

THEMESCENE

September 2017

In this issue we:

Look at the life of a geologist

From Classics Scholar to Classical Geologist

With Owen Green



File a patent

It's patently obvious

With Charles Oppenheim

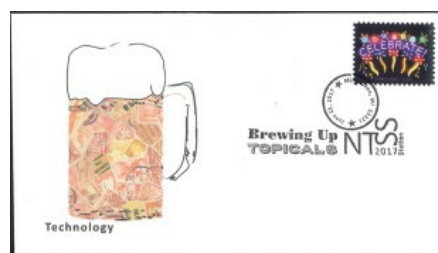


Visit Milwaukee and Brasilia
(Another) Philatelic Holiday

With Barry Stagg

The Story of Brasilia

With Janet Nelson



As well as catch up on information from BTA meetings and all the usual features

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

No-one can accuse your Chairman of not putting in the hours to represent the BTA. As well as attending all our UK events, last year he was in New York to talk up the BTA at an American Topical Association meeting (see *Themescene* September 2016) and this year he was in Milwaukee giving a presentation at The National Topical Stamp Show. (Well OK, the pull of overseas dealers may have helped, but even so it does represent dedication to duty). Read Barry's report on page 85; plus his presentation is on our website at www.britishthematic.org.uk/about-us/index.htm.

One of the main things I enjoy about putting this magazine together is the huge range of subjects covered in the articles. This issue is no exception, with two topics about which I knew nothing: the life of an important geologist (page 76) and the patents system (page 81). Thematics has no bounds, I love it. But much as I enjoy editing, I do need to dedicate time to it. Just a week or so concentrated effort for each issue and it's done. It's the "concentrated effort" that proves a problem. I find it far too easy to get side-tracked. Preparing this issue coincided with the World Athletics Championships. Between being glued to the television and being lucky enough to have tickets for three sessions I have just spent many hours doing little other than shouting myself hoarse. But it did occur to me that Royal Mail missed a trick here. The stadium was full for every single session, that's 60,000 people times 15 sessions. Why were there no special stamp issues? The Olympic issues in 2012 proved the most popular for years, surely there was a marketing opportunity here? But then, looking at the Royal Mail calendar for 2107 it is a bit difficult to see the logic behind the choices. Certainly some are attractive and well designed, but seem random choices of subjects. I suppose at the very least it means we all live in hopes of our particular collecting area getting its own issue!


It's good to see the BTA continues to attract new members. I am delighted to welcome those who have joined since the last issue of *Themescene*:

Jack Congrove	Fort Lewis, USA
Bev Davies	Chepstow
Nicola Davies	London
Heather Lawn	Tadley

We hope they enjoy and benefit from their membership.

This is the final call for entries to this year's BTA competitions, see page 106. You don't need to take it too seriously, every entry will be on display and enjoyed by visitors to Midpex. We have a few entries from last year on our website at <http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm>

Yours does not have to go up there, it's up to you, but maybe you'd like others to see it?

Finally, I am sure everyone by now is aware that the Postal Museum has at last opened. Opening hours are 10.00 to 17.00 daily, at Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA. Of course the big attraction is Mail Rail, the driverless, underground, narrow gauge railway that ran from 1927 to 2003, and has now been brought back to life for the tourists. My ticket is booked for later this month, and I'm very much looking forward to it. 

CHAIRMAN


Barry Stagg

I hope your collecting year is going well and you are not spending too much over your philatelic budget! I have been to a few stamp and postcard fairs this year and I have found a few interesting items at reasonable prices. Both Swinpex and Midpex appear to have been well attended and I took the decision to be there at opening time so that I could get a seat at some of the dealer's tables. This tactic worked well for me ... and the dealers! One even commented (when I was his only customer) that he had never ever before searched his material for parachute related images. Sadly he and I found nothing of interest.

At home I find myself searching the never ending stream of auction catalogues for items of relevance to my collection. But the searching is different and in my view not so much fun. Nobody else to talk to. No dialogue with the dealer. And if you do find something unique the price is so large the thought of ownership is beyond imagination. For me it has felt like the 'well-of-parachuting-material' is drying up.

Like many collectors before me I have had a difficult decision to make: have I 'completed' my collection and if so where do I go from here. I can't just stop collecting so do I try and find more 'angles' to the collection, areas that support parachuting, and hunt them to extinction or do I start a totally different collection. I expect many of you have asked similar questions over your collections. I did not have a solution to my dilemma and I had no real idea on how to expand it further. Then an answer came from nowhere.

Earlier this year I had entered the Essen European Thematic competition, along with a number of my BTA colleagues. To say that the judges were 'disappointed' with my exhibit was an understatement - they believed I had missed out a whole section from my parachuting exhibit. They wanted to see something about 'gravity'! My seemingly complete collection was deemed 'incomplete'. But, I now have a new desire to search the dealers' stocks. I'm a man with a new mission – although I'm already imagining the look on the dealers' face when I say I'm looking for material on gravity! With Stampex just a few weeks away and the South of England Stamp Fair at Ardingly shortly afterwards I am now looking forward to expanding my collection. Perhaps collections are never complete? Perhaps they occasionally need a critical look by an outsider? Somebody to suggest a new direction. A new challenge to satisfy.

I hope you can come to Stampex or to Ardingly where I am sure you can find something of interest. The BTA will be running its competitions at the latter. Details are in this magazine on page 106, and I invite you all to enter – there are three classes to choose from. I would love to see your collection. If you are at either of these shows and see me searching through a dealers stock please come and say hello. There is only one thing better than a chat with a dealer – and that's a chat with a fellow collector! See you there. 

FROM CLASSICS SCHOLAR TO CLASSICAL GEOLOGIST: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID (1858 - 1934)

Owen Green

Introduction

The achievements of Welsh born geologist Tannatt William Edgeworth David (1858-1934) are little known outside the field of Earth Sciences, indeed even today recognition of his achievements might be the reserve of the specialist Antarctic scientist or mining geologist. His career spans the late Victorian early twentieth century era, considered by many as a golden age of global scientific exploration, hyphenated by the First World War.

Early Life

David was born at the Rectory in St Fagans, near Cardiff, in South Wales on the 28th January 1858, the eldest son of the Rev. William David, an Oxford classics scholar, and his wife



Margaret Harriette (née Thomson, from whose family the names Tannatt and Edgeworth are derived). His father was a keen naturalist, and his mother's cousin was an employee of the Geological Survey, contributing influences on what was to become David's career. In 1870 at the age of twelve he attended Magdalen College School in Oxford, and six years later he obtained a scholarship to read Classics at New College Oxford. While at Oxford he was lectured by both John Ruskin and William Spooner, but in 1878 he suffered a breakdown in health and travelled to Canada and Australia to recuperate. He returned to Oxford and attended lectures on

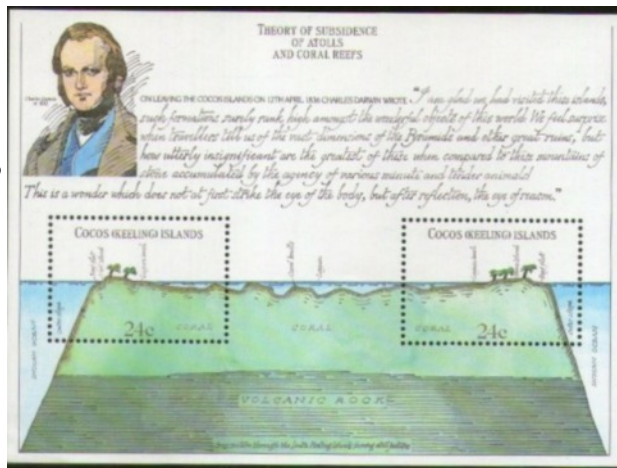
geology by Sir Joseph Prestwich (then Professor of Geology and Keeper of the University Natural History Museum) which stimulated his interest in the subject, and he eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (without honors) in 1880. The following two years were spent undertaking geological field studies in South Wales, and in November 1881 he read his first paper, *Evidences of Glacial Action in the Neighborhood of Cardiff* before the Cardiff Naturalists' Society. In the following year he briefly studied at the Royal School of Mines, London, under Professor J.W. Judd and submitted his papers on the glaciation of South Wales for publication to the Geological Society of London in 1883.

