

THEMESCENE

September 2020

In this issue we:

*Voyage down the Grand Canal
Venice*

With John Davis



Peer through the microscope

‘Interactive’ postage stamps

With David Walker



Search for a vaccine (no, not that one)

V is for vaccine

With James Dickinson

Sail with the early days of steam

“SS Great Britain” and the young sailor

With Morva White

And hunt for parrots

How I started

With Heather Lawn



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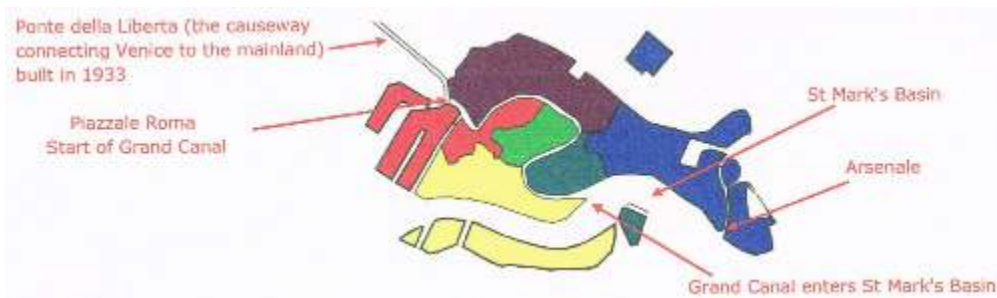
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Venice: the Grand Canal, page 76



Venezia - Ponte Nuovo sulla Laguna
Fig 1: Ponte della Liberta



Figs 2 - 3: Route of the Grand Canal

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

In the last issue I appealed for articles to help me fill the pages of *Thamescene* left blank by the total lack of meetings and events. I was delighted with the response to that appeal, so much so that I have to apologise to a few members whose article has been held over until the December issue. If you are still considering submitting an article please do, I will always welcome them. I did suggest that just scans of a few pages would prove interesting, and so they are: with coronavirus never far from our minds I am delighted to feature an article on vaccines (page 91). On page 81 you will find an article on Interactive stamps. This seems a good time to publish it since at the BTA Weekend next March attendees will have the opportunity to examine stamps under a microscope, courtesy of BTA Committee member Owen Green. If you want try out using a microscope but don't have anything specific to examine then just bring along the stamps discussed in this article. Many of us will have decided against foreign holidays until a vaccine is found, so satisfy your wanderlust with a voyage along the Grand Canal. Lockdown has inspired its author John Davis to write a series of articles, so watch this space for future contributions.

Membership news

We are pleased to welcome new overseas members John Lester of Australia and Sriraam Kalingarayar of India. We hope they will both enjoy their membership. Congratulations to Sriraam who recently won a Large Vermeil at Philex 2020 in Bangladesh. All the thematic entries from that competition are currently online at www.philex2020.com/gallery/8.

Very sadly we announce the death of two long-standing members of the BTA: Sheila Foster and Barry Floyd. Their obituaries appear on pages 100 - 101. 

BTA NEWS

2020 PROGRAMME

Regrettably the entire 2020 programme had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, latterly because host events and meeting places are unable to operate. The BTA were able to hold a Committee meeting via video-conferencing, at which the decision was taken not to try and reschedule this year's AGM. All existing Committee members have agreed to carry on until 2021 (at least!). And we were pleased to co-opt a new member Wayne Cox. The annual accounts and Treasurer's Report, presented at that meeting, are published on pages 95 - 96.

2021 PROGRAMME

An outline programme is published on the inside back page, but with the caveat that it has to be subject to change. Like every other club and society we will be governed by government guidance in place at the time.

Continued on next page

CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg


As I write this the country (at least in the South) is in the middle of a heatwave, COVID is still very much with us, the weeds are taking over my allotment and I've still not written up a single page of my collection! I blame the heat. It's just too hot to do anything. I had such great plans at the start of this COVID lockdown: reading all my backlog of magazines – done; finishing the deck in the garden – done; selling my unwanted stamp material – underway; write up my stamp collection – failed! Why?

