

# THEMESCENE

March 2020

*In this issue we:*

*Go underground*

**Falun Mine**

*With Andrew Millington*



*Use maxi-cards to look at the past*

**Jaffa Gate and the Tower of David**

*With Paulo Duek*



*Admire some markings*

**“Most Beautiful Butterfly in the World”**

*With Vladimir Kachan*



*Take a Hazardous Voyage*

**Mayflower Celebrations**

*With Wendy Buckle*



*And visit Australia*

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Fig 7: King John III



Fig 9a: Säter freepost to Falun



Fig 12a: Mine collapse



Falun mine today. Photo taken by Lapplaender, CC BY-SA 2.0 de, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=673131>

# THEMESCENE

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## THEMESCENE

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# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

With a roll of editorial drums I am delighted to publish full details of next residential weekend: the fifth one we have arranged (page 33). It seems to go from strength to strength, attracting both regular and new attendees, and I'm quietly confident this will be no exception. The eagle-eyed among you will spot a name-change for the hotel. The hotel is the same, but it's changed hands; we know it will be up to the standard we have come to expect. If you have not attended one of these before we can promise you a warm welcome, a friendly environment, an informal and entertaining programme and lots of chances to chat to fellow collectors.

At the last Committee meeting it was suggested that I contact our overseas members and ask for their perspective on collecting in their own countries. I'm delighted to publish the first one on this subject, from Australia (page 23), where it seems that they face the same challenges of an ageing profile and declining support for societies that we do in the UK. I'm also pleased to publish an article from Israel (page 10) on maxicards, something not often covered in this magazine.

In his Chairman's Page Barry has explained why he wants BTA members to support our initiative at Autumn Stampex this year. Thank you to all those who have already offered material; if you have not yet decided whether to take part, please do consider giving your support. As explained on page 28 if you want to display but not be judged you have the option of sending photocopies/scans rather than original pages, which may be an attraction for those who need to post their items. Stampex does charge £25 per frame to show (copy or original) but we are offering a small subsidy for first-timers. (Needless to say the fees go to Stampex not us!). The event will be well worth visiting as a programme is being prepared in support of pictorial collecting. Two talks are scheduled, plus one or two walks round the frames given by an experienced exhibitor. Watch the Stampex website for full details, meanwhile page 36 of this issue gives the information known to date.

Before that of course is London 2020. The list of exhibits is now on the website including, I'm pleased to say, ten BTA members showing in the Pictorial classes (page 27). With a total of 88 entries comprising 465 frames of thematic, open and postcard this is an opportunity for viewing not to be missed. There will of course be a full report on the event in the next issue of *Themescene*.

## Membership news

We are pleased to welcome new member Ms Susan Greenwood of Wokingham. With regret we announce the death of BTA member Geoff Hood. For many years his primary collection was "More than a pretty picture" the story of heraldry, a subject on which he had articles published in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *Themescene* (March - June 2011) and which he exhibited. He always enjoyed displaying and exhibiting, and his more recent interest "What can the matter be", on which he wrote an article for *Themescene* (December 2018), is in our website .

Finally, an apology from me. In December *Themescene* I spelt a member's name wrongly. Mark Humfrey (rather than Humphrey) entered our competitions last year, winning the BTA Cup. An unforgivable mistake. 📖

# CHAIRMAN

**Barry Stagg**

Opportunities rarely come twice in my experience. It does not matter what the scenario is, buying an unusual stamp, or a house, or offered a new post at work, hesitate and somebody else gets it! And the offer is not made again. Ever. That's why I grabbed the chance for the BTA to be the lead society at the Autumn 2020 Stampex. Perhaps it is a little overstated to say it is a once in a lifetime chance to show what the BTA members collect, but I don't see the offer being made again for many years. With 70 specialist societies affiliated to the ABPS the Stampex organisers have plenty of societies to choose from. So I make no apology for urging you all to consider showing some of your collection. I know there are many of you with interesting topics and I would love to see them. Please give it some thought and let's see if we can put on a display that Stampex will talk about for years to come! I understand applications for entries will be opened on the ABPS website in March or April. Please don't hesitate – it may be some time before we have another opportunity.

Your Committee is very aware that much of the BTA membership is spread across the UK and for that reason we have held meetings in past years in Wakefield, Perth and York. Although we will continue to hold a meeting most years in London we are keen to continue to take the BTA 'outside the M25'. But where? If you have a view on this, perhaps on where we should go or the format of the meeting, then please let the Editor or me know.

I know many of you use the winter months to write up your collections, or to at least put your recent purchases in some sort of order. Some parts of the country have had floods and high winds and the weather has been appalling, but not so here in Gloucestershire. A mild winter (so far!) has resulted in an early showing of spring bulbs – which is very nice, but the annual spring desire to get outside and get the garden into shape is now with me! And as I write this it is only the 1st February! I feel that my stamps have taken a very back seat this winter. Last year at this time we had snow, schools were shut and my collection got some much needed attention. But not this year! However, there is a traditional event every year in mid-March that has attracted heavy rain, snow and freezing temperatures – the Cheltenham Gold Cup! So if you are watching the horse racing in March and the weather is terrible – at least you will know one man who is happily sorting out his collection!

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS**

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their subscriptions. If you have not yet done so you will find a renewal slip with this issue of *Themescene*. If you have very recently renewed please ignore this reminder.

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 '[Resources](#)' tab on the BTA website. You will need to set up a username and password. Go to the [Members](#) tab of the BTA website and click "Request a Password".

# FALUN MINE: VIKING MINE TO WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN 1500 YEARS, OR THEREABOUTS

*Andrew Millington*

Stockholm 2019 provided me with one reason to visit Sweden, visiting the Great Copper Mountain at Falun provided another. Two Swedish stamps have illustrated Falun Mine (SG732 & 1400) as well as a booklet to celebrate its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list (fig 1). But its thematic story can be illustrated with lots of other philatelic and non-philatelic material.

Let's wind the clock back a millennia to when you were a Swedish goatherd. Kåre, one of your flock, disappears and returns covered in red soil. He wanders off again. You follow and find him rolling in red soil. You dig and find chalcopyrite, the world's most economically-important copper ore. However, you unearthed more than copper, you sparked a chain of events that will span centuries and change history. This is the discovery myth of Falun Mine. Other mine discovery myths exist in Scandinavia, with goats, wild cattle and reindeer being prospectors.

The ores at Falun formed about 1,890 million years ago, when present-day Scandinavia was located in the equivalent of the sub-tropical South Atlantic. Volcanoes rose from the sea floor, ash and lava reacted with sea water to form copper, as well as bismuth, gold, iron, lead, selenium, silver and zinc. In fact, over 138 minerals have been discovered at Falun Mine. Later, the sediments were folded into mountain ranges, which were then eroded down to the shield landscapes of Scandinavia. The topography in central Sweden is subdued but, below ground, Falun mine exposes a huge Z-shaped fold.

Mining started around 500-800 AD. Bog iron was mined first and when Olav the Holy (King Olaf II Haraldsson 995-1030, fig 2) travelled through central Sweden he called the area Jarnberaland - the iron-bearing land.

Mine owners were descendants of farmers who had mined and smelted iron from the bogs on their land in Viking times. These 'miner-farmers' or Bergslagen owned shares in Falun mine in proportion to the number of smelter bellows on their farms. By the 13th and 14th centuries, important people in Sweden and the German city of Lübeck (fig 3) owned shares in the mine. A 1288 document is the Bishop of Västerås' 1/8th share in the mine. It is the world's oldest surviving share certificate; making the descendent company, Stora ENSO, the world's oldest joint stock company. Lübeck was a major city in the Hanseatic League and conducted trade in copper ingots with Sweden using boats called cogs (fig 4).

