

# THEMESCENE

December 2018

*In this issue we:*

*Relive the 2018 BTA Residential Weekend*



*Ponder the origins of life  
What can the matter be?  
With Geoff Hood*



*Stroll down a London street  
Famous artists of Cheyne Walk  
With Christ Wheeler*



*And wish all our readers  
a very happy Christmas*



**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

Volume 35, No.4. Whole Number 133

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**BTA RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND page 113  
STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS MENUS**



*Hats on for the Christmas menus!*



*Menus*



# THEMESCENE

Vol. 35, No. 4, Whole Number 133

DECEMBER 2018

## THEMESCENE

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

I make no apologies for the emphasis in this issue on the report on this year's BTA Residential Weekend. It is the best opportunity we all have to meet and chat at leisure, and is much enjoyed by everybody. It's rare for any of us to have the chance to indulge in our hobby for a concentrated period over three days, and to have the opportunity to see such a variety of material. One of the strengths of the BTA is its membership across all pictorial collecting interests, so an event like this will produce a huge range of displays. Apart from our guest speakers we had five minute talks on over 50 topics. We all came away better informed as well as royally entertained. The length of the report has meant that just for once there are few major articles.

Both other articles that are included, by Geoff Hood and Chris Wheeler, arose from competition entries. What a good way to generate an article! You have your story, and you have your illustrations, so just expand the former and bring the two together. I'm sure many of you reading this do support your local club competitions, so how about sending me something based on your entry? This is your magazine, how about sharing your interest with colleagues?

One carrot to dangle in front of you to make it worth the effort to produce an article is that from now on *Themescene* will be in full, not partial, colour (as is obvious with this issue). It's a small token of thanks to the authors who do the hard work of providing content, and I do hope it will encourage more of you.

At various points throughout this issue your attention is drawn to our website, in particular our wish to showcase your displays (see page 133). I entirely understand the viewpoint expressed in the Letters Page that not everybody wishes to use technology, and I would not like it thought that we are dictating how our hobby should go forward, but for those who use the web regularly anyway (and I think it's fair to say that's most of us) the BTA can now offer to showcase your exhibit. Give it some thought.

Our programme for 2019 is published on page 143. At our first meeting on 13th April we have two excellent speakers, and we hope for a good attendance. And we continue to organise meetings in the provinces, this year at the York Fair on 20th July. I do hope as many of our members as possible will be able to find time away from the dealers and share their collecting interests. Several members of the Committee who live in the South of England will be coming to York especially for this, so we would love a good attendance.

As I write this in mid-November the shops are decked with Christmas decorations, Black Friday is imminent (apparently it's the New Tradition), and it feels like the holidays are already here, even if they are five weeks away, so I will wish you all a very happy Christmas and may Santa's sleigh be full of philatelic goodies 📖



# CHAIRMAN

**Barry Stagg**

One of the pleasures of collecting, be it paintings, pottery or philately, is the pleasure of showing others your collection. Thematic collectors have the advantage of being able to tell a story which adds interest to the listener or reader. I have never understood people who collect 'things' and then hide them away in bank vaults. What is the point!? I have rarely been to a stamp club meeting and not found something of interest. And one of the joys of thematic collecting is that it is never finished, as ideas for other chapters of the story often unfold in totally unrelated events such as seeing somebody else's collection.

I know that standing in front of 20 or 30 people is not for everybody, but telling my thematic story is something I enjoy. So last week I found myself in Glasgow giving three talks to local societies. And what a great time we had. Apart from being well looked after at all three societies (Glasgow Thematic and Glasgow Philatelic) it was a pleasure to talk to a lively and fun group of thematic and non-thematic collectors, and I hoped they enjoyed themselves (they did laugh in all the right places!). After the talk a number of collectors told me their parachuting stories, some of which I may be able to use in my collection. One of the talks was at the Largs & District Stamp Club, not too far from Glasgow. When I told my wife that I had been invited there she immediately said yes. I found out later that Largs is home to THE ice-cream parlour, Nardini's, which she visited many years ago. We had to visit it of course. The things I do for philately! As an aside I am jealous of Glasgow philatelists – they still have a large philatelic shop in the city centre. What an Aladdin's cave of philatelic delights. A must to visit if you find yourselves in that city. And when is Glasgow going to hold the Annual non-London ABPS competitions? Perth is very nice but Glasgow has the stamp shop!

I would like to mention STAMPEX in the autumn of 2020. The BTA is the lead society for that event and we would like all Thematic, Postcard and Open Philately collectors to enter their collections. This is a real opportunity to show the philatelic world that philately is alive and well. You can just display your collection without it being judged or you can enter it in the competitions. One frame (sixteen sheets) or more. This is a great opportunity for you to tell your story and I know there are lots of stories out there. Please consider entering. Further details will be published in subsequent editions of *Themescene*.



And finally, as December is here may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. 📖

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*From Mark Winnegrad, New York*

## **ONLINE SHARING**

By no means am I a movie buff, but upon reading the first sentence of Barry Stagg's September *Themescene* column "For a few minutes they were mine, that was enough" I immediately recalled it was from *Charade* simply because it's the only film I've ever seen that had any connection with stamps.

Mr. Stagg promotes the importance of recording one's stamp collection and sharing it via online displays. This is a good idea for those who can do so, but I would point out that there are still some collectors who do not particularly like, or have any interest in, modern technology. Most probably do not have the technological knowledge, skill or equipment to act on Mr. Stagg's suggestion. I'm one of those people, but that hasn't thwarted my enthusiasm for collecting stamps for many years.

*From Dr. Gary Cook, by email*

## **CORRECTION TO 'CONSUMPTION ... AND THE SANATORIUM AT BENEDEN'**

In the article 'Sanatorium at Benenden' in September *Themescene* the first sentence of the paragraph on page 80 beginning 'The sanatorium continued its independence, and the Queen Mother made her first visit...' should have read 'The sanatorium continued its independence, and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth made her first visit...' And the third sentence beginning "Each patient received a personal invitation card in respect of her Royal Highness's visit..." should have read "Each patient received a personal invitation card in respect of Her Majesty's visit." Thanks to Keith Lloyd for spotting these errors and my apologies for the error of royal title and any confusion caused.

*From Anselmo Oliveira, by email*

## **HELP FOR OVERSEAS COLLECTOR**

My name is Anselmo, I'm a young Brazilian, a philatelist since I was 10 years old. I currently live in the city of Jacobina, Bahia, Brazil. I started collecting stamps at school. My favorite subjects are: cars, airplanes, boats, trains, sports, football, Olympic Games, animals, dogs, cats, fish, birds, pope, flora, typical costumes, military uniforms and Christmas. With the change of the city that I lived I gave a time, returning this last year. I like to know if you have some used stamps, remaining stock of these themes for donation? I thank you for your attention. My mailing address: Anselmo Oliveira, Rua Hum , nº 24, Jacobina I, CEP: 44700-000 – Jacobina-Bahia-Brasil.

*Note from the Editor:* This email came to me unsolicited. I cannot vouch for it.

## FUN WITH PHILATELY: BTA RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 2018

What has an octopus got to do with the circulation of the blood? How do you tell a parrot from a cockatoo? And what was Marilyn Monroe's occupation before she was discovered and launched on the silver screen? Those who attended our latest residential Weekend will know the answers to these questions, but for the rest of you, read on.

This was the fourth time we have held this event, and the Programme has settled into a format which everyone seems to enjoy; starting with an ice-breaker of six sheets in one minute from attendees, then a Welcome drink of Pimm's (other beverages were available) followed by an excellent dinner. The first guest speaker followed. It is a challenge to anyone to entertain a group of people who have had a good meal and are unlikely to be in a serious frame of mind, and nearly half of whom are not stamp or postcard collectors. But Jean Alexander more than rose to this challenge. The scene was set as people arrived and were given a Christmas cracker. Jean - wearing a Father Christmas hat - insisted we all pulled a cracker and wore the enclosed hat. The clue was in the title of her display: *Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas Menus 1977 - 2013*. The background to this was the Royal Mail Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas Lunch given every year as a thank you for the work on the committee. The highlight, especially for the collector members, was the menu specially designed by the design department for the occasion. With stamp designers among the guests at the lunches the design department really felt they had to impress. And they succeeded. The menus sometimes reflected the Christmas stamps and included a set or part of the set on the actual menu. Sometimes a set produced during the previous year was the centre of attraction. The menu itself could be any size, even as small as a bookmark in some cases, and it has even appeared on the back of the wrapping paper round a little booklet. Jean served on the Committee, and as a good collector carefully kept every memento, either in the mint condition in which it was presented, or with the signatures of those attending. The menu designs were a complete delight, and entranced everyone. The first menu in the display was 1977, including the David Gentleman "Partridge in a pear tree" stamp. It ended with the 2013 issue, the last special Christmas menu produced for the SAC Christmas Lunches.