Through life I have observed that people with particular professional skills e.g. plumber, electrician, accountant etc. have at home the worst plumbing, wiring and bank accounts respectively! Perhaps stamp collectors are the same. Perhaps it is the thrill of the purchase of a particular item or the admiration of another great collection that makes me happy. Perhaps I see the writing up stage as 'boring' - who knows?

But what is making me happy at the moment is the thought of a new BTA initiative – a one page competition for all its members. Details can be found on page 90. I hope you like the idea and enter. In these difficult times it is important to keep societies together and I hope this new competition helps us do that.

Another idea that is in its early days is the possibility of holding ZOOM (other platforms are available!) talks. These have become very popular with philatelic and non-philatelic societies. Perhaps a speaker talking about their collection using a PowerPoint presentation and ZOOM to BTA members. Perhaps you could tell me if you like the idea (or not) and what sort of topics would you like to see? I am very aware that some of our members don't have IT or are not too familiar with IT and would feel uncomfortable taking part. I would like to hear from you as well. But I do know we can reach members from not just around the country but around the world. What do you think? Please email bastagg@btinternet.com or write to the Editor (page 73).

As it's 8pm and still 35c I'm now going to collapse in front of the TV and have a 'refreshing' drink.


Please keep well and stay safe. 

BTA NEWS. *Continued from previous page*

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

This year we are introducing a new one-page 'virtual' competition, see page 90. This event will be an addition to our normal range of competitions; the Committee is currently debating how those will run next year.

AUTUMN STAMPEX

The BTA should have been the lead society at Autumn Stampex this year. With its cancellation this has been held over until Autumn 2021. This will be a great opportunity to showcase thematic collecting, and our coordinator Andre Millington is contacting all those of you who had offered displays for 2020. We really hope you will be able to support 2021 instead. 

VENICE. PART 1: A VOYAGE THROUGH THE GRAND CANAL

John Davis

The magical and romantic city of Venice is very dear to my heart. My wife and I honeymooned there in 1964. We befriended Bruna, an eleven year old Venetian girl and her family who lived on the island of Murano in the Venetian Lagoon. Bruna came to stay with us in 1971, and in 1981 with our two sons we went to Murano to stay with Bruna and her family. We returned for our ruby wedding anniversary in 2004 and again for our golden in 2014. God willing, we may go back again for our diamond in four years time. The problem is that in 1964 there were very few tourists in Venice, which had more pigeons than people. Now, the city is heaving with tourists (you can't see the pigeons), with long queues to enter historic buildings and monuments. In 1964 the canals were full of the traditional gondolas. Now there are fewer gondolas and more motor speed boats to gratify the rich and famous. The tourists are four or five deep at the Ponte della Paglia on the Riva degli Schiavoni, and you have to strain yourself over their heads and shoulders to see the Bridge of Sighs. Huge cruise ships dwarf the city and endanger its further sinking with water displacement. The sheer weight of thousands of tourists converging on St Mark's Square also contribute to the slow sinking of Venice. Fortunately, plans are in progress to ban all cruise ships from Venetian waters. Sadly, visiting Venice during the summer months is now to be avoided at all costs.

A few years ago, I was looking for a new collecting interest, and thought that Venice would be an interesting subject. Unfortunately, Venice never issued its own stamps except for a few municipal revenue stamps between 1871 and 1990 (and possibly beyond), and Cinderella stamps commemorating Art Biennales and other events.

I already had a lot of personal memorabilia collected from our visits to Venice, and a search on Ebay for Venice revealed over 2,000 items (stamps and postcards) from a multitude of countries. The material available was limitless. Many stamps were issued in the early 1970s to publicise UNESCO's Save Venice campaign; there have been issues featuring famous painters who were either born in Venice, came to live in Venice, or who just visited Venice; there are issues commemorating Biennale Art exhibitions which have been held every two years (with a few exceptions) since 1895; and just stamps and postcards featuring various Venetian sights and historic buildings.

Further research took me back to the origins of Venice in 421 and the historic Venetian Republic 697-1797, the French revolution, Lombardy Venetia, the three Italian wars of independence, the Austro-Prussian wars, the divided Italy and its unification in 1866, and then Triveneto: the three Venices, a word coined by Graziadio Isaia Ascoli (1829-1907) to describe Venezia Tridentina, Venezia Euganea, and Friuli Venezia Giulia (which includes Trieste).