The Swedish crown claimed all forests, mines and water by charter in 1397 and from the late 14th century Swedish monarchs became influential mine owners at Falun. More importantly, the fortunes of the Swedish crown were closely tied to the mine. When Gustav Vasa became king in 1523 (fig 5) he made considerable changes at Falun. The mine owners became wealthy backers of the war he waged against the Scandinavian Kalmar Union (fig 6), after which Sweden (including southern Finland and Åland) became independent. Falun copper was used to make weapons and paid Scottish and German mercenaries.



*Fig 1: Falun Mine UNESCO World Heritage Site*



*Fig 2: Olav the Holy*



*Fig 3: 800th anniversary of Lübeck*



*Fig 4: Trading in cogs*



*Fig 5: King Gustav Vasa*



*Fig 6: Kalmar Union*



*Fig 8: Rope hoist*



*Fig 9: Säter freepost to Falun*



*Fig 10: Drottningholm Palace*



*Fig 11: Midsummer Day*



*Fig 12: Mine collapse*



*Fig 13: Carl Linneaus*



*Fig 14: Red paint*



*Fig 15: Stora Kopperberg*



In 1527 the mine produced 56 tonnes of copper. Gustav Vasa made many changes to the mine's operations after disbanding the St. George's Guild, the union of Falun mine owners, in 1539 because their management of the mine left much to be desired. The mine's 'period of greatness' started during his reign and in his final years (he died in 1560) production had risen to between 510 and 680 tonnes per annum. The value of copper exceeded that of all iron ore in Sweden. He increased the royal coffers by claiming the ore from every tenth fire<sup>1</sup> for the crown smelter. Its output soon exceeded that of the other smelters combined. By the end of his reign Falun was Europe's premier copper mine because of its high production; declining production at Austrian, German and Hungarian mines; and high copper prices.

High copper prices led King Johan III (1568-1592) (fig 7) to sink new shafts, recruit more miners and employ skilled German mining engineers and carpenters at Falun. The first engineer - Christopher Klem - was appointed in 1594. He constructed the first water-powered rope hoist in Sweden and by the early 17th century his machines were pumping water from depths of 200-300 m. Queen Margareta's Canal was dug in 1551-55 to provide water to the mine (it later proved inadequate for the machines and the bigger New Crown Ditch was dug between 1736 and 1746). Hemp ropes rotted quickly in the damp, acidic mine environment and were replaced by ox-leather ropes. Up to 10,000 oxen were driven north from southern Sweden for their leather. Their meat was used to make Falukorv (Falun sausage) - a local delicacy. Christopher Polhammer, an Uppsala University student who was later ennobled as Christopher Polheim, designed an improved hoist and built the world's first rope hoist with working beams at the mine at Falun in 1693. This is preserved and illustrated on a 1977 stamp (fig 8). In 1700 he became mine director, and then mine master in 1716,

Sweden was a major European power by the late 17th and early 18th centuries and, with 70% of Europe's copper coming from Falun, copper exports underpinned the economy. Little wonder people said "The Kingdom stands or falls with the Kopparberget" and that the mine was "The treasury and cashbox of the Kingdom". When Gustav II Adolf (1611-1632) acceded to the throne, Sweden had ambitions to become the Baltic superpower by pursuing an aggressive foreign policy against Russia and other states bordering the Baltic. Again, Falun copper underpinned these ambitions; ambitions that saw Sweden teeter on the edge of financial crises in the 1580s and the 1620s-1630s. Both times it was saved by tightly controlling the trade in copper.

Spain was the first European country to mint copper coins in 1600. Sweden followed in 1619. Minting copper coins in Europe, India and Japan created massive demand for Swedish, in particular Falun, copper. Sweden built its first water-powered copper refinery and mint at Säter, 20 km from Falun, in 1619. When the water flow proved insufficient, a larger refinery and mint was built at Avesta (60 km from Falun) on the Dalälven river in 1639. Stora Kopparberg<sup>2</sup> managed Avesta mint from 1641-1831.

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<sup>1</sup> Fires were set underground each night to loosen ore.

<sup>2</sup> Stora Kopparberg was the original company that controlled mining and smelting at Falun.

The administrative headquarters of Kopparberg län<sup>3</sup>, the predecessor of modern-day Dalarna county, were at Falun. Most of the postal business in Kopperberget län was conducted between the mine, the mints and local government in Avesta, Falun and Säter (figs 9 and 9a). The Stockholm-Falun mail route, one of the few at Sweden at this time, underlined the mine's importance.

In addition to minting coins and making weapons, Falun copper was also used for roofing. Roskilde Cathedral and Drottningholm Palace (fig 10) are protected by Falun copper roof tiles, as was Versailles until after World War II.

Midsummer Day is celebrated throughout Scandinavia and the Baltic (fig 11). On that date in 1687 miners would have been in various states of intoxication knowing that they would not have to work for three days - Midsummer, St. John's Day and the following day, a Sunday. Fortune shone on the miners and owners that year because on the afternoon of 25th June the mine collapsed and a large pit, which still exists, opened up. Nobody was in the mine. There were no fatalities. Even more fortuitous, the collapse exposed 100,000 dalers worth of previously inaccessible ore. The potential disaster sparked a mining boom and the King invested 10,000 dalers to clear rock and soil.

The large pit became a tourist attraction and has been illustrated on stamps, postcards and in magazines (figs 12 and 12a). In 1728 the body of Big Matts Israelson, who had died in a rockfall years earlier, was found preserved in vitriol-rich mine waters. Poems, operas and plays were written about him throughout Europe. This further elevated Falun mine, which was already on the route of well-heeled tourists after the 1687 collapse, in the public psyche.

The collapse also underlined the mine's dangers. Between 1630 and 1650 ten to twenty people were killed each year from rockfalls. Fumes and smoke inhalation from firesetting were a constant danger; and later, when drilling holes for gunpowder and dynamite charges reduced that danger, silicosis from rock dust became a health issue. One commentator called the mine "death's waiting room".

These dangers and the town's general lack of sobriety led to notable 'Swedish firsts'. The mine's first surgeon-barber was appointed in 1578; he and most of his successors were German. The Crown funded a mine hospital in 1625, employing Danish and German surgeons, which became Sweden's first emergency hospital in 1695. In the late 17th century a compensation scheme for miners' widows was launched: a foretaste of the Swedish welfare state. Many widowers opened taverns with their compensation. This did little to encourage temperance and controls on alcohol sales were introduced: the forerunner of the current state monopoly on alcohol.

Carl Linnaeus' expedition to Dalarna in 1737 visited Falun (fig 13). Aside from marrying the daughter of a wealthy mine owner, he noted that "Not even lichen or moss grows on stones" which he ascribed to the sulphurous fumes from ore roasting during smelting. French scientists described soot disease caused by breathing sulphur-laden air. Despite this, the town was considered healthy: people lived longer there than elsewhere in Sweden and the polluted air controlled the insect population which carried many diseases.

Falun had been in the mind of many Europeans for centuries through the movement of people, ideas and copper; especially when two-thirds of Europe's copper was mined there. In fact, it was said that the world only knew three things about Sweden in the 18th Century "King Carl XII and his northern empire, Carl Linnaeus and Falun Mine".