The next morning we were treated to a very different type of display. John Davies showed *A Jubilee Reminiscence: the 1890 Penny Post Jubilee*; which commemorates fifty years since the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage and the world's first stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840. John's inspiration for the collection were the exhibits in the Court of Honour at Stamp World London '90 and the reproductions of the 1890 postal stationery available at that Show.

The major part of the display was the *Conversazione & Exhibition* at the Guildhall, London. This included the arrangements for the event, the historical exhibits and displays and the issue of Great Britain's first commemorative postal stationery, the Guildhall Letter Card and the decorative handstamps associated with the event. We were shown a range of ephemera including invitation cards, medals, admission tickets, and carriage parking passes, much of it rare and sought after, but what caught the eye even more was the staggering quality of the philatelic material, some of it unique. The event itself was a

massive undertaking, with mail coaches in the courtyard collecting and delivering mail to the Post Office sorting office built within the Exhibition. 200,000 items were posted by visitors who could view a reconstruction of a 1790 post office. There were bands and a choir and a demonstration of Edison's phonograph. The opening night of the event was attended by the Prince of Wales, and all profits from the event went to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund.

The display finished with the celebrations at the Post Office Conversazione at the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria and Albert Museum). This was a one day affair, attended by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, again with profits going to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. It too had a fully operational post office plus a demonstration of a pneumatic tube (a question could be sent for 1d, to get a reply cost 3d). There were six special handstamps plus a Jubilee envelope. Postmen in uniform were admitted free of charge, and they came from all over the country to visit. This part of the display also featured rare philately and fascinating memorabilia.

This display was a masterclass in Open philately, now over 600 pages, and if John ever displays near you, do go, it's not to be missed.

Our last speaker, on the Sunday morning, was our Chairman Barry Stagg. His presentation was in two parts: firstly a PowerPoint presentation on *Postcards, Or Shall we venture into the unknown?* a timely introduction to postcard exhibiting. While the BTA exists primarily to promote collecting, for a small percentage of members there is also the challenge of exhibiting at local, federation on national level. While postcard exhibiting is being embraced at all these levels (and indeed at international level) it is still a relatively young discipline, and one which has not yet become particularly popular, which is a little surprising since there can hardly be a stamp collector in the country who doesn't have some postcards in their collection. Among other things Barry's talk covered why it is good to exhibit, and why now; the definition of a postcard; where to buy cards and the pitfalls to avoid; practical tips on selecting, arranging, mounting, and writing up; and further reading. While Barry was particularly keen to encourage exhibiting at National level, where very few postcard entries are received, the content was relevant to any level of competition, starting with your own local club. It is well worth any postcard collector reading the full text of the presentation, which is on the BTA website at [www.britishthematic.org.uk/guidance-on-postcard-exhibiting.htm](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/guidance-on-postcard-exhibiting.htm)

Following this, Barry displayed his five frame exhibit *The development and lifecycle of a parachute* which had been awarded a Vermeil at Nordia 2018. Historically the first parachutists were entertainers and it was not until the 1930s that parachutists were properly trained. The display covered the development of the modern parachute, what it is made from, its manufacture, and how it is packed. People's lives depend on the quality of the parachute they are wearing, so factories employed inspectors to check them before they left the factory; one such inspector was Marilyn Monroe. We saw the parachute inflate as it left the aircraft, float gently to earth and then collapse on hitting the ground, its job done. Some of the postcards shown were serious in tone, some of the seaside humour variety. In the 1950s the publisher Bamforth won a prosecution for obscenity by a local Watch Committee by its defence that it could not be prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act since its postcards were vulgar not obscene. One in the eye for the Nanny State. The full display is on our website at [www.britishthematic.org.uk/exhibiting-thematic-collections/examples-of-exhibits.htm](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/exhibiting-thematic-collections/examples-of-exhibits.htm)

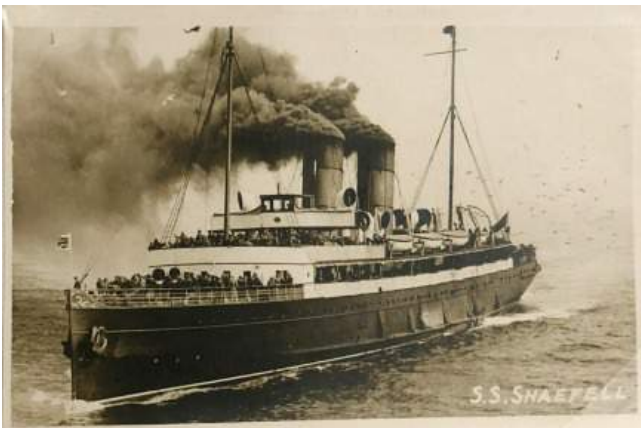




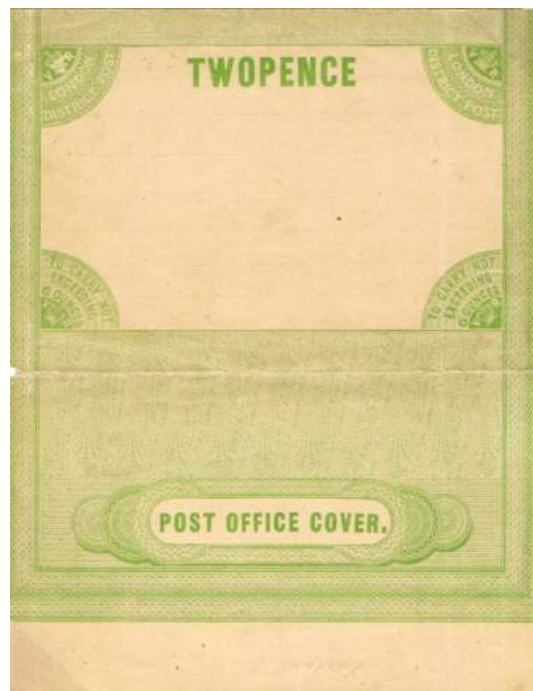
Leaflet dropped by the Luftwaffe to the encircled British and French troops at Dunkirk. From "1940"



"Mother Canada / Canada bereft". The Canadian National Memorial at Vimy. From: "Portrayal of Women on Stamps"



S S Snaefell, operating from the Isle of Man



John Dickinson proposal for a two pence letter sheet, printed on silk thread paper



1905 postcard of Beckenham



Philatelic crusade for peace

On the Saturday afternoon David Griffiths of 'Thames Themes' brought along his stock for people to browse, or they had the chance to spend time in Oxford. However for those collectors getting withdrawal symptoms at not having a display to view, Jim Etherington put up part of his exhibit *1940: A Desperate Year for Britain* which chronicles the wartime year of 1940 from a British perspective. Central themes that are developed include the military campaigns on land, at sea and in the air, the impact of war on the country's civilian population and the role played by Britain's Empire in support of the 'Motherland'. It adheres strictly to thematic competition rules, including a full range of philatelic items. Perhaps the single item that may contravene these rules is the German air dropped leaflet delivered to the beleaguered British troops at Dunkirk. While not strictly a philatelic item it may be described as Luftwaffe 'airmail'. The exhibit was awarded international Gold Medals at Philataipei 2016 and Finlandia 2017. It can be viewed on the BTA website at [www.britishthematic.org.uk/exhibiting-thematic-collections/examples-of-exhibits.htm](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/exhibiting-thematic-collections/examples-of-exhibits.htm)

Between these featured displays were members' displays: one session of six sheets and three sessions of twelve sheets (latest acquisitions, letters C - D and own choice) gave everyone the opportunity to show some of their material; and a huge variety was put up for display. In an addition to the Saturday morning programme we were treated to a short extract from Sue Thatcher's collection *The Portrayal of Women on Stamps*. Sue was tragically killed in a car crash earlier this year, but her husband John presented on her behalf, explaining how Sue "found her forte" in collecting thematics. As President of the Shropshire Philatelic Society she put together a 144 sheet display for her President's Evening. A whole range of material including stamps, covers, FDCs, miniature sheets and postcards was used to tell the story from early mythical and allegorical figures, including personifications of countries, through clothing, women at work and women at war / women bereaved by war, through to famous women in all walks of life.