Fame in Australia

In 1882 David was appointed to the post of Assistant Geological Surveyor in the New South Wales Geological Survey. He reached Sydney on 27th November 1882, and by the end of the year had prepared a geological sketch map of the Yass district and collected fossils. In March of the next year, accompanied by his chief Charles Wilkinson, he examined the mining reserves in the New England region. In 1884 his report on the tin deposits in the New England district was published, and three years later it was expanded into the *Geology of the Vegetable Creek Tin Mining Field, New England District* (Memoir No. 1 of the Geological Survey of



Tuvalu SG 77-80; commemorating the Royal Society's 1896-97 HMS Porcupine expedition to the Funafuti atoll to test Charles Darwin's theory of Coral Island formation.



MS 78 Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Territory of Australia)



SG 1 Ross Dependency with HMS Erebus in the foreground and Mount Erebus in the background



Mackay, David and Mawson raise the flag at the Magnetic South Pole 16 January 1909 (note the artistic orientation of the union flag over Mawson in the earlier depiction of the scene).



Sir Douglas Mawson



Centenary of WWI. ANZACS arrived on the Western Front. David and the Tunnelling Battalion sailed on HMAT (A38) Ulysses.

New South Wales). Apart from its scientific interest this was valuable in connection with the mining operations of this field, from which some £10,000,000 worth of tin was extracted.

In 1885 he married Caroline Martha (Cara) Mallett, who he had met while travelling to Australia in 1882. In April 1886 he began surveying the Hunter coalfields, and discovered the Greta coal seam at Deep Creek, which by 1949 had yielded in excess of £50,000,000 worth of coal. The achievement defined a major new coalfield, found not by accidental prospecting but by the methods of field geology. Much of his time during the next four years was spent near Maitland, tracing and mapping the coal measures and reporting to the government on matters of commercial value.

In 1891 he applied for and was appointed Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney, a position he held until 1924. His selection was controversial (he had not been the choice of a committee in London appointed by the university to review overseas applicants), but his course became very popular with students and he oversaw the Department move to a new building with a lecture theatre and laboratories with the support of the mining industry. David was not only a good scientist but very cultured, with a sense of humor, great enthusiasm, sympathy, and courtesy, and he quickly fitted into his new position. He also gave public lectures and led geological field trips that took science to the ordinary people of Sydney.

In 1896 David went to the Pacific atoll of Funafuti, in the Ellice Islands, as part of a Royal Society of London expedition under Professor William Sollas of Oxford University, in order to take borings which it was hoped would settle the question of the formation of coral atolls. There were defects in the boring machinery and the bore penetrated only slightly more than 100 feet (approx. 31m).

David saw the failure as a challenge, and with the help of (Sir) Thomas Anderson Stuart, he raised funds for an expedition from Sydney equipped with diamond drills made available by the government. In June 1897 David left for Funafuti accompanied by his wife, a practical engineer and amateur scientist George Sweet, a senior student Walter George Woolnough and a party of workmen. After many difficulties, not all of them mechanical, the drillers had reached a depth of 177m (557 feet) by the time David went back to Sydney leaving Sweet in charge; he managed to take the work on to 213m before the workmen refused to continue. The following year, 1898, David organised a third expedition which, under the leadership of Dr. Alfred Edmund Finckh, was successful in carrying the bore to 1114 feet (340m).

The remains of shallow-water marine organisms recovered from the bottom of the bore-hole provided support for Charles Darwin's theory of coral atoll subsidence, and that atolls had grown progressively on slowly sinking platforms. The technical reports on Funafuti were published in 1904, with David's part in the venture making his reputation as a geologist. In 1899 he had received the Bigsby medal from the Geological Society of London, and the following year the Royal Society admitted him as a fellow. Cara, who had accompanied him on the second expedition, published a well-received popular account of the expedition titled *Funafut: or Three Months on a Coral Island* (1899).

Between 1900 and 1907 he rekindled his interest in glacial action, and conducted field studies in the Mount Kosciusko area, examining plateau deposits in the Hunter River district confirming a Precambrian (540 million year old) glaciation in South Australia. 1907 saw completion of part one (no other part was ever published) of *The Geology of the Hunter River Coal Measures*, a project promised to the Geological Survey in 1891. With that completed, he took a well-earned holiday at Mount Kosciusko and learned to ski – a skill he would require for the next stage of his life.

Exploring Antarctica

In 1907, at the age of 50, he persuaded Ernest Shackleton to let him take charge of the scientific aspects of his Antarctic expedition, and with two former students (Sir) Douglas Mawson and Leo Cotton joined Shackleton in New Zealand. On travelling he decided to remain with the expedition, which meant taking unauthorised leave. He was an active member of the team, managing to survive the rigours of the Antarctic with much younger men, and lead the first ascent of Mount Erebus (3794m), the only active volcano in Antarctica, in March 1908.

Impressed by this, Shackleton made him leader of an attempt to reach the south magnetic Pole. The journey took four months, during which David, with Mawson and a young Scots doctor Alistair Forbes Mackay, dragged their laden sledges from sea-level to an altitude of 2200m to the ice plateau and back. The journey has passed into polar exploration folklore as an epic of courage and endurance. For ten weeks the men followed the coast north supplementing their stores with a diet of seals and penguins. They then crossed the Drygalski Ice Tongue and turned inland, but still faced a 700 km return journey, and established a depot to enable them to transfer their load to one overladen sled and to remove the need to relay. On 16 January 1909 they finally arrived at the South Magnetic Pole and claimed possession of the region for the British Crown.

However, by the end of January the three explorers were experiencing severe physical deterioration, and David was increasingly unable to contribute. On 31 January with Mawson out of earshot, Mackay exerted his authority as the party's doctor and threatened to declare the Professor insane unless he relinquished his authority of leadership to Mawson. Reluctantly Mawson assumed command, and by early February he acknowledged in his diary that "the Prof was now certainly partly demented". The party reached the coast line with perfect timing as within 24 hours they were collected by the *Nimrod* for the return trip to Cape Royds. The trio had covered a distance of 1260 miles, a feat which remained as the longest unsupported sled journey until the mid-1980s.