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<sup>3</sup> A län is the Swedish equivalent of a county in the UK

However, by the early 19th century global copper prices were declining due to discoveries elsewhere and the Napoleonic Wars. Copper production at Falun had, in fact, begun to decline a century earlier. Yet Stora Kopparberg had diversified earlier. The crown had granted woodcutting rights to supply the mine<sup>4</sup> to two companies in 1644 and 1659. They merged in 1661 and were incorporated into Stora Kopparberg. After 1788 gold and silver (impurities in copper ores known since the mid-16th century) were mined. A copper ingot from 1599 contains 0.1% silver and 0.001% gold. Similar proportions are found in coins minted from Falun copper. There is speculation that the Dutch, French, Germans and Hungarians knew of these metals in Falun copper and extracted them from the ingots they imported. The local county government certainly knew about them as they removed the copper roof tiles from the Stora Kopparberget office to reclaim its gold between 1700 and 1710. Lead and gold smelters were built at the mines in 1790, and that year 842 grams of gold and 200 kg of silver were produced. The silverworks operated until 1920. In total 5,000 kg and 13,000 kg of gold and silver respectively were produced. The mine closed on 8th Dec 1992.

Declining copper production also stimulated businesses such as copper and iron sulphide works, and sulphuric acid factories. Iron smelting was another line in diversification. The Bergslagsbanan railway between Göteborg, Falun and Gävle (built in 1897) served the company's ironworks. A red paint – Falu Rödförg – has been made since the Middle Ages from the by-products of ore extraction, rye flour and linseed oil and is an excellent wood preservative. Production rose markedly in 1880s as the red-painted country house became part of the Swedish rural idyll (fig 14). Demand from heritage conservation means the paint factory is still operating on the mine site.

Stora Kopparberg celebrated its 700th anniversary in 1988 with a stamp illustrating the inside of the Medieval mine (fig 15). Since then it has changed from a cluster of mining shafts and smelters, to include wood and charcoal supply, mining other minerals, and manufacturing products from by-products of mining. It merged with the Finnish company Enso Oyj to form Stora ENSO in 1988 to create one of the world's largest forest, pulp and paper companies. Copper is no longer in its portfolio.

Many celebrities have visited the mine: Hans Christian Anderson, Selma Lagerlöf and Henry Kissinger to name a few. Mine tourism took off in the 1960s, even though there had been 'VIP tours' since 1924, and two million people had visited by 2010. There have been many royal visitors, who sign their names in the wall of one chamber, which are then overpainted in gold. The Mining Area of the Great Copper Mountain was declared a World Heritage Site on 15th December 2001: 80 km of tunnels can be visited. 

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<sup>4</sup> In some years 500,000 to 2,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood were required for firesetting, mine timbers, constructing machinery and making charcoal.

### **Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Sten-Anders Smeds and Per Nysten for their insights into the philately of Swedish mining.

### **Key references**

Olson, D. 2010 Falun Mine Stiftelsen Stora Kopparberget, Falun.

Fula Gruva Museum: exhibits and pamphlets.

WWW: sites covering Stora ENSO, Scandinavian history, Swedish external trade.

# JAFFA GATE AND THE TOWER OF DAVID: A LOOK AT MAXIMUM CARDS

*Paulo Duek*

One of my philatelic interests is maximum cards, many of which I produce myself. The production of such a card is a major challenge, but when successfully done it is also a most gratifying experience. In this article I will show a few maximum cards which I have created for two of the most important sites in the old city of Jerusalem: the Jaffa Gate and the Tower of David.

Let me first briefly explain what a maximum card is. It is a postcard on which a stamp has been applied on the picture side rather than on the obverse. The stamp is tied to the postcard using a cancellation, which means we have three components involved (the postcard, the stamp and the cancellation). One of the requirements for a maximum card is that the postcard must be available to the public on or before the day of issue of the stamp. Consequently, anyone who wishes to produce maximum cards on a regular basis should be a postcard collector, and have a stock of postcards ready for when “opportunity knocks”.

The basic principle of maximaphily is to have the best match between the three components. It is absolutely vital that the cancellation will be from the most relevant place. When dealing with a specific site then the cancellation **MUST** be from the nearest post office or at least from the same city. If the cancellation is not from the same place then it is not a maximum card (fig 1).

Now that we know what a maximum card is, let us focus on the specific sites that are at the heart of this article. The old city of Jerusalem is surrounded by a wall, which was erected in the middle of the 16th century by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. The gate was inaugurated in 1538. It is one of seven gates currently existing in the wall, and the only one in the Western section. The road from the gate westward leads to the city of Jaffa, which was the main port of the Holy Land until the British occupation, and hence the gate is called the Jaffa gate.

In practice, there are two “Jaffa gates” in near proximity. In 1898 the German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, visited Jerusalem. The Jaffa gate was too narrow for his carriage to go through, so in anticipation of his visit it was decided to breach the wall next to the gate and create a wider passage. This passage is still used today for vehicles, whereas the original gate, located just yards away, is used solely by pedestrians.

The maximum card shown here commemorates the entrance of General Edmund Allenby into Jerusalem on December 11th, 1917. Allenby entered the city in order to officially accept the surrender of the Turkish army. In a demonstration of respect to the Holy City he (and all his officers) entered the old city by foot rather than mounted on horses. Consequently Allenby entered through the original, ancient, gate which is seen in the card (fig 2).

The reader should note that Allenby and his companions are seen not only on the stamp and postcard but also on the cancellation. This is an important point for thematic collectors, because in thematics there is an additional requirement for maximum cards: all three



Fig 1. An example of a maximum card showing the Tower of David. The tower is seen on the stamp, the postcard and the cancellation, yielding a maximum matching. The cancellation is from Jerusalem, as required.



Fig 3 Clock tower set



Fig 2. Entrance of General Allenby into Jerusalem



Fig 4 Citadel of Jerusalem



Fig 5. Citadel battlements

elements must be related to the theme. This means that the cancellation must be from Jerusalem (as the rules of maximaphily dictate), but it must also show the same thematic point – in this case the marching of the British troops.


On top of the gate one can see a clock tower. This tower was built in the beginning of the 20th century by the Ottoman authorities. It is one of six built in Palestine, the others being in Jaffa, Acre, Nablus, Safed and Haifa. In 2004 Israel issued a set of five stamps commemorating the clock towers (fig 3) (excluding the one in Nablus, which is in the Palestinian Authority territory), so in principle I could have used the same postcard to produce a maximum card for the clock tower (with an appropriate cancellation). Commemorate is the key word here: the Jerusalem clock tower is no longer in existence. In 1922 it was removed by order of the British Governor of Jerusalem Sir Ronald Storrs, who considered it a modern abomination that disrespected the ancient gate.

Located just next to the Jaffa Gate is the Citadel of Jerusalem, also known as the Tower of David. Quite naturally, the Citadel is located at the highest point inside the old city (773 metres above sea level). In view of its topographic advantage, the site of the Citadel was in use for defensive purposes for centuries. Archaeologists believe that it was first utilized by King Hezekiah around 700 BC in preparation of the invasion by Sennacherib. It thus follows that the site has nothing to do with King David, whose reign was 300 years earlier. Indeed, in David's time the city of Jerusalem was much smaller and concentrated around the Temple Mount, while the Citadel is located about half a mile to the west.

The Citadel which is in existence today was built in the beginning of the 14th century, and was expanded by Suleiman the Magnificent in the middle of the 16th century, around the time he built the wall of the old city. About 100 years later the Ottomans installed a mosque near the southwest corner of the citadel, and erected a minaret – a circular type tower that serves the mosque. The minaret is clearly the most conspicuous part of the Citadel, and accordingly in the 19th century people started referring to it as the “Tower of David”. Today this name may either refer to the entire citadel or only to the minaret.

From all this it is obvious that neither the minaret nor the citadel have anything to do with King David of the Bible. The name “The Tower of David” was first used by the Byzantine Christians, who adopted it from the Bible (from the “Song of Songs”, which is attributed to King Solomon, David's son). They erroneously assumed that this strategically important site was used by King David as his palace.

Despite this error, the Tower of David is one of the most prominent icons of Jerusalem. In 1989 the Citadel was converted into a museum for the history of Jerusalem, and visitors can see archeological remains from the various phases in the long history of the citadel. The yard of the citadel is occasionally used for outdoors concerts and various public events.