Members' displays followed:

Crawford Alexander

- A philatelic alphabet from A - F.
- British pleasure steamers from the Isle of Man. Many of these were put into service in World War I and lost in action. Postcards, letters, cachets and privilege tickets were shown.
- Tourist cards from St. Kilda, usually sent as a result of the pleasure steamers who brought visitors to the Island, including some rare cachets.
- C-Class flying boats including the Sunderland, used in World War II and later adapted for civilian use, and the Dornier.

Jean Alexander

- Continuing her theme of British stamp design she showed material relating to two of the issues of 1983: British Gardens, designed by Angela Reeves, and British Fairs.

Mike Blackman

- Material relating to a series of personal anniversaries: the 70th anniversary of the Civil Service Philatelic Society, 50 years membership of the Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society and 50 years of personal collecting by theme instead of country. These themes resulted in short displays on heraldry and coats of arms, including Goss crested china as well as stamps; umbrellas and parasols; and 'then and now' postcards of Mike's home town of Beckenham.

#### Wendy Buckle

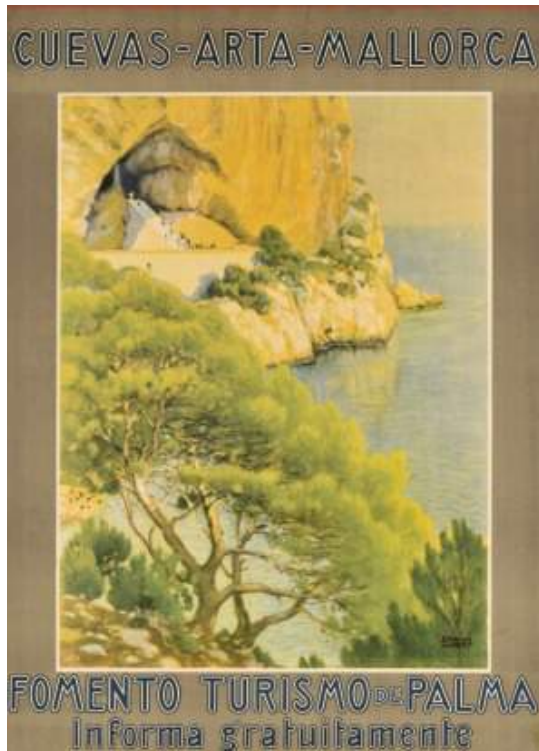
- Paper tax stamps on documents from the UK, France, Germany, Finland and Russia. Stamp Duty levied on paper and vellum was first introduced in 1694, initially for a four-year period to pay for the wars with France. It was finally abolished in 1861!
- The paper maker John Dickinson, best known to philatelists as the inventor of silk thread paper, which was used for the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets, and the embossed envelopes and letter sheets which replaced them. It was also used for a few years for the stamps of Bavaria, Württemberg and Switzerland, as well as the 1847 embossed issue of GB.

#### Gary Cook

- USA advertising covers from the 19th century from druggists and medical companies promoting cures of very dubious efficacy, including for scrofula, consumption, and coughs and colds. During the early 1900s there were medical and legal challenges against the cures claimed, some successful, some not. One litigant who attempted to sue the proprietor of a promotional sheet for a 4,000 mile tramp supporting ‘Tuberclecide the “effective” remedy for consumption’ for falsehood and fraud failed on the grounds that those promoting it acted in good faith.
- 1900 Paris Exposition, specifically material relating to the US Postal Station. The exposition was an opportunity for all participant countries to showcase new inventions which in the US case included the escalator. Gold medals were awarded at the exposition to companies such as Campbells Soups, which to this day display the gold medal image on its products. A number of different cancelling machines were in use at the US postal station, some because they were there to promote their product, and were used whilst the American Postal Machine Company prepared its exposition flag cancel. These various cancels were displayed on the sheets.
- Mass radiography in the UK. Mail and other material from the 1950’s supporting campaigns across the UK for Mass Miniature Radiography (MMR) screening populations for Tuberculosis. In Scotland a series of community surveys began in 1944 which metamorphosed into a Glasgow City wide programme supported by Royal Mail with the use of the postal slogan messaging “Let’s Stamp out TB, X-Ray Glasgow”. In England a similar campaign ran in Liverpool in 1959, supported by the meter slogan cancel “Help Liverpool Beat TB”. Further material was shown from Southampton.
- Christmas seal reminder cards. We are all familiar with Christmas charity seals, and those to raise money for TB have been produced for many years. Christmas seal sales began in the USA in 1907 and were a principal source of funds to support Treatment, Prevention and Education services provided to address Tuberculosis. The cards shown were sent to remind and encourage recipients to buy Christmas seals.

#### Grace Davies

- Albert Schweitzer, a world class musician, theologian and humanitarian. He trained as a doctor to be able to help Africans without medical care and built his famous leper hospital in Lambarene in the Gabon. In 1952 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Philatelic Crusade for Peace. A somewhat unusual collection on the Crusade which was started by Constantin Tsirimonis in Egypt to promote Peace. The Crusade also tried to raise money and publicity to save the Nubian Treasures which were about to be flooded by the building of a dam, and sent their colourfully ‘stamped’ covers to anyone and everyone, the more important the better, it seems! It included one addressed to Harold Wilson.



Poster by Erwin Hubert



Spanish ceramics



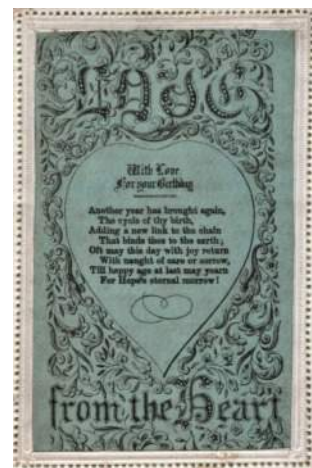
Palm cockatoo, Sulphur-crested cockatoo and other members of the parrot family



Catering Corps or Poste Restante?!



Front and back of a beautiful padded envelope, used to post a gift of jewellery



John Davies

- Some background on his involvement with promoting youth activity, including Stamp Active.

Jim Etherington

- “Inserts” into his 1940 collection. It’s nice to break free of competition rules and these six sheets illustrated how additional material can be introduced to a competition entry. While retaining the page sequence of the exhibit additional sheets may be inserted that extend the story using both philatelic and non-philatelic items.

Malcolm Gascoyne

- Discoveries, made by the Portuguese during their explorations along the African coast. In 1415 they led a “minor crusade” against the Arabs and seized Cueta on the north African coast, where gold, spices and slaves were imported, a trigger which spurred further Portuguese exploration looking for the Spice Islands.
- The Longhouse Photographic Supply Company, a firm of photographers working in Sarawak, who specialised in indigenous views. The full display, entered into the BTA competitions this year, is on our website at [www.britishthematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm)

Owen Green

- Two new collecting interests: the series of USA stamps of presidents, issued between 1938 and 1950; and America’s “most popular series ever” - Great Americans - 63 stamps issued between 1980 and 1990 (‘great’ to Americans although the rest of us may not have heard of many of them).
- Kenneth Page Oakley, a physical anthropologist who from 1935 - 69 worked in the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, London. He developed a method of dating fossil bone specimens using fluorine, and in the 1950's applied the technique to help confirm Piltdown Man (the missing link unearthed in 1912) as a hoax.
- Plate tectonics: the theory proposed for movement of continental and oceanic plates over the surface of the earth. It developed, built on and encompassed the early 20th century hypothesis of Continental Drift. The link between plate tectonics and the rise of life on planet earth (particularly evident in the last 750 million years of earth history) is widely recognised (and seen on many stamps), although the exact link is not known.

John Hayward

- The Iron Ore Line – Kiruna (Sweden) to Narvik (Norway). The display included a postcard from Narvik in 1903 the year the line was opened; mail that travelled on the railway in the 1920s with railway postmarks; postcards of wrecks from the 1940 Battle of Narvik; and a commemorative cover for HMS Warspite. Also German postmarks applied to mail at Narvik in world War II; the mine at Kiruna and transit postmarks after World War II.
- Encyclopaedia of Motor Cycles on Stamps. Work on publishing a new edition; last produced nearly 30 years ago in black and white it is now being produced in colour. The catalogue numbers for Michel, Stanley Gibbons, Scott and Yvert will be listed.

Edith Knight

- Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote and a man who led an exotic life. Enlisted as a soldier in the Spanish Navy, he was captured by Barbary pirates and imprisoned for five years. He was finally rescued after a ransom paid by his parents and the Barefoot Trinitarians, a Catholic religious order.
- The Majorcan painter Erwin Hubert (1883 - 1963), a gifted artist whose watercolours were reproduced on postcards, brochures and posters for the Mallorca Tourist Office,

creating an idyllic image of the island. His work was exhibited in galleries across the world.