Shackleton's expedition returned to New Zealand on 25 March 1909, and when David returned to Sydney he was presented with the Mueller medal by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science and awarded the King's Polar Medal at a rapturous official welcome. David's fame as a public speaker grew, and at Shackleton's request went on a lecture tour, earning money to pay the expenses for the publication of the two volumes on the geology of the expedition. On visiting England in connection with the scientific results of the Antarctic expedition, Oxford University conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Science degree. While in England he made arrangements for the meeting in Australia of the British Association for the Advancement of Science the following year. Despite the declaration of war in Europe the conference went ahead. David contributed greatly to its success, not least by the example of his tactful behaviour towards delegates from what had become enemy countries.


The Great War

Once the conference was over David, now 56 years old, would not have been expected to become involved with military matters. However, as a strenuous supporter of the war effort he became a leading figure at recruiting rallies. In 1915 he suggested to the Australian Minister of Defence that a Tunnelling Battalion be formed for service in Europe. As a geologist who had worked in mining, he saw the usefulness of both in the war. His idea was approved and in August 1915 he recruited men into the Australian Mining Corps, and was himself commissioned as Major. They departed for France in February 1916.

Over the next four years he used his geological expertise to advise on the construction of dugouts, trenches, and tunnels, and to aid in the provision of pure drinking water from underground supplies. However, an investigation into a well near Vimy in September 1916 nearly brought David's war (and his life) to an abrupt end. While being lowered down the well the windlass broke and he plunged 24m (70 feet) bouncing off the sides of the well as he went. He suffered a head wound, two broken ribs and internal injuries, but remained conscious while a doctor attended him at the bottom of the shaft before he was lifted out. While being removed from the shaft he is reported to have commented "Wind me up slowly if you don't mind chaps. I fell so fast that I was unable to observe the strata as I went down!"

He was invalided to London but although not fully recovered returned to the Front six weeks later in November. He worked on the Messines mining operations and was involved in some of the major decisions for later mines, such as the Boyle's Farm mine, where problems caused by a geological fault were resolved by him, allowing the mine to be finished on time. During hostilities he was mentioned in dispatches four times, and in January 1918 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and in November was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.

Post War life and awards

Following demobilisation in 1919, and at the age of 61, David returned to academic life in Sydney. He was still involved in Antarctic exploration and collaborated with Sir Douglas Mawson on his later exploits. In September 1920 David was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and was known as Sir Edgeworth. Over the next three years he received special leave from the University to travel through the country gathering detail and conferring with colleagues in preparation of a comprehensive account of the geology of Australia. In 1924 he retired as Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney. In 1931 and 1932 he published the *Geological Map of the Commonwealth of Australia* and the accompanying *Explanatory Notes*, the initial part of his long-cherished project: *The Geology of the Commonwealth of Australia*. While researching this in 1934 he slipped and fell getting off a tram in Sydney. He never recovered and died shortly afterwards on the 28th August in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. There followed a State funeral by the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments; and he was cremated with full military honours. David was survived by his wife, son and two daughters. Following his death, the State government purchased his manuscript material for the book on the geology of Australia and, repeating David's own instruction, commissioned William Browne to prepare it for publication. Largely written by Browne though bearing David's name as author, the book was eventually published in 1950. 

Selected References

Information on the battlefields referred to, including Messines and Hill 60, may be found at www.ww1battlefields.co.uk.

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IT'S PATENTLY OBVIOUS: A PHILATELIC TOUR OF THE PATENT SYSTEM

Charles Oppenheim

Introduction

The history of patents goes back many centuries. In mediaeval times, monarchs would issue Letters Patent, literally “open letters” from the Latin, because although having the monarch’s seal attached, the letters were not sealed, so anyone could read the letter and thereby learn of the grant of rights or of title that the monarch had bestowed on the lucky recipient. Two examples here (Figures 1 and 2 next page) show such Letters Patent: figure 1 showing a 1985 Australian stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Letters Patent authorising the setting up the Australian State of South Australia, and the other, a previously unrecorded imperforate pair of the 1983 Mauritius history series showing the 1715 Letters Patent issued by the French king Louis XIV instructing Admiral D’Arsel to take control of the island on behalf of the French East India Company. The earliest original Letters Patent I have is dated 20 September 1355 in French, from Henry, Duke of Lancaster, appointing Johan Bonyngton to the office of auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Unfortunately, its shape makes it impossible to reproduce satisfactorily in *Themescene*. Letters Patent continue to be used today for such official announcements, but over time the term has come to be much more closely associated with one particular type of grant: the grant of a monopoly to an inventor to protect their invention from copying by unauthorised third parties. I worked with patents in a professional capacity over many years, and so got interested in the topic of patents for invention as a thematic topic. My thematic collection is not focused on inventions and inventors as such,, but rather on the mechanism for getting protection for the inventions by means of patent agents and Patent Offices. Inevitably, though, there is overlap between the two broad areas.

How does one get a patent monopoly?

The usual method for acquiring a patent is for the inventor to discuss their invention with a patent agent, who helps develop a so-called patent specification - the document, which describes the invention in some detail. Patent agents themselves make for an interesting area for philatelic research. Figure 3 shows a 1938 cover from an Australian patent agent to an engineer living in Prague, Czechoslovakia. It was posted on 24 October 1938, so perhaps it is not surprising it received a Czech censored handstamp, as the Czech authorities must have been very nervous about incoming mail at that time - justifiably as it turned out, as German troops occupied Prague a few weeks later. More surprising is that the postmark on the Australian 2/- stamp indicates this letter was going by sea, yet it also has an airmail label crossed out and arrived in Prague on 5th November, so clearly did go by air rather than sea. It was overweight for airmail postage, and so a 1 koruna postage due label was added.

To return to the story of how a patent is obtained. The patent agent then applies on behalf of the inventor to the local patent office for the monopoly right, filling out forms and paying the necessary fees, and including the patent specification. Sometimes, patent agents make mistakes! I have a cover from a US patent agent sent to an address in “Herk County, New



Figs 1 - 2 Letters Patent

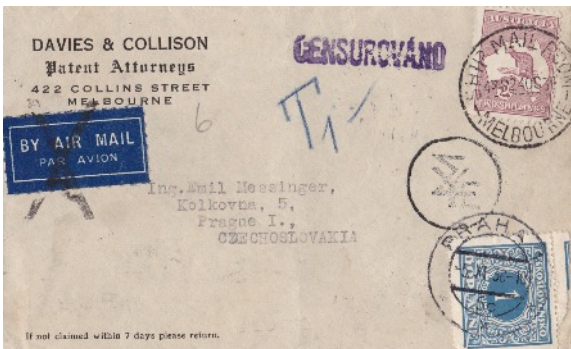


Fig 3 Letter from an Australian patent agent

Fig 4 Maxi card for the Austrian Patent Office

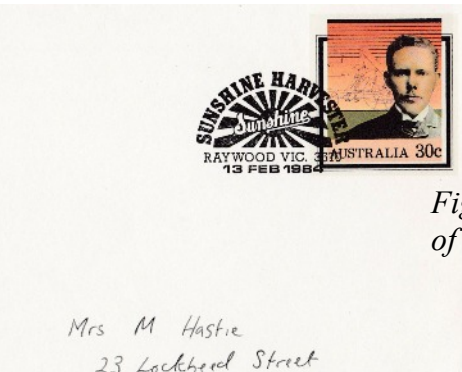
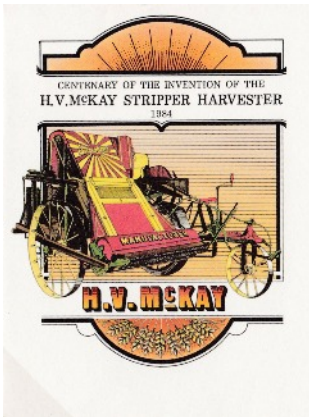