The maximum cards shown in this article are a part of my maximaphily exhibit entitled “A tour in Jerusalem”. Of course, maximum cards can be used also in thematic exhibits, although it is recommended not to use too many of them. The best usage of a maximum card is in reference to a detail that, while it exists both on the stamp and the cancellation, is much more easy to see on the postcard. For example, in the last card presented here (fig 5) the battlements in the citadel wall are clearly visible in the postcard. At the same time one would need a powerful magnifying glass to see them in the stamp and the cancellation. 

### **Acknowledgement**

Original article first published in *Noson*, journal of the Israeli Thematic Association. Translated and edited with permission of the author and editor.

“The Most Interesting Butterfly in the World” see next page



Fig 1: Djibouti 1975



Fig 2: 1960 artwork by Giovanni Savini



Fig 3: species with tail, 1975



Fig 4: the mimic female *Papilio dardanus*



Fig 6: mimic female *Papilio dardanus*



Fig 5: *Amauris niavius*



Fig 7: *Pseudacraea lucretia*



Fig 8: African Monarch



Fig 9: mimic female form *planemoides*



Fig 10: *Papilio dardanus*

# “THE MOST INTERESTING BUTTERFLY IN THE WORLD”

*Vladimir Kachan*


*Papilio dardanus*, the African swallowtail, mocker swallowtail or flying handkerchief, is a species of butterfly in the family *Papilionidae* (fig 1). The species is broadly distributed throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. The first description was in 1776 by Brown. Their habitat is primarily rainforest and cloud forest, but also commonly occur away from these habitats, e.g. in the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania and in the highlands of Ethiopia. It can also be seen in botanical gardens and city parks. The butterfly can be found at altitudes up to at least 1800m. Despite the fact that the wingspan of the butterfly reaches eleven centimetres, its rapid dancing flight literally bewitches. The butterfly is very active and constantly flies from place to place until it decides to take a break. Connoisseurs call the flight of *Papilio dardanus* the most beautiful and weightless. At dusk the butterflies go to roost hanging from the foliage of trees. The highly reflective creamy-white males can often be picked out in vehicle headlights when driving along forest roads at night. At dawn, even when temperatures are low, they are extremely alert, and it is almost impossible to get within five metres of them without them instantly taking flight. This alertness is presumably a defence against foraging birds, which are most active at dawn.

The British entomologist E. B. Poulton described *Papilio dardanus* as “the most interesting butterfly in the world”. Why? *Papilio dardanus* is an extremely variable butterfly from Africa. The males of this species are yellow or white, with black spots on wings. Hind wings have long tails (fig 2). The male of *Papilio dardanus* is unique in appearance, but the female occurs in several forms, most of which are untailed and mimic the colours and patterns of other butterfly species. The models are species that are unpalatable to birds - e.g. *Danaus chrysippus*, *Amauris echeria*, *Amauris niavius* (*Danainae* family) and *Acraea poggei* (*Acraeidae* family). All the female forms are tailless, except in Ethiopia, the Comoro Islands and Madagascar, where they tailed like the males (fig 3), but have patterns which suggest that they mimic moths in the family *Uraniidae*. Over 100 forms of the female have been described from those throughout its range. The females show an amazing variety of colour forms. The colour forms vary according to the locality and model which may be present. There are many species of *Amauris* in the *Danainae* family, and there are mimics for many of them among the forms of *Papilio dardanus*. One of these is shown on a 1982 stamp of Togo (fig 4), and is a very close match to the model illustrated on a 1981 stamp of Gabon. A similar form of *Papilio dardanus* female, which is featured on a 1989 Cuba stamp (fig 6), mimics the female of *Pseudacraea lucretia* from the *Nymphalidae* family, which is depicted on a 1989 Sierra Leone stamp (fig 7). It is often difficult to pick out which of several possible candidates is the actual model but in this case a species of *Pseudacraea lucretia* seems to be the likely recipient of the honour. The African Monarch (*Danaus chrysippus*) from a 1953 stamp of Mozambique (fig 8) is a model for a number of African mimetic butterflies and there are several different forms of *Papilio dardanus* females incorrectly marked as form *planemoides* on a 1990 stamp of Kenya (actually *prototrophonius*) (fig 9). More puzzling are the subjects of Malagasy souvenir sheet 1988 (fig 10). Most reference books are insistent upon two things about



*dardanus* in Malagasy: one is that the females are not mimetic and the other is that both sexes have tails on their hind wings. The subjects of a Malaysia stamp of 1988 do not resemble the normal male form of the species and even if one argues that the undersides are shown, this does not explain the absence of tails. The left hand butterfly on the stamp from Malagasy is close to the form *planemoides*. The specimen on the right has the appearance of the *trophonius* form. Breeding experiments carried out in England by Clarke and Sheppard indicated that the forms are somewhat constant and are probably derived from a single gene. However, they also found many more forms appearing than were known in nature!

Experiments with the butterfly *Papilio dardanus*, which has several distinct female forms, have revealed that a single gene change causes the difference between one form and another. The similarity of these crossing supergenes in butterflies to the genetic structure in human beings of different blood types led to the development of the anti-RH treatment for the detection of "Rhesus" babies.

I hope that philatelists of the butterflies theme will find in my article interesting information for further searching of philatelic material with butterflies and the development of their collections. The author is always glad to share his experience and to help philatelists with a butterfly theme in creating or improving their philatelic collections. Please write to me by e-mail: [vladimirkachan@mail.ru](mailto:vladimirkachan@mail.ru) My postal address: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9 - 49, BY-220052, Minsk-52, Republic of Belarus. 

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# MAYFLOWER CELEBRATIONS

*Wendy Buckle*

The 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower* is being celebrated this year. In fact, celebrations have already started; the Illuminate festival was held in November 2019 in various locations in the UK, the USA and the Netherlands. This was the launch of what promises to be an enormous celebration, peaking of course on the anniversary of the date the *Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth. Many places will take part, organising their own events, and no doubt there will be plenty of philatelic memorabilia. However in this article I am looking at previous philatelic commemorations from those areas which have a real involvement in the story.

The earliest commemorative set of stamps was issued by the USA in 1920, the 300th anniversary, showing the *Mayflower*, the ship landing in America, and the signing of the Compact. Fifty years later came the first GB stamp, again showing the *Mayflower*.



On board the ship were Separatists, who wanted to break away from the established Church, including William Brewster, who was brought up in the village of Scrooby in North Nottinghamshire. He and others who practised their faith were in danger of arrest, and in 1607/8 fled to the Netherlands, boarding a boat at the coastal town of Immingham in Lincolnshire, and settling in Leiden, a city of relative religious tolerance.

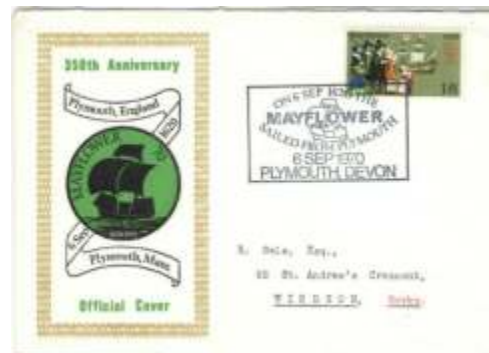


After some years residence they made the decision to start a new life in America. The group bought a small boat, the *Speedwell*, which in 1620 sailed to Southampton en route to the new world. At Southampton it met up with the *Mayflower*, which had been built in the Port of Harwich.



They set sail for America from Southampton on 15th August 1620, but the *Speedwell* leaked badly, so both boats stopped at Dartmouth for repairs.

A second attempt at the crossing also failed. When 300 miles clear of Land's End the *Speedwell* again became unseaworthy, and both boats returned to England, this time docking at Plymouth. On 16th September 1620 the *Mayflower* alone embarked for the New World.



