
Knowledge and Research	Philatelic	20	
	Non-philatelic	<u>15</u>	35
Material	Condition	10	
	Rarity	<u>20</u>	30
Presentation			<u>5</u>
TOTAL			<u>100</u>

MARKING Picture Postcard Class - Brian Sole Trophy

Idea, Plan and Treatment of the Topic	Idea and Plan	10	
	Treatment	<u>20</u>	30
Knowledge and Research			35
Condition and Rarity	Condition/Rarity	10/20	30
Presentation			<u>5</u>

British Thematic Association Competitions 2017

Entry Form

I wish to enter

A. 16-sheet BTA CUP Thematic Philately competition (please tick)

AND/OR

B. 16-sheet JOHN FOSBERY THEMATIC TROPHY
Open Philately Competition (please tick)

AND/OR

C. 16-sheet BRIAN SOLE TROPHY
Picture Postcard competition (please tick)

Name

Tel No.....

Address.....

.....
.....

Postcode.....

E-mail

Title of Entry (A).....

Title of Entry (B).....

Title of Entry (C)

I accept that the material is submitted entirely at my own risk and I undertake to make my own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my possession; this includes all transit risks, temporary housing of the entry and its display at Ardingly Showground. I confirm that all information on this form is correct and I am enclosing a remittance of £10, per entry, payable to the British Thematic Association.

TOTAL REMITTANCE enclosed £

Signed.....

Date.....



JERSEY NEW ISSUES

Details from Jersey Stamp Bulletin

02 March 2017

This year's Europa theme features castles and forts.



11 April 2017

Ancient Artefacts

Artefacts from c.2500 BC to 14th century AD discovered in Jersey



12 May 2017

King George VI

The fourth instalment of "The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria" series, featuring six photographs



07 June 2017

100th anniversary of Lions Club International
Features significant projects funded by Lions Club International, including the Jersey Swimarathon, which raises money for local charities



14 June 2017

Durrell & Darwin

Durrell, Jersey's Wildlife Conservation Trust, is partnered with the Darwin Initiative, helping to protect biodiversity and the natural environment



NEW ISSUES

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