Fig 5 Hugh McKay, inventor of the stripper harvester

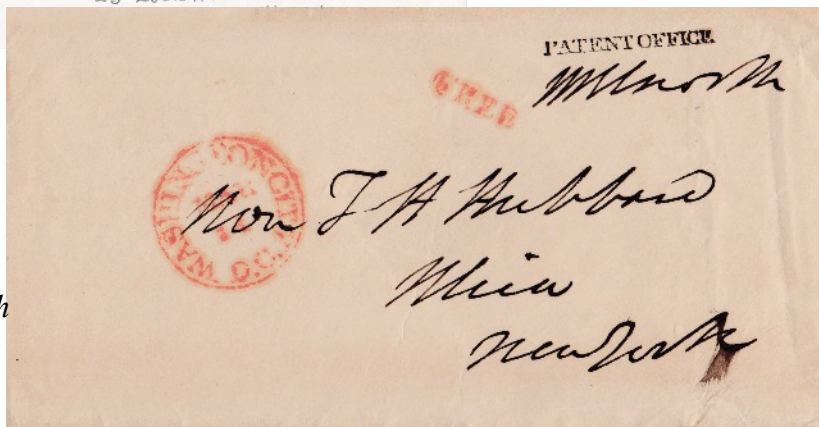


Fig 6 Henry Ellsworth free frank

York”, which has received the rare “No such named office in State” hand stamp. What happened to this letter is a mystery, as the envelope clearly instructs the postmaster not to return the letter to the sender. I suspect this was an early example of junk mail, but who knows?

Patent Office staff check the invention to ensure it is novel and not obvious, and assuming all is well, the Patent Office then issues the patent on behalf of the inventor. Figure 4 shows the maximum card issued for the stamp that celebrated the centenary of the Austrian Patent Office in 1999. The card shows a portion of Austrian patent number 1, issued in July 1899. Figure 5 shows a 1984 Australian postal stationery item showing Hugh McKay, inventor of the stripper harvester, with a drawing from his patent in the background.

Having obtained a patent, the owner can sue anyone who makes, uses or sells the patented invention during the period that the monopoly lasts - typically 20 years, as long as appropriate renewal fees are paid to the Patent Office.

In the past, Patent Offices were purely national, issuing patents that covered just their own country, but the use of international patent offices, such as the European Patent Office, has increased significantly in recent years. Both national and international Patent Offices have produced their own stamps and meter marks. However, the largest patent office in the world is the US Patent Office. Its first Head, in 1790, was Thomas Jefferson, who combined this role with that of US Secretary of State. It is known that he took his patent duties very seriously. The role of Head of the US Patent Office combined with being Secretary of State continued until 1835. The first person who devoted 100% of their time to running the US Patent Office was Henry Ellsworth, and Figure 6 shows a free frank letter sent and signed by him at the time he ran the organisation.

In some countries, receipt for the payment of fees is recorded in fiscal stamps.

Advertising that you own a patent

Not surprisingly, inventors have always been keen to advertise the fact that they own a patent in the mail they send out. Figure 7 (inside front cover) shows a 1798 letter, with a black “Penny Post Paid Blackman Street” hand stamp which advertises a patented packing press. The content of the letter claims that that invention, approved by the King, will be found to be “very useful to Gentlemen engaged in Shipping of Cotton” from the East or West Indies. In 1893, the New Zealand government entered into a contract with a private sector company giving them the right to use the back of postage stamps for advertising purposes, with those in blue being particularly rare. One of the adverts was for ‘patent odourless waterproofs’, which appeared twelve times in a sheet of 240 stamps (figure 8). Other patent-related advertisements have appeared *se tenant* with postage stamps. Figure 9 shows an example from a 1936 Edward VIII UK booklet advertising Everitt’s patent wardrobe fittings; the company promoting them is called Everitt’s Patents Company Limited. Figure 10 shows an example of a 1938 German meter mark, amusingly enough stating “the doctor recommends Wendt’s patent cigars”! I doubt they would get away with that sort of advertising these days. German local town postal stationery envelopes are particularly rich in advertising patented products. Figure 11 shows a lady wearing a bustle working a patent combination washing machine and wringer. She doesn’t look that happy working the lever to the machine - it was probably very hard work! However, the earliest patent-related postal stationery can be found in 1840 advertising Mulready envelopes. Figures 12 and 12A show part of “The New Envelope Select Advertiser No 3, July 11

1840” advertising Mulready, with an advertisement for patent fire-proof safes produced by C. Chubb – a familiar name for safes even today.

Some famous people associated with patents

Some famous people worked as patent agents, as Patent Office clerks, or in companies dealing with patents. These include Thomas Jefferson (the fledgling US Patent Office’s first patent clerk), Albert Einstein, Clara Barton (founder of the American Red Cross), and the famous First World War Australian General John Monash. These individuals have between them been portrayed many times on stamps and other philatelic outputs.

International co-operation



There is a United Nations special agency, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), based in Switzerland, which helps ensure co-operation between national and regional Patent Offices throughout the world. Its outgoing mail in general uses meter marks, though it has also issued stamps, showing its HQ building. My impression is that the stamps are aimed more at philatelists than for use by WIPO staff.

Searching for patent information

This was my job for many years! There are numerous specialist databases and services to help people identify patents relevant to their interests, for example if they wish to check that something they intend to make or sell is already covered by an existing patent, or whether an invention they have come up with has been thought of before.

I freely admit this is a somewhat eccentric theme to be collecting, though inventions and inventors as a theme is not that uncommon. One person I know of who also collects in this area is Art Groten (1) who has written about his collection of 19th century UK patent envelopes. These were envelopes that were the subject of patents (or so the manufacturers claimed), and were initially ungummed envelopes sealed by wax, wafer or postage stamp. Gummed envelopes didn’t appear until 1845. 📖

(1) A. Groten, Patent envelopes of 19th century Great Britain, *Kelleher’s Collectors Connection (Stampex edition)*, November-December 2016, p. 24-31.