They landed in Cape Cod on 9th November. On December 25 1620 they set sail again, and the next day arrived at what is now Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts.



Many more places will be celebrating this year as part of the “Mayflower Trail”, in Holland, England and the USA. The full story of the Pilgrim Fathers and their legacy, including the impact on Native Americans, will be found on the Mayflower 400 [website](#).

## MAYFLOWER PHILATELIC CELEBRATIONS IN PLYMOUTH

### 20 JUNE 2020

As part of the celebrations commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers voyage to America in 1620 Plymouth Philatelic Society are hosting the "Mayflower 400" exhibition and collectors fair at the Plymouth Guildhall on Saturday 20th June from 10am to 4pm. The Wessex Philatelic Federation competition entries will be on display, incorporating all the usual disciplines with an added non-competitive class for themes relating to Plymouth and Mayflower. Nineteen dealers have been booked as well as there being a number of Mayflower displays from the host society, Wessex / WETS and the Plymouth Postcard Collectors Club.

Representatives from Argyll Etkin will be on hand to provide advice to the general public regarding their collections and Stanley Gibbons will also be attending. A selection of local interest books (including postal history) will be available from The Old Plymouth Society. St. Luke's Hospice, a charity providing specialist care and support to people with life-limiting illnesses, will also be represented. A quality 40 page programme with souvenir cover is currently being planned. This will be the largest event ever staged by Plymouth Philatelic Society, who are on the [official website](#) as well as many other sites.

Information is constantly being updated.

[www.plymouthphilatelicsociety.co.uk](http://www.plymouthphilatelicsociety.co.uk)

[www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk)



*"Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor," by William Halsall, 1882  
at Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA  
Source: Wikimedia Commons*

# HOW I STARTED ... AND BECAME ENGROSSED IN THEMATICS

*John Hayward*

**L**ike many youngsters of my generation I got hooked on stamp collecting around the age of eleven back in 1949. My father had an extensive all world collection on plain pages in which I became interested, much to his liking, so that he passed the collection to me and off I went from there on a hobby which has lasted 70 years. What fascinated me initially were the different countries, currencies and values, so much so that my parents bought me a Stanley Gibbons (SG) all world simplified catalogue as a Xmas present – yes, it was one volume in those days and cost 30/-! I soon realised it was impossible to collect the world, so I restricted my collection to the Commonwealth.

I soon discovered stamp shops in various local towns where I could spend up to 1/- (5p) on George VI basic stamps, and also Woolworths which sold packets of the UPU omnibus cheap values and other goodies for 6d. Then I branched out into approvals and was also given SG's Commonwealth catalogue (the old Part 1) as a present for a few years, and that set me off into the world of different colours for stamps, watermarks, perforations and paper. By 1952/53 the first Queen Elizabeth II GB and Commonwealth coronation and definitives started to be issued, and that caused problems with the need for more pocket money, so I further restricted my collecting to GB only, having inherited a Penny Black and a lot of 1d reds from my father. I wrote up the GB collection in a loose leaf lever arch folder and proudly got my Boy Scouts collectors badge. I continued collecting only GB after I left school, throughout National Service and even when I was courting and got married. Meanwhile, two Windsor albums were acquired to house one mint and one used GB collection. I discovered Camberley Stamp Club existed in 1975 and have been a member ever since. This opened my eyes to what other people were collecting and started me thinking about what else I could collect.

What really tipped the scales for a change in my collecting though was the state of the philatelic market by 1979. Some readers will recall the huge rise in prices at that time mainly due to speculation, and I began to notice that filling the gaps in my Windsor albums, particularly the mint Queen Victoria to George V issues, was becoming very expensive. I was also not enjoying my collecting as much as I used to. After a great deal of thought I hit on thematic collecting and decided to collect two themes to start with: motor-cycles, the riding and racing of which I had enjoyed since I was sixteen, and the Vikings, the history of whom particularly interested me. The former soon took precedence and I naively thought there could not be too many stamps around showing motor-cycles. Forty years later I could not be more wrong! I sold the Vikings collection some two years later and concentrated on motor-cycles.

I borrowed SG's world catalogues from the library, and in a week ran through them all plus my Part 1 (you would hardly be able to do this today), making a list of all the stamps showing motor-cycles (to my surprise they were not just from the Isle of Man) and set about acquiring them. My good fortune was that because prices at the time were so high for GB stamps I was able to sell my GB collection advantageously, especially all the used George V Seahorses, and initially fund my motor-cycle collection. My thematic adventure had begun and the fun returned to my collecting. I decided to collect everything

philatelic to do with motor-cycles, i.e. stamps mint and used, miniature sheets, FDCs, booklets, handstamps, metermarks, perfin, postal stationery, printed to private order covers, cinderellas, and postcards, though the latter got so numerous I sold them after ten years. I bought Rapkin peg albums both new and secondhand to house everything, and right from day one stuck to the discipline of mounting and writing up straightaway – something I kept up for 38 years.

I thought there must be like-minded collectors around who maybe knew what to look out for and where to obtain it. That led me to one of the former BPE Exhibitions at Wembley where I saw and admired Brian Sole's bicycle exhibit for the first time and actually met him. Naturally that led to joining the BTA around 1983. I also came across an article in *Stamp Magazine* on motor-cycles by Edmund Chambers who I was able to contact, and from whom I learned of a whole group of motor-cycle stamps I knew nothing about and with whom I formed a subsequently lifelong friendship. Enquiries to the ATA in the USA did not prove fruitful as no one there seemed to collect the theme, but in Europe in the early 1980s I came across two keen collectors including the late Rolf Arnold from Austria, who in his spare time was the organiser of the Austrian motor-cycle Grand Prix. He had a fabulous collection of motor-cycle stamps plus several lists of world-wide material, and from him I was put onto the Motorised Vehicle Collectors Group based in Germany, which I joined and of which have been a member for over 35 years. From all these sources I gathered information on the material that was available, where to get it and what literature there was on the theme. So, as the collection grew I was able firstly to display it to Camberley Club members, then to Societies in the home counties, and eventually further afield, and to take up competitive philately at Club, County and National level before going on to compete Internationally.

Meanwhile, I got drawn into organised philately firstly at Club level where I was Secretary and Chairman and organised Camberley Club's Three Counties Fair and Exhibition for sixteen years. I am sure that the experience of running the latter event prompted Brian Sole to inveigle me to becoming Chairman of the BTA and helping to run *Thematica* successfully for a number of years, but all that is another story. Suffice it to say that all this experience led to me meeting fellow collectors at home and abroad, widening my thematic collection until it became extremely large, but always with the element of fun to the fore.

Let me end this article by providing illustrations of some of the material I acquired over the years which gave me the greatest pleasure either because they were difficult to track down, they cost very little when compared to their value, or they were real philatelic gems because of their rarity or iconic in relation to my theme:-



DKW was once the largest motor-cycle manufacturer in the world, even having a post office in its factory.





Spain: Madrid overprint, motor-cycle bottom left.



The Chinese Post Office purchased surplus wartime American Harley-Davidson motorcycles after World War II. Harley-Davidson depicted on 1949 Express Delivery stamp, overprinted for Hunan. Very rare to find outside China



Normal Miscut booklet purchased direct from post office machine. A bargain at £2.00!

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# THEMATIC COLLECTING IN AUSTRALIA

*John Crowsley, Convenor of "Thematics Queensland"*

Organised philately in Australia is based on the six states and one territory, each being represented by that State's Philatelic Council at the national level on the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF). A State's members are the stamp clubs and societies in that state.

In simple terms the clubs run their own stamp days and competitions. The state body organises any State level competition and may, on a rotating basis, hold one of the National level exhibitions. The APF are involved with the organisation of holding any national, area or international exhibition.