So where does one begin? I thought that initially I would start with the much-loved city of Venice situated in the north Adriatic lagoon, and a voyage through the Grand Canal and into St Mark's Basin. Future articles will cover other aspects of the city.

On arriving at Marco Polo airport on the Italian mainland, one could reach Venice by taking the water taxi through the lagoon to your hotel, which will cost about 120 euros for

you and your family. It is cheaper to take the airport shuttle bus across the causeway Ponte della Liberta (fig 1, inside front cover) to Piazzale Roma, the tickets for which are eight euros each. Either way, when you arrive, that will be last time you will see any cars and lorries, for the only way to get around Venice is either on foot, or on the canal by vaporetti (public water buses), water taxi or gondola.

The Grand Canal flows in the shape of a reversed 'S' skirting all six Sestieri (districts) of Venice into St Mark's Basin and terminating at Giardini (figs 2 and 3). We start our journey from the Piazzale Roma boat station (landing stage), where in 2008 the Ponte della Costituzione, the fourth bridge over the Grand Canal, was opened. It connects the sestieri of Cannaregio and Santa Croce. We take the vaporetto which zig-zags from one side of the Grand Canal to the other, stopping at or passing fourteen boat stations. After four kilometres we enter St Mark's Basin where we alight and continue our journey on foot.

We will see the four bridges that traverse the Grand Canal, sailing under three of them, and seeing many beautiful building and palaces, before arriving at St Marks' Square, the centrepiece of Venice.

The first bridge we sail under is the Ponte degli Scalzi, which is a stone bridge completed in 1934, replacing the Austrian iron bridge constructed in 1857. On the right we see the Palazzo Ca'Foscarini (fig 4) next to which is the Palazzo Ca'Pesaro, now a gallery of modern art (fig 5), and on the left there is the Palazzo Ca'D'oro, a 15th century Gothic Palace. We approach the most well-known Venetian bridge, the Rialto (fig 6), which is a stone bridge completed in 1591, after the first 1181 bridge had been replaced five times. The Rialto houses many rows of shops, all packed with tourists. Here is a good place to take a gondola trip which might set you back another 80 euros or so for you and your family, or just the two of you. Venice is not cheap!

We then sail under the Ponte dell'Accademia at the southern end of the Grand Canal. The original steel bridge was opened on 20th November 1854. In 1933 it was demolished and replaced by a wooden bridge. This in turn was demolished in 1985 and replaced by another wooden bridge. On the right is the Palazzo Barbarigo, noted for its mosaics and fresco paintings, and is next door to the Peggy Guggenheim collection of modern art.

When we reach the point where the Grand Canal enters St Mark's Basin, on the right we pass the Santa Maria della Salute (fig 7), a church that was built in thanksgiving for Venice's deliverance from the 1630 plague. Construction took 37 years from 1630 to 1687.

On the left we arrive at St Mark's Square, which features the Doges' Palace, St Mark's Basilica (fig 8), the Bell Tower (fig 9), and the Clock Tower (fig 10), where there are now long queues for those wishing to purchase entrance tickets.

Standing with your back to St Mark's Basilica, at the far right corner of St Marks' Square there is a stamp shop, or at least there was six years ago when I last visited Venice.

On the left of St Mark's Square is the famous Florian Café, established in 1720 and the oldest café in the world. On our last visit, a cup of coffee cost nine euros, and for the music supplement, another six euros. So for ourselves two cups of coffee and the music set me back 30 euros. I said that Venice is not cheap! But for this price you can sit for hours, even after you have finished your coffee.

Now on foot we walk along the Riva degli Schiavoni to the Ponte della Paglia, where looking along the Rio del Palazzo canal, we see the iconic 1600 Ponte dei Sospiri (fig 11). It was given the name 'Bridge of Sighs' by Lord Byron, as it is was the place whence convicts last saw Venice before their imprisonment.