#### Rodney Knight

- Spanish ceramics. Some striking issues showing innovative pottery.
- Valencia: the City, the third largest in Spain; the Province of Valencia and, with Castellon and Alicante, the Autonomous Community of Valencia. Stamps, postal history, social, historic and thematic events associated with the City, Province and Community.

#### Heather Lawn

- The Parrot family, their history and evolution from their predecessors on the Gondwanaland supercontinent through to today. The display covered their distribution, habitat and behaviour.
- Cockatoos, their family, types and morphology. A member of the parrot family Cacatuidae, they are distinguishable from other parrots by their ability to raise their crest. They feed on the ground in flocks and one bird will stay in a tree to keep watch and raise the alarm if predators are spotted.

#### Margaret Morris

- Her philatelic interest in astronomy arose from working for 27 years as research assistant at the Observatory of the University of Glasgow. She showed observatories with ‘C’ or ‘D’ names including Copenhagen, Crakow (not Krakow) and Danzig (not Gdansk).

#### Nick Nelson

- Catering services in post offices. The first cover was “The genuine foundation for a spoof display on Catering in the Post Office”. Sent to Nick’s grandfather serving with the Imperial Yeomanry during the Boer War, it is addressed to “Post Office Restaurant, Cape Town”. It is thought the sender of this letter misunderstood the term “Poste Restante”! Also shown was a French stamp which gave off an aroma of coffee. This caused some dispute with French postal workers since they claimed the stamp smelt better than their works canteen coffee!
- The Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas. He was involved in a revolution in 1932, and served two terms as President.

#### Charles Oppenheim

- Multiple C’s with Correspondence Chess Cards (where players play by post), plus one Chess Congress.
- Patents which were used to protect inventions designed to prevent fraudulent re-use of stamps. Examples include stamps with punch holes going through part of the thickness of the stamp (from USA and Hawaii); “patent cancels” from the USA (designed to punch all the way through the stamp); and one example of the rare use of the Sloper patent, the first ever perfin making machine, used in the UK only from 1869, when the PMG permitted their use, to 1872, when Sloper's patent expired; thereafter anyone could make perfin-making machines, and perfins became common.

#### Brian Sole

- A ‘bicycle’ collection recently acquired from someone who had exhibited it at Stampex some years ago. It included a number of items never previously seen by Brian.
- Illustrations featured in the latest edition of the newsletter of the Bicycle Stamps Club, of which Brian is Editor. Items included stamps, poster stamps, membership cards, cyclist touring clubs, postmarks and handstamps. Did you know the Sherlock Holmes short story *The Adventure of the Priory School* hinged on identifying a tyre tread?

### Barry Stagg

- Sports derived from parachuting, namely hang gliding and base jumping. Be warned: the Eiffel Tower is the most dangerous building from which to try base jumping, due to its shape. You need to be very experienced and probably bonkers. It is not looked kindly on by the authorities.
- Four sheets on gravity, provoked by a judge at Essen last year criticising his entry on parachuting for not covering the subject. Included was a lovely Siege of Paris ballon monte cover carried on the balloon 'Newton' (discoverer of gravity).
- Daffodils, introduced to the UK around 2,000 years ago but which did not become prominent until the nineteenth century. Most are descended from just two wild daffodils. Not all illustrations are accurate - all daffodils have six petals; and as flower arrangers know, their sap is poisonous.

### Anne Stammers

- A selection of items on gold, silver or copper. This included a USA gold mining letter of 1853, most unusually going east to west (most surviving correspondence is mail sent from the prospectors in the west to family in the east); a beautiful padded envelope designed for posting jewellery; a uniform penny postage cover sent from one diamond centre to another: Hatton Garden to Amsterdam; a copper still and a maxicard of the (copper) Statue of Liberty.
- Diamond mining, including a 'Diamante' prestamp handstamp for Brazil, and a ship letter carried on the 'Gem'. Different cuts of diamonds, and their uses, were explained.
- Postcards of the Middle Thames starting at Nuneham Courtney, to Clifton Hampden, Benson, Wallingford, Sonning and Henley.

### Peter Weir

- World War I medicine, injuries and casualties, including recent acquisitions from Serbia, Jersey and Germany.
- New acquisitions for his collection on Blood, including artwork for a British Antarctic Territory stamp showing an octopus. All creatures are dependant on oxygen, and transporting oxygen to all parts of the body is a major function of blood. In the majority of animal species approximately 45% of their blood is made up of oxygen-binding and oxygen-transporting proteins contained in specialised oxygen carrying cells of the blood. In most animals including humans it is haemoglobin, an iron containing protein contained in the red cells which carries oxygen to all parts of the body. It is haemoglobin that gives blood its red colour. To survive in the deep ocean, octopuses evolved a copper rather than iron-based blood called haemocyanin, which makes its blood blue. This copper based protein is more efficient at transporting oxygen than haemoglobin when water temperature is very low and little oxygen is present.

### Morva White

- Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley, Falkland Islands. Waite Hockin Stirling, an Ordained Anglican Minister, went down to the South Atlantic as part of a team from the Patagonia Missionary Society. An HQ was set up on Keppel (one of the islands of the Falklands) from where missionaries sailed to Patagonia and Southern America. His work was recognised at Canterbury and when the time came to appoint a bishop in the area Stirling was summoned. He was consecrated in Westminster Abbey on 21st November 1869 as Bishop of the Falkland Islands (AND South America (except British Guiana)! But he was a Bishop without a Cathedral. So he, and the Colonial Chaplain (Revd Lowther Brandon) with help from his son-in-law (a banker in London) raised the £6,000 needed to build one. The Cathedral was finally consecrated on 21st February 1892 with great



*Delivering the mail by bike: Post & Go 2018*



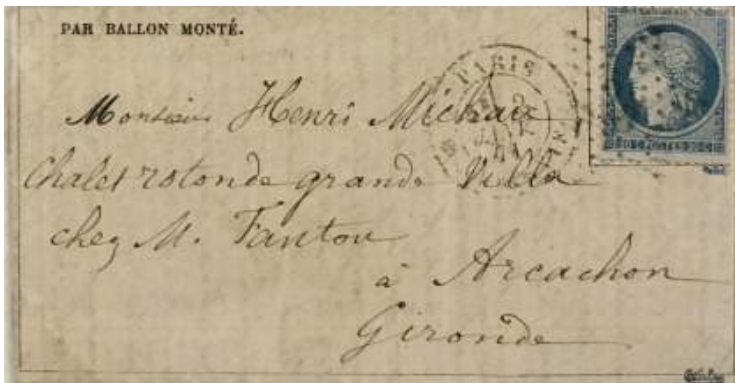
*British heroines of World War I*



*King parrot*



*Playing chess by mail*



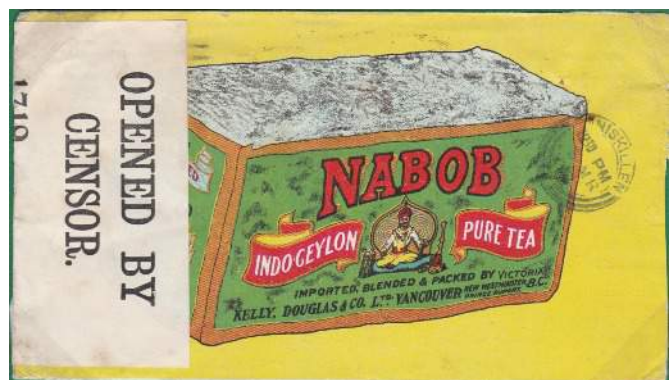
*Ballon monte "Newton"*



*Denmark Observatory*



*Christchurch Cathedral before the tower was completed in 1903*



*1917 envelope from Enniskillen*



celebration. However, the money ran out before the building could be completed and more money was raised (a further £3,000) to complete the Bell Tower in 1903. For the Centenary in 1992 there was another ambitious fundraising project. £600,000 was needed for major restoration work and new organ and heating system. 2017 saw the 125th anniversary.

Peter Wood

- Four items of Chinese postal stationery. Two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne and the Monastic site of Skellig Michael. Two show Caílin Áine Ní Toibín otherwise known as Miss Ireland and Miss Universe 2017. Perhaps a strange combination unless the designers brief was “The Beauties of Ireland”!
- People of the Irish Diaspora from Canada and Chile, including the independence leader Bernardo O’Higgins, whose name has been widely adopted for things including a ship and a hotel.
- Irish interest on illustrated covers. This included an illustrated envelope for “Nabob Indo Ceylon Pure Tea” which was posted from Vancouver to Enniskillen in 1917 and so subject to censorship. This shows the introduction of branding and pre-packaging in the grocery retail business of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and so would be great for a tea collection. However the relevance to this collection is the Canadian firm of “Kelly, Douglas & Co.” who registered the “Nabob” brand for tea and coffee in 1905. Robert Kelly (1861-1922) was the son of James Kelly a tailor who had been a famine refugee from Ireland.