For Club members, and members of the public who may not belong to any organisation, collecting of Australian stamps is the most popular. Next probably would be those whose place of birth was not Australia, who may collect stamps of their country of origin. Apart from those, others collect a wider variety of countries or are attracted to concentrate on a chosen theme. That theme initially and exclusively tends to be the collecting of postage stamps. Far fewer expand to encompass the wider variety of postal material available, which is properly thematic collecting.

There does not appear now to be any organized group in Australia who concentrate on any specific theme. One might still exist that concentrated on 'Scouts and Guides'. These days such groups are more likely to have an international membership. As for groups interested in 'Thematics' in general the one in Victoria, the Thematic Philatelic Society of Victoria and in New South Wales, the Thematic Society of Australia (1977-2012), have ceased operating.



'Thematics Queensland' was initially established as a study group of the Queensland Philatelic Council for interested thematic collectors in July 1990. It produced regular newsletters from 1994 – originally bi-monthly but now quarterly when it holds its local meeting. One of the more unusual aspects is that since 1997 members can additionally receive photocopies of pages of each frame of an exhibit when available.

These days, with a much-reduced membership which is widely scattered, members are mostly from Queensland/New South Wales, some other Australian States, New Zealand, India and the USA. The focus is more on the exhibiting aspects than simple collecting, although its members indicate interests of over 70 different themes. New members can be beginners or more likely are those wishing to try forming their first exhibit. Many have exhibited at State, National or World level obtaining high awards. There are five who are recognised nationally as thematic judges.

Referring to Pictorial Collecting there are very few who are moving into the exhibiting phase. Those who do exhibit thematics tend to continue to show only after making improvements to an exhibit, partly due to the costs involved in exhibiting especially overseas and it being pointless to just keep showing the same material.

*Continued on page 32*



The translation is as follows:

Postmarks...

Small CDS BARWANI 1 July 37 in Hindi language twice

Large CDS PALACE BARWANI Date same as above

Heading - Map for Rains Station...Town unknown to me starting with alphabet P

perhaps Paisuh Date 1.7.37

Below that long underlined sentence - Note - If there is noticeable regarding Rains OR Crops...that should be noted on backside

Left Side Table....Total Rains Till Today 5 Inches 62 cent...Rains Today - 5 cent...Total Rains 5.67

Backside....Signed Initials

I do not have a translation of the three lines lower right which may be an address?

My queries are:

- Has this card travelled through the post?
- If so, has it been accepted fee free as official mail?
- Is this Barwani rainfall return part of the [Indian Meteorological Service \(IMD\)](#) set up in 1875 and still very active or a separate enterprise?

It would be easy to assume both of the first two points above, but I am struggling to find any definite evidence about the working of the meteorological services in India at this time.

I have found this [book online](#) that makes specific mention of the use of telegrams/post by the IMD but the emphasis is firmly on the use of telegrams.

However, this dates to 1903 so may no longer be relevant in 1937. It seems to suggest that the various forms are identified by letters that appear to be absent from this later Barwani specific card. There is an example of an IMD telegram form from 1949 on the site detailed below.

There are two Barwani card examples (dated 1941 and 1942) shown on the [Weather and Climate Philately site](#) under “[Meteorological returns and weather reports, or instrument returns](#)”. They are described as ‘Postal Card’ and it is identified that there is no known catalogue entry for these items. To my eye the three ‘addresses’ all look different which leads me to wonder whether this identification of purpose is correct?

Any information on the operation of the services or translation of the ‘address’ on any of the three cards most gratefully received.

#### *Editorial note*

If any member has an item in their collection they would like help with I am very happy to publish it. Please send me a scan and the wording of your query; and provide your email for publication or suggest any response comes via the Editor.

# EXHIBITING PAGE

## ECTP 2019: JURY FEEDBACK

*Presented by Peter Suhadolc, and reprinted here by permission*

### **Introduction**

This feedback was given at the European Championship for Thematic Philately in Verona, last November. It draws attention to points all competitors should follow, and as such is a very useful indicator to improving one's marks. New *Guidelines for Judging Thematic Exhibits* have been prepared and will shortly be implemented. This feedback includes points made in those guidelines.

### **General**

- As an exhibit is a selection of the material collected, avoid squeezing in similar items, unless they bring a different contribution to the development of the theme. 'Less is better', pages should be filled but not overcrowded.

### **Plan and Development**

- Improve consistency between title, plan and development.
- The plan should not be too concise and lexicographic, better if the chapters and subchapters tell a story.
- Place a text with the summary of the page on top on each page.
- Make sure that the story is clearly noticeable throughout the pages.
- Ensure that the 'red thread' flows continuously, without deviations, loops or interruptions.
- Place items according to the logic of the 'red thread'.
- Present only people, facts and organisations that are clearly represented by the items displayed.
- The text should preferably be positioned next to the item it describes.

### **Thematic Knowledge**

- Check the correctness of your statements.
- Too general statements denote poor knowledge.

### **Philatelic Knowledge**

- Select items postally appropriate and describe them, aiming at making their postal attributes well clear (no stereotype text).
- Give priority to stamps, proofs and other items from well-recognized issuing entities.
- Do not have in the collection too many items of the same type.
- Limit border-line material.

### **Condition and Rarity**

- Make sure there are rarity statements or indications on your 'best' items.
- Avoid too many cancellations on fragments or made to please philatelists, as they may lower the overall rating of these criteria

### **Presentation**

- Ensure readability of the flow, with page titles and a well-positioned leading text.
- Avoid overlapping and do not window important documents/postal stationery.
- Do not 'push' items and text to the left and right margins, as this can produce too much white space in the middle.

# HERE AND THERE

## **REMINDER: THEMATIC DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL**

BTA member Lesley Marley will be displaying her *Whales Tale* at the RPSL on 19 March from 1pm. It will feature her thematic exhibit which has won multiple international large gold medals plus a whole array of postcard, open and other whale-related displays. Non-members are welcome. The Royal meets at 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW

## **LONDON 2020 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION, 02 - 09 MAY**

A full list of exhibits is now on their [website](#). There are 43 thematic entries, comprising 248 frames, including BTA members Wendy Buckle, George Henshilwood, Lesley Marley, Brian Sole, Peter Suhadolc and Peter Weir. The Open Class has 33 entries with 149 frames, including BTA members John Davies, Simon Moorcroft, Barry Stagg and Peter Wood. The Postcard Class has 12 entries with 68 frames, but no BTA members.

## **FEPA YOUTH SEMINAR AT LONDON 2020**

The Federation of European Philately (FEPA) will be hosting a seminar on Youth Philately during London 2020. The open meeting will be held on Sunday 3rd May from 12 noon to 2pm in Room F at the Business Design Centre, Islington.

The meeting will provide the opportunity for youth organisers to share ideas and best practice around the world to promote stamp collecting to young people. Entrance is free. The session will be led by members of the UK Stamp Active Network.

Anyone interested in attending should email [stampactive@btinternet.com](mailto:stampactive@btinternet.com) so that we can assess numbers.

## **BRING A CHILD TO LONDON 2020**

Stamp Active will be running a Kids Zone at London 2020. There will be activities and prizes for kids, including free goodie bags, stamp art workshops every day, a lucky dip and spin a prize. There will also be a free draw for a Penny Black for the youngsters.

The Zone will also feature displays of stamp collecting albums and accessories to help any beginners with advice on hand to show how to mount and write up a collection.

Adults bringing a youngster to the Show will be entered into a free prize draw to win an impressive array of prizes, including magazine subscriptions, a £25 Voucher from Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, a £50 Voucher from Stanley Gibbons and much more. The draw will take place at 4pm on Saturday 9th May.