Fig 4: Palazzo Ca'Foscarini



Fig 5: Palazzo Ca'Pesaro



Fig 6: Rialto Bridge



Fig 7: Church of Santa Maria della



Fig 8: Basilica of St. Mark



Fig 9: Bell Tower



Fig 10: Clock Tower



Fig 11: Bridge of Sighs



Fig 12: Vivaldi, 340th anniversary of his birth



Fig 13: The Arsenale by J M W Turner



Fig 14: The Arsenale by Darascu



Fig 15: Arsenale Military Naval School



Fig 16: Poster stamp of the very first Venice International Art Biennale held in 1895

As we walk on, across the Basin on the right is the small island of San Giorgio. We pass the Chiesa della Pietà, which started its life as a Foundling home for orphans. It was Vivaldi's Church, and is now used for concerts, and is also a Foundling Museum (fig 12).

We pass the Arsenale (figs 13-15) and Marina, the heart of Venice's former maritime power, and finally arrive at our destination – Giardini/Biennale, the gardens where the Biennale International Art Exhibitions are held every two years (fig 16).

That concludes my article about my introduction to Venice and a voyage along the Grand Canal. As I said at the start, I will be continuing my interest in Venice with an article about the history of Venice from its origins up to the fall of the Republic in 1797 and its unification with Italy 1866; the history of Venice post Italian unification up to the present day; and concluding with the history of the three Venices – Triveneto. 📖



Miniature sheet illustrating various Venice landmarks issued in 1932 to commemorate the 18th Biennale



‘INTERACTIVE’ POSTAGE STAMPS

David Walker

Introduction

Some of the thematic stamps that I enjoy collecting have examples of what I would loosely call 'interactive' stamps i.e. where some form of user intervention is required to reveal aspects of their designs. The gallery below shows examples of these types of stamps.

Magnification - microtext

As an amateur microscopist I've always been interested in microscopic text in its various forms. It has developed over the centuries starting with tiny handwriting, through to photographic reduction (e.g. for microfiche) to the ultimate in microtext which is now down to the atomic scale. I find philatelic examples of printed microtext rather fun as it involves the use of a lens or low power microscope to reveal the text. There are many examples issued worldwide and has become a thematic to collect in its own right. Two examples from GB Royal Mail issues are shown here.

GB 2001 Nobel Prize 100th anniversary:

This splendid set of six has four that require some sort of interaction. The Royal Mail Presentation Pack No. 327 for this issue provides details for each stamp. The microtext example celebrates Literature and shows a poem by T S Eliot *The Ad-dressing of Cats* in the open book. Three of the others feature later in the article.



*Literature prize, text from the book.
Smaller text height 0.12-0.15 mm.*

GB 2016 Agatha Christie:

This set of six celebrates the author's wealth of crime novels. As befits the subject matter the ingenious and delightful designs have a number of hidden clues for the user to discover by various means. I must confess that I've never been a fan of the crime novel genre so the significance of the clues in relation to the novels are lost on me but it is fun to discover these clues. All six feature microtext in some forms. A modest 5 - 10X hand

lens can make the text readable but a stereo microscope allows closer study, measurements and photography.

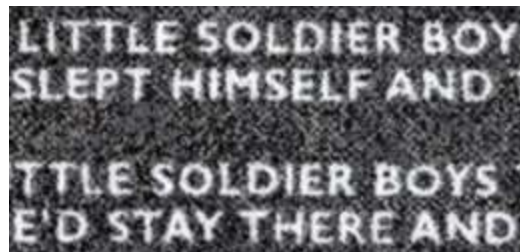
The eye cannot resolve unaided any of the microtext which varies from ca. 0.06 – 0.24 mm in height.



“Murder on the Orient Express”. Names of novel characters presented along the bottom black border.



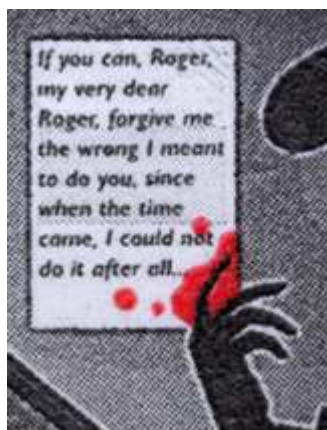
“The Mysterious Affair at Styles”. Poison bottle on the table. The white background design also doubles as a stylised skull. There is evidence that UV also reveals text on this background but have been unable to make it out.