With such a huge range of subjects and material on show there was something for everyone. Thanks are due to Barry whose skills as Chairman made the sessions zip along; and particular thanks to Anne for organising the whole thing. We all look forward to the next one. 📖



*Organiser and attendees*

# WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

*Geoff Hood*

**F**or thousands of years man has wondered about what we are really made of. This is a brief look at the science and the scientists behind the search to understand the fundamental nature of things.

## **The Ancient World**

The Chinese concept of Feng-Shui with origins dating to 4000BC considered that different forms of matter had one of five different attributes: Wood, Metal, Fire, Earth or Water. From around 1000BC in Mesopotamia it was thought that the alignments of the stars in the Zodiac had an influence on earthly things – the basis for Horoscopes. In the 5th century BC the Greek philosophers conceived the idea that all matter consisted of four fundamental elements – earth, air, fire and water - in different proportion, each element having a different combination of the ‘Qualities’ of dry, wet, hot and cold. Democritus (460-370BC) took the view in ca 400BC that, if matter could be subdivided sufficiently, it would be shown to consist of discrete particles, called Atoms (from the Greek term meaning ‘indivisible’).

These ancient ideas, which had a philosophical rather than physical basis, remained broadly unchanged for centuries. In the early 16th century the notable Swiss doctor Philippus von Hohenheim, known as Paracelsus (1493-1541), believed like the Greeks that natural things were mixtures of just a few substances, of which salt was one of the most important.

## **The 17th Century**

The 17th century saw a significant step towards a physically based view of matter. A key figure at this time was the chemist Robert Boyle (1627-91), the first to use experiment rather than argument to make discoveries: “The Scientific Method” .

He was a founder member in 1662 of the Royal Society whose motto “Take no-one’s word for it” captures this new approach. Using the newly invented air-pump, Boyle discovered that gases could be compressed and that volume is proportional to pressure - ‘Boyle’s Law’ . He deduced that this was best explained if gases consist of tiny particles

He knew of substances like sulphur and iron which could not be separated into simpler components by chemical means and defined them as “Elements”. He concluded that the solid particles of elements differed from each other in ways such as size or texture yet to be elucidated and that elements combine to give compounds.

## **Early 19th Century**

John Dalton (1766-1844), an English chemist, developed ideas of the nature of atoms. In 1803 he formulated his Law of Multiple Proportions asserting that combinations of elements of matter occur in definite simple proportions by weight. From this he was able to determine the relative weights of atoms. He also devised a system of symbols for the elements.

Jacob Berzelius (1779-1848), a Swedish chemist, developed the nomenclature. He invented the system we now use, abandoning symbols and abbreviating the Latin names of the elements down to one or two letters, such as H for hydrogen, O for oxygen and Na (natrium) for sodium.

Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac (1778-1850) was a leading French scientist, one of 72 names inscribed on the Eiffel Tower. Having found that two volumes of hydrogen reacted with one volume of oxygen to give two volumes of gaseous water, he proposed in 1808 that for any gases the ratio of reactants and products can be expressed in simple whole numbers: The Law of Combining Volumes. He also showed that chlorine is an element.

Amedeo Avogadro (1776-1856) theorized on the basis of Gay-Lussac's results, that equal volumes of gas contain equal numbers of molecules. So two molecules of hydrogen plus one molecule of oxygen give two molecules of water. This led to the diameter of an atom being estimated as  $10^{-10}$  metres, so small that 10,000 of the German 20 billion mark 1923 hyper-inflation stamps would have a face-value equal to the number of atoms in just one perforation tooth.

### **Late 19th Century**

An increasing number of elements were being discovered. There were various attempts to detect some pattern in the properties of the elements but with very limited success. Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907), a Russian chemist, made a breakthrough in 1869. He found that if the 64 elements then known were arranged in order of weight then similar properties were repeated periodically. His major insight was to realise that for this to work properly, it was necessary to leave gaps in the table. He predicted correctly that elements would eventually be discovered that would fill these gaps; we now know of 118 elements.

Max Planck (1858-1947), a German physicist, was the originator of the Quantum theory. He observed that the intensity  $E$  of the light emitted by hot bodies was proportional to its frequency  $\nu$ , so that  $E = h\nu$ . We now know  $h$  as Planck's constant. He postulated that light could only be transmitted in fixed amounts .or 'Quanta'.

Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937), a New Zealander, investigated sub-atomic structure. At McGill University in Canada he and Frederick Soddy (1877-1956) explored and identified two types of radiation - alpha and beta rays, the latter identified as electrons. After moving to Manchester University his team investigated the effect of bombarding gold foil with alpha particles. Instead of passing straight through as the earlier concept of 'solid' atoms would imply, they found that some were deflected. Rutherford concluded in 1911 that atoms consist of a tiny heavy core surrounded by diffuse mass of electrons.

### **20th Century**

The first half of the 20th century saw major advances in the field of sub-atomic structure, involving a succession of European physicists. Neils Bohr (1885-1962), a Dane working in Copenhagen, developed Rutherford's model of the atom and Planck's Quantum Theory. He suggested that the atom consists of a small, positively charged nucleus surrounded by electrons that travel in circular orbits around the nucleus, similar to the structure of the Solar System. Classical mechanics predicted that the electrons would rapidly collapse into the nucleus. To overcome this difficulty, Bohr extended Planck's idea and proposed, in 1913, that electrons could only orbit stably in certain orbits each with a definite energy. He further surmised that different elements have different numbers of electrons.

Louis de Broglie (1892-1987), a French physicist, developed wave mechanics. In 1924 de Broglie surmised that, as Einstein had found with light, 'solid' matter could appear as either waves or particles depending on how they were observed. He expressed the relationship by the de Broglie Equation  $\kappa = h/mv$  where  $\kappa$  is wavelength  $m$  and  $v$  are the mass and velocity of the particle and  $h$  is Planck's constant.



Democritus



Paracelsus



Robert Boyle



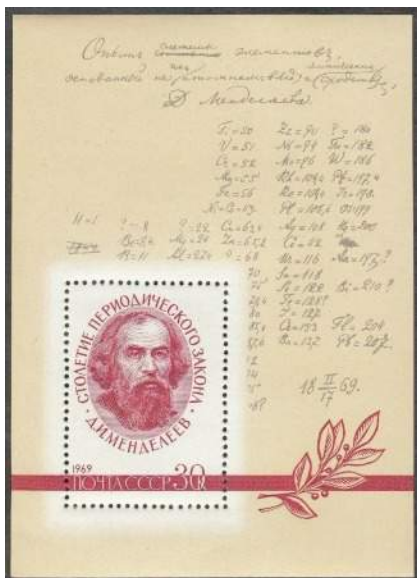
Carbon and Sulphur



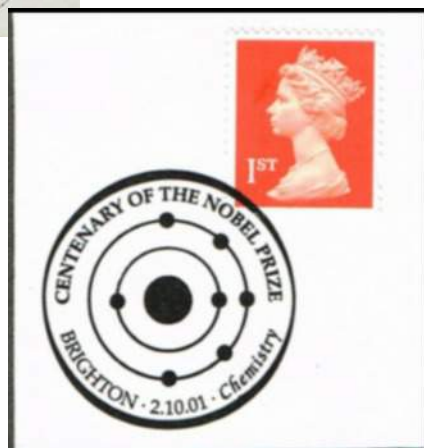
Gay-Lussac



Max Planck



Mendeleev and his work on the properties of elements



Niels Bohr: the rotation of atoms

Werther Heisenberg and the Uncertainty Principle



Werner Heisenberg (1901-1976), a German physicist, worked with Bohr in Copenhagen. In 1927 he realised that a property of wave-like systems is that it is inherently impossible at the atomic level to determine location and velocity at the same time: his Uncertainty Principle.

Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961), an Austrian physicist, studied Wave Mechanics, developing de Broglie's wave interpretation of atomic structure further and formulating in 1925 Schrödinger's Equation which represented the behaviour of these waves. He could not accept the idea that fundamental particles appeared to be waves or particles depending on how they were examined. Attempting to ridicule this idea he proposed in 1935 what is now called the Schrödinger's Cat Thought Experiment. A cat in a box was considered neither dead nor alive until someone looked at it.