## **NORTH EAST PHILATELIC WEEKEND**

The forty-first North East Philatelic Weekend will be held on 19th to 21st June 2020 at The Britannia Airport Hotel, Newcastle Airport, NE13 8DJ. Full details are available from Miss Val Beeken, tel 01913 861931.

## **NEW PUBLICATION: A GREAT WAR STUDY**

Readers may remember an article by Chris Yardley in June 2019 *Themescene* "No Sense of Triumphalism: the Great War Centenary". His full study of stamp issues relating to World War I has now been published:

Yardley, Christopher B.

*A Great War Study: the centenary commemorative postage stamps 2014 - 2018*

Cannava House Publications. 2019. ISBN 9780648667100.

Available from Amazon.

## BTA AT AUTUMN STAMPEX 2020

As previously announced, the BTA will be the lead organisation for displays at Autumn Stampex 2020. Thank you to everyone who has already offered material to display. Of course we would like more! Exhibits can be either competitive or for display (the latter will not be judged): both are equally welcome. Exhibits can be anything between one and five frames (sixteen sheets per frame), or eight frames for those who have qualified for this.

If you would like to compete:


- There are no qualification requirements.
- If you are new to competitions (at least at this level) you may find it helpful to read the guidance and tips on exhibiting the [BTA's website](#) under "Displaying Thematic Collections".
- Unlike international competitions it does not have to be five frames: you choose how many frames you want to submit.

If you would like to display only (non-competitive):

- Don't feel obliged to rewrite your pages.
- You will not be required to submit original material unless you want to. Good quality scans are perfectly acceptable. Send them to BTA Chairman Barry Stagg either as printed pages (1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham, Glos., GL53 7BQ) or [email](#) him the file and he will print the pages out, mount them at the exhibition and take them down afterwards. Please email him if you have any queries about this.

Competitive or non-competitive:

- If you plan to exhibit, or are thinking about it as a possibility, please email the BTA Competitions Organiser, [Andrew Millington](#), and let him know how many frames you plan to exhibit.
- Let Andrew know if you will be a first time exhibitor at Stampex, as this will help BTA's planning.
- You can produce more than one exhibit.
- Applications will have to be submitted through the normal process for Stampex, i.e. through the [ABPS portal](#) which involves an on-line registration and entry process. You will need to create an online account with the ABPS and then register your entry. The registration process is likely to be open from around March / April.
- The title and a brief description of each exhibit will be published in the Stampex programme. This will be taken from your entry form.
- The normal arrangements for Stampex are that you need to mount and dismount your own exhibit(s), so you will either need to be in London on 29th September, and 3rd October OR pass your entry to a nominated member of the BTA Committee who will be happy to manage this for you.
- Fees are £25 per frame. The BTA is committed to producing a very wide range of material that will showcase pictorial collecting, not to mention advertise the Association, and **to encourage those new to exhibiting (whether to compete or to display only) the BTA will contribute £10 towards the fee of the first (or only) frame of your exhibit.**

If you have any questions at all please contact [Andrew Millington](#). 

## 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.)*

### STAMP NEWS FOR YOUNG COLLECTORS!

*These news items are taken from the Stamp Active website News page - where there is much more to read and find out about stamp collecting, visit [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk)*

#### **'LONDON 2020' 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Would you like to visit a really exciting stamp event?

An international stamp exhibition called **'London 2020'** will be held from **Saturday 2 May until Saturday 9 May 2020** at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London.



This event is only held once every 10 years, so it's really worth visiting if you can as you'll get lots of great ideas. Over 150 stamp dealers and postal administrations will be taking part. There will be hundreds of collectors showing their displays in the competition classes including the best youth stamp exhibits from

all over the world, including our best UK youngsters. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK. They will be providing a free Kids Corner at London 2020 with free activities for young collectors who will receive stamps, goodie bags and activity books and be able to take part in fun activities including stamp art workshops and games. There will

also be help on hand for any collectors who are new to the hobby and want help to get started. You will find *Stamp Active* in Gallery Bay 12 on the left hand side of the Hall.

*Adults - financial support is available from Stamp Active to make a significant contribution to the costs of travel for school and junior groups. For more information about financial support visit the Stamp Active website [www.stampactive.co.uk](http://www.stampactive.co.uk) For more information about London 2020, go to [www.london2020.co](http://www.london2020.co)*

## **Did you know that stamp collectors are called philatelists?**

### **Recently some young philatelists met the Queen!..... see the video!**



Some of our best young philatelists were honoured by being presented to HM Queen Elizabeth at the official opening of the new premises of the Royal Philatelic Society in London last November. They were introduced to the Queen by John Davies, the Founder of Stamp Active. Young

collectors attending were Toby Middlemist (Young Collector the Year 2018) and his brother Filip, Leopold Marie (2019), Carys Llewellyn (2017) and Jack Preuveneers who was the Overall Winner in the 2019 British Youth Stamp Championships. **To watch the video on the Stamp Active website, use this link**



**<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/young-philatelists-meet-the-queen>**



## Would you like a free stamp album?

**Yes please!**

Stamp Active Network have released the latest album in the Stamp Fun series called 'Transport on Stamps'. It is a colourful stamp album filled with puzzles, transport facts, collecting sheets and lots of other ideas for collections of transport themes



on stamps. There are 5 other activity books available from Stamp Active - the earlier books in the series have all been reprinted and are also available or are downloadable on the link below. 'Transport on Stamps' is free for young

collectors and organisers of school stamp clubs and will also be distributed free to active members of our postal Kidstamp club. If any young collector would like a copy, please ask the adult who looks after you to contact [stampactive@btinternet.com](mailto:stampactive@btinternet.com)

*The other albums in the series are also available from Stamp Active, or are downloadable from the Stamp Active website on this link:*

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/fun-games/>

## Would you like some free stamps?

**Yes please!**

Kidstamps is a free postal club promoted by the Stamp Active Network, to encourage young stamp collectors in the UK who are interested in taking part in stamp collecting, competitions and quizzes etc. Anyone between the ages of 5 and 19 can join. You will receive a starter pack of stamps and accessories, details of stamp competitions, and four vouchers a year that can be redeemed for free stamps and first day covers. The application form to join is on the Stamp Active website, please ask the adult who looks after you to fill in the application form for you, and please enclose a stamp-addressed envelope with your application form in order to receive your gift pack.





[www.stampactive.co.uk/kidstamps-club/](http://www.stampactive.co.uk/kidstamps-club/)

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

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

#### **THEMATIC COLLECTING IN AUSTRALIA.** *Continued from page 23*

The introduction of Open Exhibiting has not shown the same enthusiasm here as it has in New Zealand. Several thematic exhibitors have experimented with Open Class with some success, but it is not as easy as one might think! Picture Postcards are now attracting more interest, either exclusively or as an additional outlet for the regular thematicist. Its introduction at FIP level will obviously increase its popularity. An experimental class of Topical was tried in Australia recently but attracted very little interest.

Thematics Queensland is no different to many clubs today. An ageing membership with non-existent influx of younger members, plus dedicated members who do keep it alive because they enjoy the challenge and knowledge required to collect, display or exhibit the philately they love. 📖

The website for Thematics Queensland is <http://www.qpc.asn.au/tq.html>

# **BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND**

**Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021**

**voco Oxford Spires Hotel**

**Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS**

<https://oxfordspires.vocohotels.com>



## **COST**

### **Full Delegate**

*Will include:*

2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast; pre-dinner drink both evenings; some wine with dinner; teas, coffees and biscuits or pastries between the sessions.

Two people sharing: £249 per person

With single room supplement £299 per person

There are also a number of other options, including an extra night on the Thursday or Sunday, a day (or half day) delegate rate, and options for meals for those not booking the full package. Please see the booking page for full choices.