Fig 9 Edward VIII booklet advertising Everitt’s patent wardrobe fittings

(ANOTHER) PHILATELIC HOLIDAY

Barry Stagg

As many of you know, I had been invited to the American Topical Association (ATA) annual show at Milwaukee USA in June. And what a good time my wife and I had at the show. On the Saturday I gave a talk on the BTA using some of the scans from your collections that many of you had previously sent to me. It went down well and I was able to show a similarity between the ATA and the BTA. Before my visit I had assumed that the ATA was very much into Topical collecting and exhibiting and had just ventured into Thematic and Open (they call it Display) collecting and exhibiting. I was wrong with that assumption. Thematic and Open collecting is very much alive within the ATA as many of the exhibits were to show. Yes, there are a few differences to the rules for exhibiting Thematic and Open but these are not hard to understand. I was keen to see some Topical exhibits to see how they were shown. Perhaps to explain it I should give you two examples: a topical collection on aircraft would show them in categories and sub categories e.g. propeller or jet, then a sub-category of civilian or military, followed by another sub-category of country. Or a Topical collection on dogs would have a main category of Breeds such as Gundog, Hound or Pastoral, followed by sub-categories such as the individual breeds such as Poodle, Greyhound or Bulldog, and perhaps followed by working or non-working dogs. The more categories the better. You can use any philatelic item that has an image of the relevant aircraft or dog but you must not tell a story. It is about the diversity of material, the balance of the categories etc. Certainly a different challenge to Thematics.

The second half of my talk was about Thematics and I used scans of my Parachuting collection to make various points e.g. diversity of material or the importance of a story line. I think it went down well and there was a long question and answer session which again showed the similarity between Thematics on either side of the Atlantic.

My wife and I spent some time looking at the exhibits. With nearly 200 frames there was a lot to look at! Some really lovely exhibits, including Postcards, covering a range of topics from 'Chickens' to 'Chess' from 'The Lion' to 'The making of illuminated Manuscripts'. With about 25 dealers in attendance the two days went very quickly. May I thank the ATA for their warm hospitality, but particularly Dawn Hamman, Vera Felts, Dale Smith and John Hamman for making my wife and I feel at home.

Following the visit the Editor received the following email:

Members of the American Topical Association were thrilled to have Barry and Alison Stagg join us in Milwaukee for the National Topical Stamp Show, June 23-25 in Milwaukee. Barry gave a wonderful talk, and showed examples of some of the fine work that is being done by your members. We also got to see part of his parachuting exhibit.

As with most events, the informal conversations throughout the three days were most enjoyable, as we shared experiences and ideas. Barry and Alison joined in the fun of all of the programs and social activities. They are a delightful couple, and I'm sure you enjoy them each time you get together.

The ATA looks forward to a continued collegial relationship with BTA members.

Warmest regards,

Dawn Hamman, First Vice President, American Topical Association

THE STORY OF BRASILIA: REALISATION OF A DREAM

Janet Nelson tells the history of a city holding a major stamp exhibition this year

Brasilia is the third city to be capital of Brazil since its discovery by Europeans in 1500. The Portuguese originally settled in the northeast of the country in what is now the state of Bahia, and founded a fortress capital there in 1549, naming it Salvador. This remained the capital until 1763 when the colonial administration moved to Rio de Janeiro, a location that was more suited to trade. Rio's position was reinforced in 1808 when the Portuguese royal family moved their court there, whilst fleeing from Napoleon Bonaparte.

It remained the capital after Brazil's independence from Portugal in 1822, and even after the abolition of the Monarchy in 1889. However, the concept of a new capital inland had been in the background for a long time. Initial proponents felt the coastal cities were too vulnerable to aggression from foreign powers; but later the imbalance of population centres, along with political and economic wrangling between states, became the motivating factors. Of course, the desire for a capital untainted by colonialism probably also played a part; in fact the first Republican Constitution in 1891 made provision for a new inland capital some time in the future. Not until the mid twentieth century did circumstances permit this dream to come to fruition.

The earliest proponent of a new capital nearer to the geographic centre of the country was José Bonifácio do Andrada e Silva, an advisor to Emperor Pedro I, who presented his plan in 1827, only five years after independence. He was obviously ahead of his time with this, for the idea was not progressed by the early Republican governments, even though Bonifacio was acknowledged as a "Founding Father" and National Hero. Some measure of impetus was gained in 1883 when the saintly Italian priest and founder of the Salesian order, Dom John Bosco, had a vision of a futuristic Brazilian settlement located approximately where the city is today. As a result Dom Bosco is regarded as a Patron Saint of Brasilia along with the National "Our Lady of the Apparition".

Not until the 21st President of Brazil, Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira, came to power in 1956 did the project of a new capital become a reality. The economy was strong, and Kubitschek's motto of "50 years progress in 5" was backed with investment, enabling work on the construction to begin in 1957, employing over 30,000 labourers. The brand new city was built from scratch on the savannah and completed ahead of schedule in only 41 months. President Kubitschek's skill in using his project to drive the economy and unify the enormous country is widely recognised. However, Brasilia's global fame is not as the largest city in the world that did not exist in 1900; nor as Brazil's fourth city with a current population of around 2 ½ million. It is primarily known as a centre of modernist architecture and art, thanks to Urban Planner Lucio Costa; Landscape Designer Roberto Burle Marx; and Principal Architect Oscar Niemeyer. All the main buildings of State: Presidential Palace, Courts of Justice, Seat of Government as well as the Cathedral were designed by Niemeyer and laid out down the central Monumental Avenue. However, the city design itself is also innovative with the plan view being the form of an aircraft or bird with curved wings emanating from this central axis.



Jose Bonifacio



Juscelino Kubitschek



Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th June 2017 at Swinpex, at St Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR

Present: There were 23 members present

The Chairman, Barry Stagg, welcomed everyone to the 26th Annual General Meeting.

1) Apologies: Jean and Crawford Alexander, Michael Blackman, Grace Davies, Janet Nelson.

2) Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting held on 11th June 2016

These had been published in *Themescene* September 2016 and were circulated at this meeting. It was agreed that they were a correct record of the meeting.

3) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4) Chairman's report

Over the past year there have been a few changes to the BTA. We have disbanded our library as it was getting little use. Times are changing and so much information is available on the internet having a library that few used seemed a waste of effort. I thank Ron Backhouse, as our last librarian, for his years in the role. Gerald Lovell told the committee earlier this year that he would like to relinquish the role of Displays Organiser. We thank him for all the work he has done arranging the displays and meetings while in the post and hope we continue to see him and Ron at future events and BTA meetings. The committee are delighted to welcome Steve Cross as a co-opted member to the committee and Steve has taken on the role of Displays Organiser.

I would also like to thank Peter Denly for his time as our Membership Secretary. I know from personal experience that trying to keep membership details up-to-date and correct is very difficult. I thank Peter for his perseverance and patience over the years and I thank Charles Oppenheim for taking over the role.

We had a good meeting with the British Postmark Society at Autumn Stampex last year. There was a good turnout and both the BTA and the BPS enjoyed the event. And very recently we had another good meeting, this time in London with the Guild of St Gabriel. Both Societies showed material with a connection to a religious theme and the members present had a pleasant afternoon.

Not content with being the hard-working secretary for the BTA, Anne Stammers produced a marvelous Oxford weekend when members of the BTA showed some wonderful material. Thank you Anne for such a great event and thank you for keeping me and the BTA going forward.

As well as thanking all those who contribute to *Themescene* a very big thanks goes to Wendy Buckle for her Editorship. I know the amount of effort that goes into this role and I thank her for all the hours she puts into producing a worthy magazine.