*Schrödinger's Cat!*

Paul Dirac (1902-1984), an English physicist, discovered in 1928 the first particle of antimatter, the positron.


Murray Gell-Mann and George Zweig worked on sub-atomic structure. In 1964 they independently proposed that the properties of the subatomic particles could best be explained if they consisted of even smaller particles, which were christened 'quarks'. Several types of quark, bizarrely known as flavors, were discovered and given whimsical names – Up, Down, Strange, Charm, Top, and Bottom.

### **21st century**

Most recently, research on sub-atomic structure has concentrated on an esoteric mathematical approach increasingly difficult for the non-specialist to comprehend, where particles of matter can be represented by minuscule 'strings' vibrating in different modes.

It seems we may be heading towards an almost metaphysical view of what matter is, perhaps reminiscent of the 2500 year old ideas of the Greek philosophers.

### **Postscript**

Ernest Rutherford said "All science is either physics or stamp collecting". And here we have both. To see the competition entry on which this article is based go to [www.britishtematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm](http://www.britishtematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm) 

# THE FAMOUS ARTISTS OF CHEYNE WALK, CHELSEA, LONDON

*Chris Wheeler*

## Introduction

**C**heyne Walk takes its name from William Lord Cheyne who owned the manor of Chelsea until 1712. Most of the houses were built in the early eighteenth century. The most prominent building is Carlyle Mansions, built in 1886. Cheyne Walk has a unique history. It was originally on the Thames waterfront until the Big Stink of 1858. This required the new sewer, built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who reclaimed the land that is now the Chelsea Embankment. Cheyne Walk became a haven for artists of all kinds, with Gentlemen's Clubs nearby offering studios for artists to gather and develop their skills. Chelsea Wharf, with its houseboats, still remains at the western end of the street. This article looks at some of the key artists who lived in Cheyne Walk over the last 200 years.



### No.4. Charles West Cope (1811 – 1890)

Cope was born in Leeds and spent much of his life in London as a painter of historical scenes, and an etcher. He was responsible for many years for painting several frescoes in the House of Lords, such as *The First Trial by Jury*. In 1848 he became a Royal Academician (RA) exhibiting a large work *Cardinal Wolsey's Reception at Leicester Abbey*.

### No.4. Daniel Maclise (1806 – 1870)

Maclise was born in Cork and studied at the Cork School of Art. In 1825 it happened that Sir Walter Scott was travelling in Ireland, and young Maclise, having seen him in a bookseller's shop, made a surreptitious sketch of the great man, which he afterwards lithographed. It became very popular and led to many commissions for portraits, which he executed in pencil. Two of his most famous works are the murals in the House of Lords *The Death of Nelson* and *The Meeting of Wellington and Blücher at Waterloo*. Two of his paintings also hang in the House of Lords: *The Spirit of Chivalry* and *Justice*. He was a close friend of Charles Dickens.

### No.10. Gerald Scarfe (1936 - )

Gerald Anthony Scarfe CBE, RDI, the English cartoonist and illustrator worked as editorial cartoonist for the *Sunday Times* and illustrator for *The New Yorker*. His other works include graphics for rock group Pink Floyd, particularly on their 1979 album *The Wall*, and its 1982 film adaptation. Scarfe was the production designer on the Disney animated feature *Hercules* in 1997. He has designed sets for operas including *The Magic Flute* and *Orpheus in the Underworld*. He also provided the opening titles for *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* on British television.

No. 15. Cecil Gordon Lawson (1849 – 1882)

Cecil Lawson was an English landscape painter. He was the youngest son of William Lawson of Edinburgh, a well-regarded portrait painter, and of a mother also known for her flower pieces. Two of his brothers were also trained as artists. Soon after his birth the Lawsons moved to Chelsea. Lawson's first works were studies of fruit, flowers, etc. in the manner of William Henry Hunt; followed by riverside Chelsea subjects. His first exhibit at the Royal Academy (1870) was *Cheyne Walk*.

No.16. Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828 – 1882)

Rossetti was an English poet, illustrator, painter and translator. Together with William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais in 1848 he was a co-founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. His art was characterised by its sensuality. Poetry and image are closely entwined in Rossetti's work. He frequently wrote sonnets to accompany his pictures, such as *Autumn Song*. His personal life was closely linked to his work, especially his relationships with his models and muses Elizabeth Siddal, Fanny Cornforth and Jane Morris.

No. 21, 72, 96 and 101. James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834 – 1903)

Whistler was an American artist best known for his most famous painting *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1* commonly known as "Whistler's Mother". He first went to Paris in 1855, rented a studio in the Latin Quarter, and quickly adopted the life of a bohemian artist. He later made several more visits, set up a school there, and influenced many younger artists of the time. After he moved to London he painted several nocturnes over the next ten years, many of the River Thames and of Cremorne Gardens, a pleasure park famous for its frequent fireworks displays, which presented a novel challenge to paint.

No.91. Charles Edward Conder (1868 – 1909)

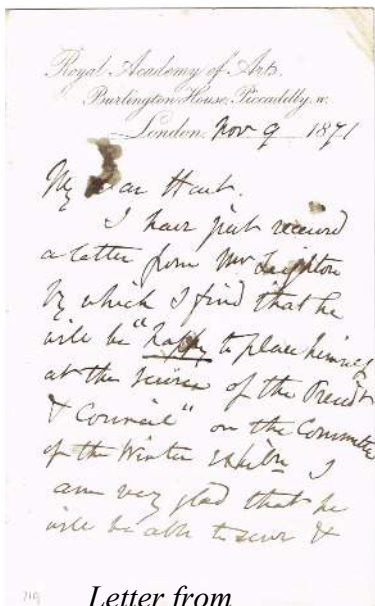
Conder was an English-born painter, lithographer and designer. He emigrated to Australia and was a key figure in the Heidelberg School, arguably the beginnings of a distinctively Australian tradition in Western art. (Heidelberg is an area east of Melbourne). Conder was a fun-loving man who painted with an often humorous touch. While staying with Tom Roberts in Grosvenor Chambers, Melbourne in 1888, he painted *A Holiday at Mentone* which shows men and women at the beach relaxing while clothed from head to foot – the men in suits and hats, the ladies in long, girdled dresses with boots and pretty hats. The man and woman at the front of the painting face away from each other, yet are possibly watching each other from the corner of their eye. Conder was one of a number of painters who had been directly or indirectly influenced by Whistler.

No.101. Mortimer Luddington Menpes (1855 – 1938)

Menpes was born in Port Adelaide, South Australia, the son of a property developer, who retired and brought his family to England in 1875. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1880, and became a pupil of Whistler (though he later fell out with him). He travelled to Japan in 1887 and in 1900 went to South Africa as a war artist. As well as a painter he was a prolific printmaker, producing over 700 etchings and drypoints.



*Cheyne Walk, 1719*



Letter from Charles West Cope



*Charles Dickens by Daniel Maclise*



*Rossetti*



*James McNeill Whistler*





*Charles Edward Conder*



*Bookplate from Mortimer Menpes' travels in Japan in 1887*



*J. W. M. Turner*



*Statue of Carlyle in Cheyne Walk*


No.109. Philip Wilson Steer (1860 – 1942)

Steer was a British painter of landscapes, seascapes, portraits and figure studies. He was also an influential art teacher. His sea and landscape paintings made him a leading figure in the Impressionist movement in Britain, but in time he turned to a more traditional English style, influenced by John Constable and J.M.W. Turner, and spent more time painting in the countryside rather than on the coast.

No.119. Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775 – 1851)

J.M.W. Turner was an English Romanticist landscape painter. He was considered a controversial figure in his day. Although renowned for his oil paintings Turner is also one of the greatest masters of British watercolour landscape painting. He is commonly known as “the painter of light”. He is buried in St. Paul’s Cathedral.

No.5. Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1881)

Carlyle’s house in Cheyne Walk is now a National Trust property and displays works by many of the artists who lived in the area. His statue features prominently at the western end of Cheyne Walk. 



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# BTA NEWS

## WEBSITE UPDATES

Whilst competing is only one aspect of collecting we are keen to showcase those who do take part, at any level. We have started showing competitions entered into to our own competitions, to national and to international exhibitions. The international exhibits in particular are a source of ideas and inspiration for the rest of us on how to improve marks; or if you do not compete, just a feast for the eyes. If you have an exhibit you would like displayed (or have scans of a previous exhibit) please contact the Editor at [wendybuckle@btinternet.com](mailto:wendybuckle@btinternet.com) to arrange sending the scans.