“And Then There Were None”. Poem bottom right and a name on the window reflection in the water.



“The body in the Library”. Titles of the author's other novels above the body chalk outline.



“The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”. Detail of the letter in the dead person's hand.



“A Murder is Announced”. Newspaper held by the lady. The smallest text on any of the Christie stamps is the fine print above 'Gazette' starting with 'THE NORTH ...' but becoming too small to be reproduced accurately and to read.

Directional light – holograms

There have been many stamp issues worldwide showing a hologram and a recent splendid book “Holography and Philately: Postage Stamps with Holograms” by Hans I. Bjelkhagen, (2nd edition 2017) has collated them and is highly recommended. Each issue to the end 2013 is illustrated, with listings of a selection of new issues to the end 2016 included in this new edition.

GB 2001 Nobel Prize 100th anniversary:

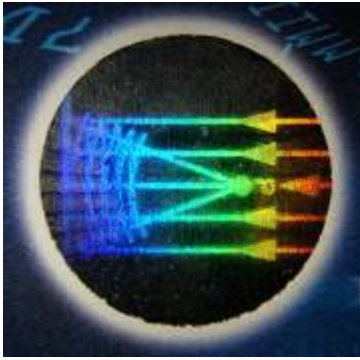
The stamp celebrating physics shows a hologram of a boron atom (incorrectly described as a ‘molecule’ in the Royal Mail accompanying literature). The classically depicted atomic orbitals are in different colours and the electrons ‘spin’ when the stamp is tilted. The flatbed scan of the stamp shown on page 81 with multidirectional lighting does not show the hologram correctly. Bjelkhagen in his book notes that a spotlight mimicking the conditions used to prepare the hologram should be adopted. The same form of lighting is also ideally required to visually appreciate a stamp's hologram.

Hungary 2000:

This attractive mini-sheet with inset stamp in part celebrates the work of Dennis Gabor who won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Physics “for his invention and development of the holographic method”. A two channel hologram is used where the hologram shown is dependent on the lighting direction. Lighting from above or below shows a portrait of Gabor, lighting from the left or right reveals a typical optical ray diagram showing the principle of holography.

Further design features celebrate ‘outstanding’ Hungarian mathematicians but requires UV light to see as shown later. Note the apparent lack of any text around the stamp perforations in visible light.





Hungary 2000. Unlike the boron atom, this is a two channel hologram where the hologram shown is dependent on the direction of the light.

Ultraviolet light - fluorescent ink

GB 2016 Agatha Christie:

The stamp depicting a design based on the novel “A Murder is Announced” reveals the clock face under near UV light. An LED consumer ‘UV torch’ (wavelength typically just below visible light of 400nm) reveals this clearly. The numbers are clearer visually, the camera seems less sensitive to this colour range.



Christie stamp under near UV torch and daylight. The clock numerals are revealed.



Hungary. Blacklight UV lamp, no visible light. The names of the Hungarian mathematicians around the stamp border are revealed. Surnames first, the convention in Hungary.

Hungary 2000:

The sheet design shown on the previous page uses a fluorescent ink not seen in visible light. Bjelkhagen notes that there are 57 Hungarian mathematicians named around the stamp perforation perimeter with a header translated as ‘Outstanding Hungarian Mathematicians’. The names are not seen in visible light nor with an LED UV torch. An ultra violet ‘blacklight blue’ (BLB) lamp which emits at a wavelength of ca. 365 nm with visible light in the room blocked was required.

I still found it difficult to read the names well which fluoresce in pink but were shown well in a photograph. The image using UV was taken using an exposure of 15 secs, ISO 100, f8. The stamp serial number seen black in visible light also fluoresces in green.

Heat - thermochromic ink

Some stamp issues use thermochromic ink where heat is required to reveal some aspect of the design. The GB 2001 Nobel Prize chemistry stamp showing buckminsterfullerene reveals an ion trapped within the structure as the background lightens with heat. This stamp celebrates the work of Sir Harry Kroto.