Many of our committee members work in the background ensuring that the BTA keeps moving forward. I would like to thank them for all their efforts. In particular, our Treasurer Peter Wood. I have been on the committee of many organisations in my time but I have never worked with a Treasurer who is so responsive, efficient and friendly! Thank you Peter for all the work you do to keep the BTA solvent and legal. I also would like to thank Mike Blackman for his tireless work in getting advertising into *Themescene*, Lesley Marley

for keeping us up-to-date with the FIP and Jon Matthias for his advice and support of the web site. The Publicity Officer's role can be very frustrating as you try and convince editors to use your press release but I thank Jim Etherington for his persistence in trying to spread the BTA word! And lastly I would like to thank Brian Sole for his advice and support of the BTA over the year(s)! In particular the support he gives (and has given) to the BTA competitions. I will just say a personal thank you from me to all the committee members for all your hard work and dedication to the BTA and for making my job so easy. May I also thank all of you, the membership, for your continued support of the BTA. Without you there would be no BTA. Any society is only as good as its members and I believe the BTA is very fortunate to have members who are passionate about Thematic, Open or Postcard collecting. I know many of you provide articles for *Themescene* and I thank you all for doing so. May I also thank the dozens of BTA members who give talks to philatelic clubs throughout the country. This helps to keep the BTA in the forefront of our hobby. And lastly, my thanks also to those members who exhibit Nationally and Internationally. It does show the world that the BTA is alive and well. I believe the BTA will continue to move forward and I hope the BTA will continue to support Thematic, Open and Postcard collecting for years to come.

The Chairman was thanked for his report and it was *agreed unanimously*.

5) Treasurer's report

Headline results for 2016 show a SURPLUS of £1457. Additionally, the Committee had agreed that the surplus from the 2016 BTA Weekend would be used to establish a Reserve Fund towards London 2020, the next major UK International. Hard work by Barry Stagg in sorting and selling material resulted in a Legacy income of almost £400. The Donation referred to under 'Themescene' was given by a member to support the use of colour in the magazine; it has been added to Advertising income and that figure offsets some of the cost. There is a small amount of money still under the Website Development Reserve, to be used for future website costs. The value of the remaining *Themescene* binders has been written off. Unusually there were no Committee meeting expenses this year, as a free room was provided for both meetings; this will not always be the case.

Projections for 2017 include a slight drop in subscriptions, but an increase in advertising revenue. The changes to the annual competitions may mean greater expenditure but this is not yet known.

Thanks are due to our examiner Graeme Boutle.

One comment from the floor: a suggestion that the Committee investigate using conference calls for some Committee meetings, something done successfully by another club.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Lesley Marley, seconded by Pauline Boddy and *agreed unanimously*.

6) Election of Officers

Chairman Barry Stagg, Vice Chairman Jim Etherington, Secretary Anne Stammers, Treasurer Peter Wood were elected 'en bloc'. This was *agreed unanimously*.

7) Election of Committee Members

There were no nominations for committee. The committee, as shown on the Agenda, was re-elected 'en bloc'. *Agreed unanimously*.

8) Ratification of Examiner

Grahame Boutle as Examiner was ratified and *agreed unanimously*.

10) Any Other Business

a) The Treasurer outlined a change to subscriptions from 2018. While subscriptions will not increase, there will be a new membership category of “electronic-only access to Themescene”, for which the subscription will be £15.00 irrespective of where in the world you live. While it is open to all members it is hoped that it will particularly appeal to overseas members.

b) The Secretary confirmed that planning has started for a BTA Weekend from 5 – 7 October 2018 to be held at the same venue as before. Hotel costs have risen slightly, the charge to delegates has not yet been finalized.

c) John Hayward thanked all the Committee for their work. He noted that Brian Sole was finally stepping down from the Committee, having served in various roles since the formation of the Association in 1984. In 33 years he has put in a tremendous amount of work, including serving as Secretary, Chairman, President and Patron. We all owe him our very sincere thanks.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.05p.m.

Following the meeting Brian Sole showed a part of his award-winning exhibit *Go By Cycle!*

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GO BY CYCLE!

Display given by Brian Sole to the BTA AGM on 10th June 2017



Brian Sole was one of the founders of the BTA, back in 1984, and he has served on its committee continuously since then, first as Secretary, and later as Competition Organiser, Chairman, President and Patron. Much to his colleagues' regret he has finally decided to hang up his bicycle clips and retire from the Committee, and in recognition of that fact he was invited to give this year's display to the AGM. As John Hayward said before the display, he has put in an unbelievable amount of work over 33 years, and we all thank him sincerely.

His international award-winning display (or at least parts of it) is known to some us through previous BTA meetings and his displays given to local societies. Unfortunately the AGM meeting did not provide enough time for Brian to fully talk to his display, or indeed show the full array of material, but perhaps the best way to give a flavour of the depth and breadth of the coverage of the subject can be indicated by his Plan, given on the next page.

Like many thematic collectors, his choice of subject grew from a pre-existing interest, in his case as an active cyclist. An existing stamp collector of GB, a colleague at his local society encouraged him to submit a thematic entry to his nine sheet club competition, by assuring him "It's dead easy, pick any subject". If only. But it started him off, and eventually he won the highest accolades at International level, as well as becoming an international judge. Brian may now have retired from some of these activities but he has left us a legacy of thematic collecting that we can all look up to. Thank you Brian. 📖



Number 19 of 30 envelopes prepared by Joseph Foret and signed by Gino Bartali and Louison Bobet



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JOINT MEETING WITH GUILD OF ST. GABRIEL



Pilgrimage to Santiago



Walpole Park, which no longer houses a library but an art gallery



Artwork for St. Nicholas



Jerusalem, capital of Arabic culture. Gaza issue.



Nativity, from the House at the Golden Shield, Nurembourg, c.1500



The Cross with "Tartan Appeal"!



Birds of the Bible




Church Hill, Beckenham High Street, c.1905

JOINT MEETING WITH GUILD OF ST. GABRIEL, 20 MAY 2017

Following a highly successful meeting in May 2014 our affiliated society the Guild of St. Gabriel invited us to join them again. It was attended by nine members of the Guild, five members of the BTA, and four people who are members of both. There were twelve sheet displays by members:

- Adrian Nuttall. Stained glass windows now in the Victoria and Albert Museum; with the earliest shown being from 1340. Also windows by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones.
- Anne Stammers. Historical postcards of “The Green Lungs of London”, in other words Parks, including Ealing, Walpole, Holland and Hyde Parks. Also postcards of The Middle Thames around Wallingford and Oxford.
- Brian Sole. Complete artwork featuring the original pencil sketches by Clive Abbott for the 1985 Guernsey miniature sheet “The Giftbearers”: not only the Wise Men but also the traditional figures such as St. Nicholas.
- David Hague. Early stamp issues of the State of Palestine. Following the signing of the Cairo Peace Agreement in May 1994 the Palestinian Authority started issuing its own stamps. They are available from head post offices at Ramallah and Gaza, although some Gaza stamps are harder to come by following the post office receiving a direct hit from a shell resulting in supplies being destroyed.
- Derek West. Rather than putting up his own material Derek showed sheets by Gabriel member Elsie Miller on ‘religious symbols’. These included the Cross, the Chi-Ro, the Ichthys, and Alpha and Omega.
- Gerald Lovell. Signed covers of religious significance including signatures of Archbishops Robert Runcie and Basil Hume; and Roy Jenkins, Chancellor of the University of Oxford (after his political career). Also signed covers of “people worshipped” including Sir Cliff Richard, Derek Jacobi, Lester Piggott, Robert Hardy, Bobby Charlton, Seb Coe and Alistair Cooke.
- Hugh Loudon. The “Desert Fathers”, early Christian hermits, ascetics and monks, later canonized, who lived in the Nile Delta area of Northern Egypt between AD 230 and 370. These included Anthony the Great, Paul of Thebes, Moses the Black, Athanasius of Alexandria and Pachomius the Great.
- Len Yandell. The Pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, starting from four different places in France, all routes which merge in the Pyrenees, before heading to Santiago in Galicia, the site of the shrine of Saint James the Great. To get formal accreditation for completing the pilgrimage it is necessary to walk at least the final 100 kilometres.
- Lesley Marley. Christchurch Cathedral on the Falkland Islands, together with the whaling memorial outside the Cathedral. Also views of Grytviken, South Georgia, an old whaling station which included a church, and views of the inside of the church.
- Margaret Holland. Birds featured in the Bible, including those which it is forbidden to eat “the eagle, the vulture, osprey, buzzard ..”.
- Mike Blackman. The religious uses of the umbrella, including Eastern religions including stupas: Buddhist burial monuments featuring an umbrella at the top which signifies the soul

going to heaven. Pagodas, found in much of the Far East, also feature umbrellas. Also 'then and now' pictures and postcards of Beckenham, Kent.

- Peter Hann. The city of Konstanz, located in Southern Germany and the western end of Lake Constance. The city houses the University of Konstanz and was for more than 1200 years the residence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Konstanz. In 1414 it hosted the Council of Constance which resolved the Papal Schism and burnt Jan Hus.
- Wendy Buckle. Illuminated manuscripts. Those who study them identify three different parts of the illustration: the miniature, the border and the initial. Different styles and periods were shown. 



Article published jointly in Themescene and Gabriel

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BTA NEWS

BTA WEEKEND 2018

The planning has started! Please make a note of the date in your diaries:

5th to 7th October 2018. It will be held at our usual venue of the Oxford Spires Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford. We promise you a varied programme which will be published in full in December *Themescene*, together with the booking form. If you are thinking of attending please notify the Editor: wendybuckle@btinternet.com. No deposit is required at this stage, and if you later have to cancel it won't matter, but it will ensure you get the full details and booking form before *Themescene* comes out.

IAN PATON DISPLAY AT RPSL

The Annual General Meeting of the 'Royal' on 22 June featured a standing display by the late Ian Paton, BTA Life Member. It showed six frames from his international gold-winning exhibit *From Texas Statehood to the Assassination of President McKinley*. The Contents List gives a flavour of the breadth of coverage of his subject:

Section 1: East of the Mississippi 1845 - 1860

1.1 Politics and 1850 compromise on slavery

1.2 Transport and postal services

Section 2: West of the Mississippi 1845 - 1896

2.1 Texas and the War with Mexico

2.2 The Far West

2.3 Mountains and plains

Section 3: Abraham Lincoln takes centre stage 1858 - 1865

3.1 The Union

4.1 Civil War in the East

<p style="text-align: center;">DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER BTA JOINT MEETING WITH RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP AT AUTUMN STAMPEX 12.00 - 14.00 <i>Please bring along up to 12 sheets, ideally of railway interest</i></p>

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

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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

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Scout and Guide Stamp Club

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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://shipstampssociety.com/>

West of England Thematic Society

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

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

EXHIBITING PAGE: THE CONCEPT OF IMPORTANCE IN THEMATIC PHILATELY

Talk by Damien Läge at Essen, May 2017

The marking of exhibits at international level includes 20% for rarity. However, rare material has to be used because of its thematic importance, it will not gain high marks without such justification. For example, the 1843 Geneva Canton stamp shows the German Eagle and the Catholic key of St. Peter. An interesting choice of design for a French Protestant city! So anyone collecting aspects of history or religion could make use of this. It was suggested that to exhibit this on cover would be a fine example of early postal history earning high marks for rarity. (The speaker did not suggest what such a cover would cost, but I think we can safely assume it is beyond most people's pocket).



But we all know how difficult it is to find relevant philatelic material which illustrates the particular thematic point you want to make. Inevitably your collection will include some items of very high thematic significance which are of no philatelic importance. The perfect item is that which has both philatelic importance and thematic importance. Any one page of an exhibit will have a variety of material on it, of varying degrees of philatelic importance, but all thematically important.

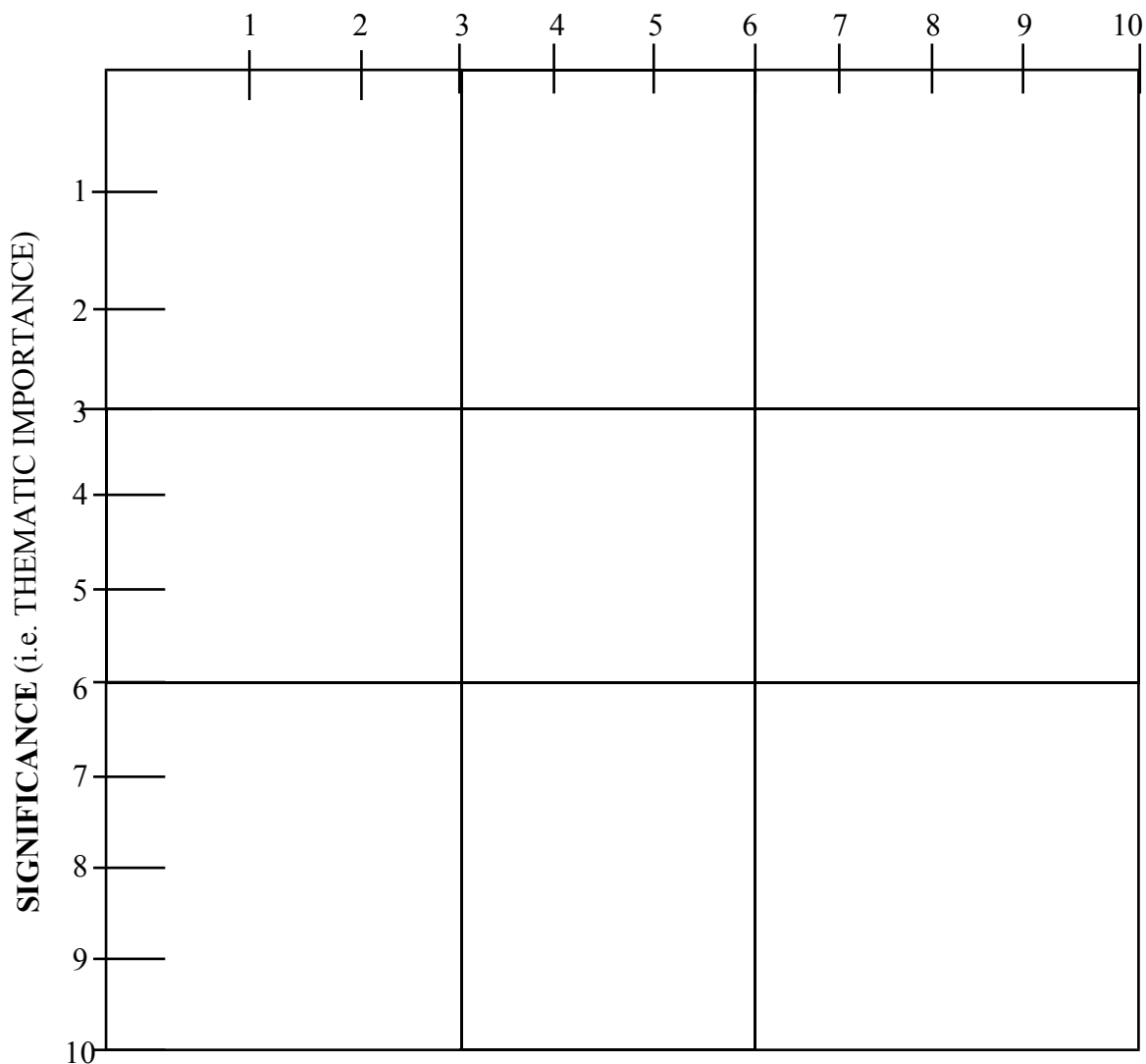
How to improve the importance of a thematic exhibit: a few tips