You will find the existing displays under the “Displaying Thematic Collections” section of our website [www.britishthematic.org.uk/](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/)

Readers of *Stamp Magazine* will be familiar with the long-running series on “GB Themes” by BTA member Jeff Dugdale. Jeff has analysed GB commemorative stamp issues by theme and woven the story they tell into a narrative for each theme. He has now very kindly made his original versions of his articles (with embedded illustrations) available to BTA members. The file can for each year be found on our website at [www.britishthematic.org.uk/themes-on-gb-stamps.htm](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/themes-on-gb-stamps.htm)

Together with a subject index 35 themes have been covered to date, with more in the pipeline. Jeff will keep this list up to date as more articles are published. If anyone would like more information please contact him at [jefforbited@aol.com](mailto:jefforbited@aol.com)

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Unless you have prepaid for 2019 you will find a renewal slip with this issue of *Themescene*. You have the option of paying the full renewal fee, which entitles you to a print copy of *Themescene*, or paying a reduced fee of £15.00 if you wish to receive the electronic-only version of *Themescene*. The choice of course is entirely yours, but this is a cheaper option, and for overseas members a much cheaper option. Just indicate your choice on the renewal form.

Whichever option you choose, all members have access to the e-version of *Themescene* via the BTA website. You will need to set up a username and password. Go to [www.britishthematic.org.uk/users/index.php](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/users/index.php) and click “Request a Password”.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

NEXT BTA MEETING

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL

Royal Philatelic Society London,  
41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY

10.00 John Scott *The Evolution of the Postcard*

14.00 Tony Statham *Ornithological Philately*

# EXHIBITING PAGE 1: BTA COMPETITIONS 2018

**A**s ever, our annual competitions took place as part of the South of England Stamp Fair and Convention, hosted by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and held at the Ardingly Showground. If you've not been to this event before I can thoroughly recommend it. Forty high class dealers with a wide range of material, excellent catering, free parking, and not least, one of the nicest settings any show is likely to provide. The ASPS volunteers made us very welcome, and could not have been more helpful putting up and taking down displays.

Our competitions featured six very different subjects, all very neatly presented, and which attracted many viewers during the day, giving us the chance to promote the BTA and pictorial collecting in particular. The entries, all sixteen sheet, were:

## **BTA CUP FOR THEMATIC PHILATELY**

\*Wayne Cox      Pillars of the Community      Winner.  
Large Vermeil

The evolution of the British pillar box in the reign of Queen Victoria. The pillar box has always been a distinctive, practical and extremely popular feature of British streets. The exhibit explores how the first pillar boxes came to be introduced, and have also been used in locations across the globe. It follows their evolution until the ideal designs were arrived at towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign. These designs have remained standard up to the present day.

David Wiskin      Shackleton: the British Antarctic Expedition 1907      Large Vermeil

Shackleton's second journey to the Antarctic was his most successful one. Achievements included a first ascent of Mount Erebus, establishment of the position of the magnetic South Pole, and reaching the furthest south anyone had been by that day, just 97 miles from the Pole.

\*Geoff Hood      What Can the Matter Be?      Large Silver

The science and scientists behind Man's search for the fundamental nature of things. Starting with Chinese and Egyptian philosophers, it goes on to Robert Boyle and the seventeenth century, then charts research into the atom, quantum theory and the latest research including string theory.

David Sumpter      Turtles: an endangered species      Silver

Sea turtles are cold-blooded reptiles, members of the order Chelonia. The five main species are Green, Pacific Ridley and Kemps Ridley, Leatherback, Loggerhead and Hawksbill turtles. They do not breed until they are twenty or thirty years old, at which time they lay their eggs on beaches and immediately return to the sea. Although in danger from Man and the changing environment, one hope for preservation is through eco-tourism.

## JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY FOR OPEN PHILATELY

\*Wendy Buckle      Animal Vegetable or Mineral      Large Vermeil

Many materials besides paper have been used for writing. Whilst our very earliest records are prehistoric cave paintings, the first codified form of writing - cuneiform - used clay tablets. Besides stone and clay the display covers metal, wood, bark, leaves and stems, animal bone and skin.

## BRIAN SOLE TROPHY FOR PICTURE POSTCARDS

\*Malcolm Gascoyne    Lim Poh Chiang and Longhouse Photo Supply,    Large Vermeil  
Sibu

The story of the photographer Lim Poh Chiang who was born in 1924 in Lembangan, Sibu, Sarawak. After working for a time in banking he set up as a trader in antiques and handicrafts - the Longhouse Arts and Crafts - at 19, High Street, Sibu. With a deep interest in photography he spent a lot of time exploring the Rejang River looking for photographic inspiration. This display shows some of his early post-war black and white real photographs of subjects; 1950's black and white real photograph postcards, and from the early 1960's colour postcards produced in the USA.

\* Entries marked with an asterisk are available in full on the BTA website at <https://www.britishthematic.org.uk/examples-of-exhibits-bta-competitions.htm>

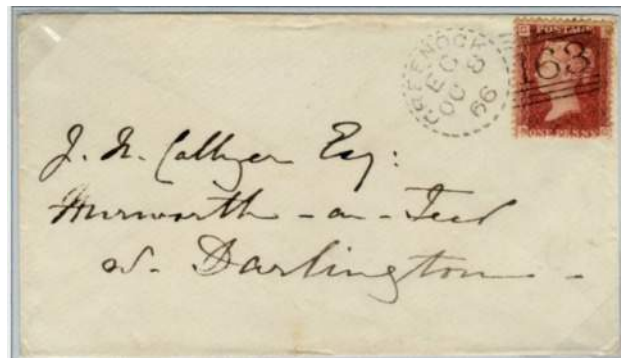


*Wayne Cox receiving the BTA Cup from Barry Stagg*



*Malcolm Gascoyne receiving the Brian Sole Trophy from Anne Stammers*

*Cover posted in Greenock bearing a dotted circle duplex cancel. These postmarks were only applied to letters posted in pillar boxes [Wayne Cox].*



## EXHIBITING PAGE 2: AUTUMN STAMPEX

Whilst most of the displays at Autumn Stampex were based around the invited participation of the American Philatelic Society, the Forces Postal History Society and the Civil Censorship Group, there were in addition nine thematic entries. BTA entries were:

Wendy Buckle                      Paper Past and Present                      Gold


The invention of papermaking in China and the spread of this knowledge across the world. Early production by hand followed by nineteenth century industrialisation and large-scale production.

David Wiskin                      Shackleton                      Large Vermeil

The story of the Arctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, who undertook three expeditions to the South Pole in 1907, 1914 and 1922.

The outstanding thematic entry was by an American entrant Phillip Stager: *The Coconut Palm: palm of life and palm of commerce* a superb seven frame display which deservedly won a Large Gold.

While there were no Open or Postcard entries this time (rather bucking the recent trend for Open to dominate) BTA Patron Brian Sole had two entries of pictorial interest. In the postal history class was *Communication at Sea* - the use of postal stationery to pass messages between ships by cable and telegraph systems; and in the Cinderella class *The Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain 1909 to 1939*.

It was announced during the show that after an evaluation of the Ephemera Class at Spring Stampex this year that this class would continue to be included at Stampex. Consideration is also being given to adding more non-FIP classes in an attempt to encourage as wide participation as possible at the national competitions. In the USA they have widened their classes considerably, and now include categories for First Day Covers, Illustrated Mail, and "Experimental Exhibits". It is all aimed at giving all types of collector the opportunity to take part, which is to be welcomed. 

STAMPEX AUTUMN 2020  
A chance for you to show your collection  
as part of the BTA lead society.  
Start thinking about it now!



## **EXHIBITING PAGE 3: FUTURE EXHIBITIONS**

### **LONDON 2010. 02 - 09 MAY 2020**

There will be thirteen competitive classes including Thematic Philately, Open Philately and Picture Postcards. To ensure that as many exhibitors as possible can be accepted, the frames will be used twice during the week with exhibits being swapped on Tuesday 05 May. At the time of going to press it had not been announced which classes will be displayed in which half of the week; nor did the official website [www.london2020.co/classes](http://www.london2020.co/classes) have the closing date for applications.

### **EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY**

This is held every two years, and until now has been held in Essen, Germany in May. However in 2019 it will move to 22 - 24 November, and will be held in Verona, Italy as part of the 133th VERONAFIL International Stamp Fair. The Italian national thematic association (CIFT) and the Union of Olympic and Sport Collectors (UICOS) will both be involved in its organisation.