*Heat applied to Nobel Prize
Chemistry stamp*



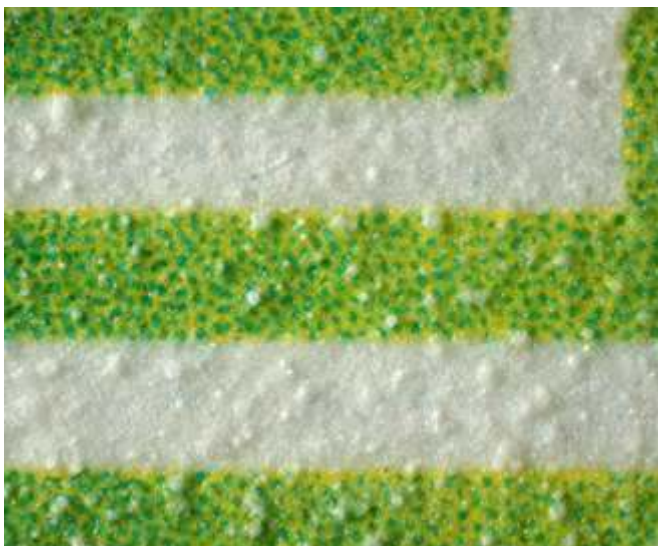
*Heat applied to "Murder on
the Orient Express" stamp*

The Agatha Christie stamp (page 82) showing "Murder on the Orient Express" shows a figure hidden behind the black curtain in a train carriage when heat is applied. Both these stamps required gentle heat from a hair dryer, my finger didn't activate either although the Royal Mail information card suggests that it should.

Scent - 'scratch and sniff'


GB 2001 Nobel Prize 100th anniversary:

Stamps emitting a scent when rubbed have been widely used by many postal authorities. The example here for the Physiology or Medicine Nobel Prize smells of eucalyptus according to the Presentation Pack inset card for the issue. Presumably the oil needs to be encapsulated in tiny capsules that break on rubbing. Oblique lighting reveals some surface proud beads that may correspond to these. They are ca. 0.05 mm in diameter.



*Nobel Prize. Low angle light
on Medicine or Physiology
stamp. Detail, 5X optical mag.
Very oblique light to show the
beaded surface for the scent
capsules ca. 0.05 mm in
diameter.*

Acknowledgements

Article first published in *Micscape* May 2019, a monthly e-zine for amateur microscopists. Images. GB stamps are © Royal Mail Group Ltd. 

THE *SS GREAT BRITAIN* AND THE YOUNG SAILOR

Morva White

I am sure you all know the story of the *SS Great Britain*: the magnificent Victorian ship created by Isambard Kingdom Brunel to continue his commuter service from London, west to Bristol along his Great Western railway line and across the Atlantic to New York. At least, that was the intention. But she only made four return crossings to the Big Apple, went aground in Ireland on the fifth trip, and was laid up in Liverpool until she was bought and refitted as an ocean-going steam sailing ship working the UK-Australia route; which she did very successfully for 24 years. But her glory years had come to an end. She was sold, and her inside gutted to become a sailing cargo ship carrying coal from South Wales to San Francisco and returning with grain.

In February 1886 *SS Great Britain* was at Penarth being prepared and loaded with Welsh coal for her third voyage to the west coast of the US. Henry Stapp was the captain and he signed up men for his crew including a 21-year old Swedish lad, Charlie Enestrom, on a monthly salary of £2.10.0. Charlie was born on 2 August 1864 in Stockholm to Adolf and Emelie Enestrom, and like a lot of young lads in those days he ran away to sea. That third voyage was a struggle down the Atlantic for the old ship. Then she hit a fierce storm near Cape Horn and was badly damaged. Her masts were broken, the crew's quarters were saturated, there was no fresh water as sea had broached the storage tanks, and the cargo shifted so the ship was no longer balanced. The crew begged their Captain not to take her back to Stanley as the ship repair company there had a reputation for charging extortionate prices which they knew the insurers would not pay out on such an old ship. But, on 24




May 1886 she limped into Stanley harbour. Stapp sent his first cable back home (via Montevideo), and then a second and a third. He finally got a reply in the October, by which time all the crew were gone, finding work on other ships.