## **TRAVEL**

By car: the hotel is easily reached from the A40/A34 to the north, or the M4/A34 to the south. There will be free parking for hotel users.

By train: only a short taxi ride from Oxford Station.

## **LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

The City of Oxford is easily reached either by bus from the end of the hotel drive, or in good weather only a short stroll along the Thames tow-path.

Oxford - 'City of Dreaming Spires' - needs no introduction. But if you want some ideas see the web site <https://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/>

If you are coming by car there are many places which are a short drive away.

# BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021

voco Oxford Spires Hotel

Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS

<https://oxfordspires.vocohotels.com>

## PROGRAMME

### Friday

p.m.

18.15

Arrival

Welcome, with Pimms and soft drinks

Members' displays (6 sheets, one minute)

19.30

Dinner; followed by invited display by Bob Hill *Where are the Kit Cats??!*

### Saturday

09.00

Invited display by Ian Shapiro on *Royalty*

Coffee

11.00

Members displays of latest acquisitions (12 sheets)

Lunch not provided. Hotel has restaurant, lounge and bar, or spend some time in Oxford.

Saturday afternoon

Demonstration of stereo-zoom microscopes by Owen Green. Please bring along any stamps you would like to see examined.

*and*

*Go By Cycle!* Brian Sole's multi-award winning exhibit.

Static display over lunchtime and afternoon.

*or*

Free time to visit Oxford. In good weather it is a short walk along the Thames towpath which can be reached from the hotel grounds.

16.00

Members display on a theme, letter E or F (12 sheets)

19.30

Pre-dinner drink

Dinner followed by a light-hearted quiz and raffle

### Sunday

09.00

Invited display by Brian Asquith *Faster than a bullet: the Concorde story*

Coffee

11.00

Members displays of any theme (12 sheets)

12.45

Lunch (optional)

*Themes for members displays are suggestions only, feel free to bring something else*

# BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

## BOOKING FORM

I wish to book:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rooms based on two people sharing   | £249 per head  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> With single room supplement         | £299 per head  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra dinner/bed/breakfast Thursday | £109 per head;<br>[plus single room supplement £25.00]   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra dinner/bed/breakfast Sunday   | £99.00 per head;<br>[plus single room supplement £25.00] |

Or:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening meal Friday   | £42.00 per head (inc. drinks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day delegate Saturday | £15.00 per head               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening meal Saturday | £42.00 per head (inc. drinks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day delegate Sunday   | £7.50 per head                |

### Deposit

£25.00 per person (non-refundable)

Or:

Day delegate rate per person

I enclose a cheque for ..... made out to BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

### Your details

Name.....

Name of partner .....

Address.....

..... Post code .....

Telephone number (home) .....

Telephone number (mobile) .....

Email.....

Collecting interests (a list of attendees' interests will be available at the Weekend)

.....

*Acknowledgement of booking will be sent by email where possible*

*Rooms are limited so please send this form (or a photocopy) plus deposit, as soon as possible, to:*

Mrs. A. Stammers, 40 St. Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 6SW

*Please do NOT book directly with the hotel*



# BTA PROGRAMME 2020

May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

## **London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition**

*At* Business Design Centre, Islington.

*Exhibits:*

- Open and Postcard classes on show Saturday to Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>
- Thematic class on show Wednesday to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>
- One-frame exhibits will be shown alongside their parent class.

May 4<sup>th</sup>

*As part of London 2020:*

FEPA Postcard Seminar. 12.00 - 13.50

June 13<sup>th</sup>

## **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker 14.30**

Guest speaker: Malcolm Gascoyne

*Life in Borneo in postcards*

*At* Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College

Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> - Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Autumn Stampex 2020**

*At* Business Design Centre, Islington

**Lead society BTA. BTA Table at the event.**

*Date to be confirmed*

*As part of Autumn Stampex. Talk arranged by Stampex*

Barry Stagg, BTA Chairman

“A Thematic Journey”. Of interest to collectors from beginner to experienced.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

*As part of Autumn Stampex. Talk arranged by Stampex*

José Ramón Moreno

“How could I improve the evaluation of my thematic exhibit?”

*Dates to be confirmed*

*As part of Autumn Stampex. Arranged by Stampex*

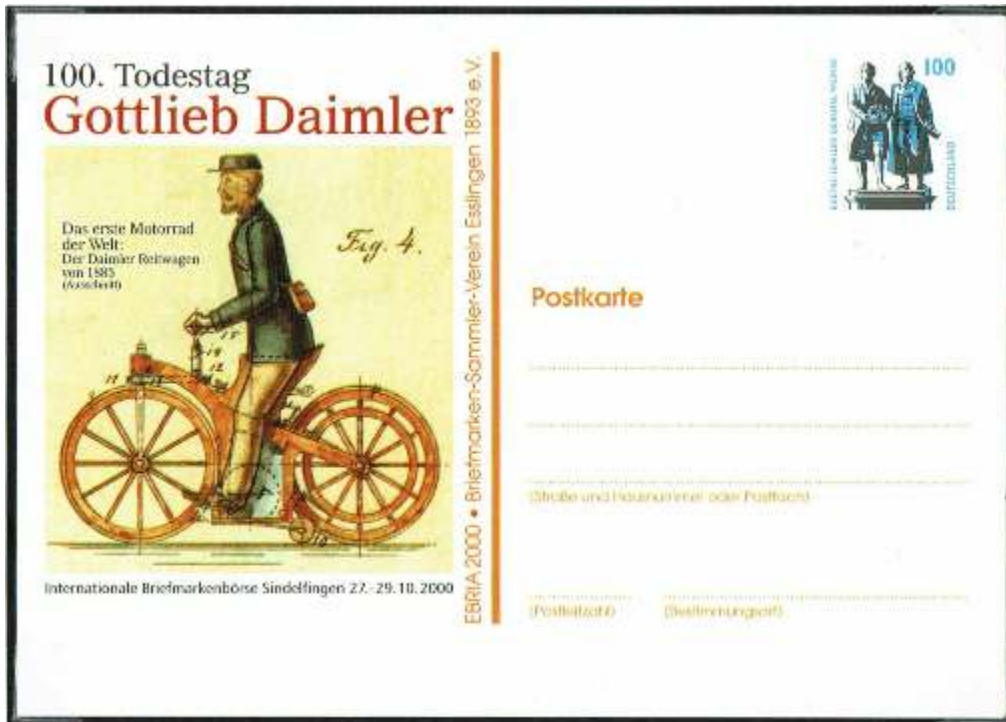
Tour of the exhibits.

October 10<sup>th</sup>

## **BTA table and display [no competitions this year]**

*At* South of England Stamp Fair

Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL



*How it all started: Gottlieb Daimler registered a patent for a two-wheeled vehicle powered by a petrol-driven internal combustion engine*



*The future of motor-cycling? Electrically-powered motor-cycle*

# BEETHOVEN 250

December 2020 sees the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven. Born in Bonn, he spent much of his working life in Vienna. Doubtless the anniversary will be celebrated by many post offices, and understandably Germany has already released the first of seven planned issues. Guernsey will also release stamps over a period; its first, a £1 value, shows the bronze statue of Beethoven in Bonn. Jersey will issue a full set of stamps and miniature sheet on 26 March. The designs represent some of Beethoven's most famous compositions. Each one incorporates a letter or number signifying the name of the musical piece, a section of the musical score and a portrait of the composer from that stage in his career.



*Portrait and signature*



*Statue and fragment of the score of Symphony No. 5 in C Minor.*



*Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67*



*Piano Concerto No. 1 Op. 15*



*Romance for Violin No. 2 Op. 50*



*Coriolan Overture Op. 62*



*Egmont Overture Op. 84*



*Symphony No. 7 Op. 92*



*Symphony No. 9 Op. 125*