### **NOTOS 2021**

There will be an international exhibition in Athens from 19 - 22 November 2021, with FEPA and FIP patronage. They are promising "High philatelic standards coupled with very low exhibitor's fees" so if you are looking to try exhibiting internationally for the first time this may be a welcoming place to start. You can sign up for their newsletter at <http://hps.gr/notos2021>

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# HERE AND THERE

## HORSES ON GB STAMPS: PRESENTATION TO THE MUSEUM OF THE HORSE, TUXFORD, NOTTS

A mounted display of mint Great Britain stamps was presented to the Museum of the Horse in Tuxford at the beginning of the year by BTA member Chris Wheeler. It consisted of sets featuring breeds of horses, or those carrying out various activities such as military, farming, ceremonial, hunting, sporting and law enforcement.

On the first floor of this privately-owned Museum are hundreds of items from around the world, and on the ground floor there are three galleries dedicated to paintings of horses and dogs. Prints and cards are available for sale and there is a large framing studio. Regular tutorials and an art school are run from there. Several national exhibitions also take place there each year. Sally Mitchell, the owner, was very pleased with her gift, and has had it framed and put on display



## MARKING THE END OF WORLD WAR I

Of course this has been marked philatelically in many countries. The British Post Office has chosen to issue a composite sheet of the 30 stamps making up its five-year series on the subject. They are arranged vertically in se-tenant strips according to theme: poppies, poetry, portraits, art, memorials and artefacts, which rather neatly shows different ways of approaching aspects of a World War I collection. You might blanch at the price - £32.94 - but the sheet does represent some of Royal Mail's more worthy issues.

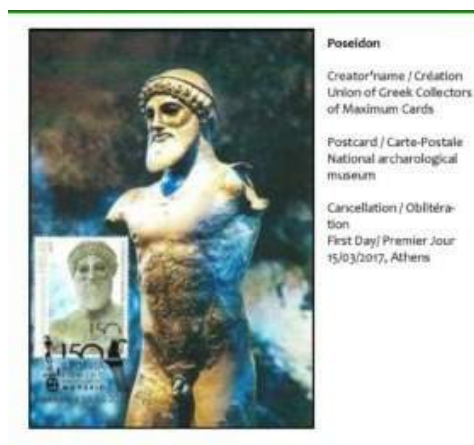
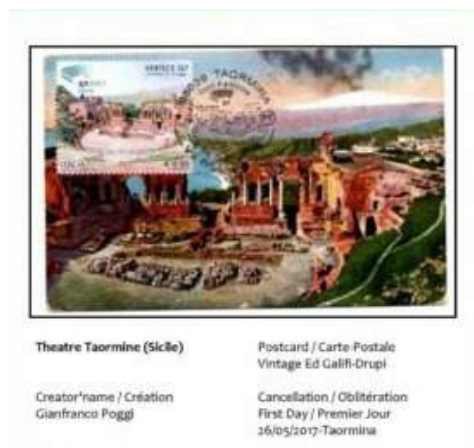




## BEST MAXIMUM CARD IN THE WORLD COMPETITION

The FIP Commission for Maximaphily organises an annual vote for the best maximum card issued the previous year. Results for 2017 issues are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	France	78 points	= 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Finland	24 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Italy	45 points	= 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greece	24 points



## BILL HART AWARD 2018

David Armitage has been presented with the 2018 Bill Hart Award for exceptional service to youth philately. He has served on the National Youth Stamp Group and Stamp Active Network for over fifteen years and stood down at the end of 2017 as Events Manager. David was one of the leading figures in developing the youth area at both Spring and Autumn Stampex and has put in a huge amount of effort over the years. Apart from his youth work, David has also been one of the key figures in the Essex Philatelic Federation and Canadian Philatelic Society (Past President).

## NEW CHAIRMAN FOR STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

Susan Henderson has agreed to take the position of Chairman of the Stamp Active Network. She replaces BTA member John Davies who remains very involved with SAN as Events Manager. John is to be greatly thanked for his many years service and congratulated on his election as President of the GB Philatelic Society.

# 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.)*

## CHRISTMAS POSTBOXES

It will soon be Christmas, and time to send cards, letters and parcels through the post. Who will you post a Christmas card to? Your friend? Granny? Cousin? Once you have written your Christmas card, you'll need to buy a stamp from the Post Office, local shop or supermarket, and post it in a postbox. Make sure you buy a Christmas stamp to make your envelope look really special and festive.



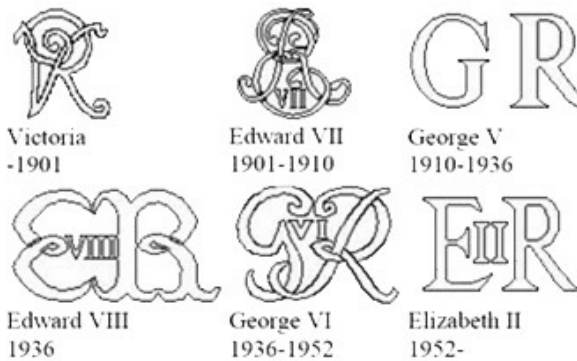
The drawings for this year's six Christmas Postbox stamps have all been drawn by an English artist from Gloucestershire called Andrew Davidson. The stamps show traditional red coloured postboxes, ranging from small postboxes mounted on a post or in a wall, to a large one with a double posting slot.



Each stamp shows a **Royal cypher** on the front of the postbox from the six Kings and Queens of the last 100 years. **What is a Royal cypher?** It's a design usually made from the initial letters of the King or Queen's name, sometimes with a crown image. Have a look at the postboxes on the new Christmas stamps and at the Royal cyphers shown below, can you see which postbox has which cypher?



Answers



2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp: King Edward VII (7<sup>th</sup>) 1901 - 1910.  
 1<sup>st</sup> class stamp: Queen Elizabeth II (2<sup>nd</sup>) (first of Scotland) 1952 - 1936 - 1952  
 £1.25: King George VI (6<sup>th</sup>)  
 £1.45: Queen Victoria 1837 - 1901  
 £1.55: King Edward VIII (8<sup>th</sup>) 1936  
 £2.25: King George V (5<sup>th</sup>) 1910 - 1936

**Have a look at a postbox near where you live, which Royal cypher is on it?**

**Write and tell us to win a Christmas stamp prize (children only) to: Just4Kids, c/o The Editor, Themescene, 87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth BH1 4RS.**

Find out more about stamp collecting on the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)

# 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.astropacestampssociety.com](http://www.astropacestampssociety.com)

## Bicycle Stamps Club

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

Email: [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

## Bird Stamp Society

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

Email: [tony.statham@sky.com](mailto:tony.statham@sky.com)

Web: <http://www.birdstampssociety.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.

## Exhibition Study Group

Mr. D. Knight, 2 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN4 9RF.

Email: [donaldrk@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldrk@btinternet.com) Web: [www.exhibitionstudygroup.org](http://www.exhibitionstudygroup.org)

## 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](mailto:masonicphilatelicclub@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## Scout and Guide Stamps Club

Mr Bernard Tewksbury, 11 Claypits Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex. CM3 3BZ

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>

# BTA PROGRAMME 2019

- April 13<sup>th</sup> **Meeting with guest speakers 10.00 - 15.30**  
10.00 John Scott, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection  
*The Evolution of the Postcard*  
14.00 Tony Statham, Chairman of the Bird Stamp Society  
*Ornithological Philately*  
*At:* Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place,  
London, W1G 6JY
- June 8<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker 14.30**  
Guest speaker: Wayne Cox  
*Victorian Letter Boxes*  
*At* Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College  
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR  
<https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicsociety/swinpex>  
Swinpex has over 40 dealers, free parking, and refreshments  
on sale all day.
- July 20<sup>th</sup> **Members' meeting 10.00 - 12.00**  
Members' displays of 12 sheets  
*At:* York Stamp Fair  
York Racecourse  
YO23 1EX  
<http://www.stampshows.net/>  
A chance for our Northern members to meet up. The Fair has  
95 stamp dealers and 60 coin, banknote and medal dealers.  
Entry is free and there are restaurant facilities.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> **BTA Competitions**  
*At:* South of England Stamp Fair  
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL  
[www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South\\_of\\_England\\_Stamp\\_Fair.php](http://www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php)  
Over 40 dealers, free parking and cafe facilities.

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**BTA RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND page 113  
1890 PENNY POST JUBILEE**



*Proposed stamp to be issued to mark the Jubilee*



*The Inland Revenue requested Perkins Bacon to reprint various die proofs for exhibition at the Guildhall. This is the Penny Black "Old Original" die*



*Cover addressed to the Prince of Wales by Henry Cecil Raikes, Postmaster General, on the first night of the celebrations*