- Develop relevant philatelic details in a thematic way. As an example a missing colour could be used to illustrate a genetic variation.
- Integrate the best philatelic items into a story which is easy to understand.
- Make your philatelic highlights relevant within a short story.
- Look for the best possible philatelic item to tell the story.
- Create some pages which only require general information, and use these for important philatelic items.
- Optimise the thematic development of the page so that the best item is put in a prime position both semantically and visually.

The balance between philatelic importance and thematic importance / thematic significance can be plotted on a graph. In the example below 10 rates highest and 1 lowest. An item both philatelically rare and thematically important would be plotted in the bottom right segment; and something thematically crucial but of little philatelic interest would be plotted in the bottom left segment. Ideally there should be nothing in your display which would appear in the top left segment, and the overall balance would have most items scoring something in both axes.



RARITY (PLUS GENERAL PHILATELIC IMPORTANCE)



HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

*Handstamps reprinted on these pages first appeared in the "British Postmark Bulletin"
Published by Royal Mail 185 Farringdon Road, London, EC1A 1AA*

*Please note that the Postmark Bulletin is now available free to all customers. To request
a copy please write to
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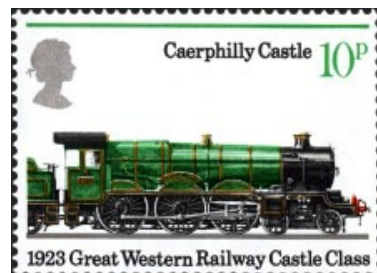
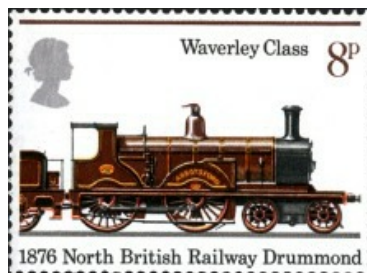
Just4Kids by Lise Whittle

(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.)

ALL ABOARD THE TRAINS!

Have you been on a train ride? It's great fun - ask the person who looks after you (very nicely) if they will take you. You could start your own train stamp collection. There are hundreds of different train stamps, it is one of the most popular themes to collect so you should be able to find plenty, such as modern trains, old locomotives, famous trains, underground trains, high speed trains, diesel trains, electric trains, mountain trains, train stations - or you could even make a collection of stamps showing what you see on your train journey!

Here are a set of four GB stamps showing trains from old to new. Try to find some information about each train.



The first passenger trains were designed in the early 1800s. They carried not only passengers, but also horse-drawn carriages and farm animals. Passengers could buy cheap seats and stand in a carriage with no roof! It must have been cold, uncomfortable, smoky and sometimes wet! Or they could pay more and travel in a carriage with a roof, hard wooden benches to sit on, and no glass in the windows which wasn't much better. *(Try to find more stamps from the GB set on the next page - there are 5 in the set).*



The first trains were powered by hot steam. Coal was burnt in the engine to make the steam which is why old trains were very smoky. Trains today are mostly powered by either diesel (oil) or electricity. You can tell the difference because electric trains are connected to overhead cables or a third rail in the track. Here is an electric train on a stamp from Zimbabwe - can you spot the overhead cables?



And here is a diesel train on a stamp from Cambodia, and two high speed trains shown on a stamp from Japan (Nippon).



The Isle of Man stamp shows an Electric Mountain Railway tram.



The Channel Tunnel between England and France opened in 1994. Look carefully at the GB stamp below and you can see the underground train in the tunnel.



These GB stamps show a very famous train!



Write and tell us about famous train stamps. Write to:
**Just4Kids c/o The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road,
Bournemouth BH1 4RS**

BTA PROGRAMME 2017

Sept 16th 12.00 - 14.00

BTA joint meeting with Railway Philatelic Group

Please bring along up to 12 sheets of railway interest

Autumn Stampex

Business Design Centre, Islington, London, N1 0QH

There will be a Full National Exhibition including Thematic, Open and Postcard, plus a commercial show with more than 70 dealer stands and a wide range of interests in the exhibition. Events will include:

The Sarawak Specialist Society as lead contributor showing 150 frames, both competitive and non-competitive, marking the 70th anniversary of the Sarawak Society.

The Hungarian Philatelic Society will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Hungarian postage stamps with a special display in 20 frames.

The Inter-Federation Competition will take place with eight competitors, each with three frames in different classes. The following have notified the organisers of their participation:

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies and the Yorkshire, Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Hampshire, Mid-Anglia and Essex Philatelic Associations and Federations.

Nigel Gooch will lead a seminar at 11.00 on Saturday 16th in the Executive Centre on the topic of 'Giving Club and Non-Competitive Displays'. This will be free and all are welcome.

October 14th BTA Competitions

At: South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention

Norfolk Pavilion

South of England Centre

Ardingly

RH17 6TL

www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.Php

See next page for details and application forms.

The Fair is organised by the Association of Sussex Philatelic societies; opening hours 10.00 to 16.00, with 40 stamp and postcard dealers in attendance.

The BTA will have a table there all day.

Free Admission. Free Parking. Disabled Access. Refreshments available.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

THE NEXT BTA WEEKEND

05 to 07 OCTOBER 2018

Full details to follow but expect it to be up to the standard set by previous weekends: informal, fun and entertaining

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>
TOTAL			<u>100</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.....



(ANOTHER) PHILATELIC HOLIDAY, page 85



The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019.
For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm.
H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019

29 MAY - 2 JUNE

THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The exhibition will comprise philatelic dealers and auction houses from all over the world.
The exhibition will have an extensive philatelic and social program.
Only Fellows and Members of the RPSL will be allowed to exhibit.
The competitive classes will be judged by an international jury appointed by the Council of The RPSL.



STOCKHOLMIA 2019
will be organised at
"Waterfront Congress Centre",
Nils Ericsons Plan 4.
It is Sweden's newest and most
versatile venue for large-scale
meetings and events.



For more information: visit the website stockholmia2019.se or contact Jonas Hällström: jonas@stockholmia2019.se