All that is except Charlie Enestrom! He decided to stay. He found a variety of work in Stanley as a watchman, sailor, cook, engine driver, engineer. At 26 he married a local girl, Mary Ann Roberts, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Charlie & Mary had seven children (four boys and three girls). They all grew up and married, and five of them stayed in the Islands. In January 1915 Charlie was naturalised as a Falklander/British Citizen. He lived to 75 and was buried in Stanley cemetery seven years after his wife.

Post Script

SS Great Britain remained in the Falklands until 1970 when she was salvaged and brought back to Bristol where she has been restored to her former glory at the [SS Great Britain Museum](#). 

A JOB LOT FOR ONE!

Grace Davies

One section of my collection is 'Peace associated with other ideas' and includes the stamps of the 1995 Gibraltar Peace and Freedom issue. When the artwork by Jennifer Toombs was offered at auction I bid for it, successfully, but before I could even pay I was notified that the Gibraltar government had stopped the sale. Disappointment, until the artwork came up again in 2015, to be sold by Köestler. This time the sale went through and I became the proud possessor of all the artwork for that issue except of the actual stamps. Obviously it would be best to show this with the final items and it was easy to buy the issued mini sheet and First Day Cover on eBay. All that was missing was the presentation pack; back to eBay . . .



Over the following months I found that this item was nowhere to be found - I couldn't believe it – until a Gibraltar collecting friend said that Sandafayre was offering a complete run of Gibraltar presentation packs from 1976 to 1999. After checking that the one I wanted was in the lot, I had to decide what to do. Was I prepared to spend a considerable amount of money for 135 items when the one I wanted was probably worth pennies? Or, to put it another way: was I prepared to miss this chance when there might not be another, did I really want this item? The answer had to be 'yes' which is why I am now disposing of 134 Gibraltar presentation packs on Ebay! All but 13 have been sold. 📖



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HOW I STARTED: STAMP COLLECTING PARROT FASHION

Heather Lawn

Like a number of postage stamp collectors (philatelists) these days, I started collecting when young, stopped when studies and work took over, then returned to the hobby after a long break. This return was brought on by finding my parents' collections and then looking back at my own stamps which I kept. My collection consisted of two Great Britain albums from the first Penny Black stamp of 1840 up to about 1985 (with numerous gaps), a couple of international albums with stamps from around the world (with even more gaps) and thematic stamps featuring mostly horses, dogs and a few cats.

Since forming these collections I'd developed an interest in ornithology, and when I went to my first stamp fair about five years ago and also explored stamps online I was drawn to bird stamps. I quickly realised that to collect all bird stamps would be a huge undertaking. According to the collecting website www.colnect.co.uk there are currently (March 2020) over 40,000 postage stamps worldwide that depict birds, and this number is growing all the time.

I then noticed that some of the most attractive and colourful stamps featured parrots. These reminded me of Pedro, a Yellow-Crowned Amazon Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*) that belonged to my parents a number of years ago. An example of this bird can be seen in the 2002 stamp from the Suriname series of parrot stamps (fig 1, outside back cover).

I decided to concentrate on parrot stamps (although I still fill in the gaps in my other albums). Would collecting all the parrot stamps be feasible? Well, it might be. There are over 350 species of parrots and at the moment there are over 2,000 parrot stamps, with new issues appearing all the time. I have nearly 600 stamps, so I have a way to go.

The next consideration was how to organise the stamps. At first, I decided to arrange the stamps in order of country and then issue date. In 1985, Afghanistan issued a miniature sheet with two Rose-Ring Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) (fig 2). These birds might be familiar to some as there are several feral populations in Northern Europe including the South East of England.

I then started to read the guidelines for exhibiting thematic stamps. One of these is that the theme should extend across a wide period of time. I had seen mostly modern parrot stamps. Were there any early issues? Indeed there were. The first postage stamp that featured parrots was the 1897 dark violet from Tonga (turtles watermark). The image was of a Maroon Shining-Parrot (*Prosopeia tabuensis*) (fig 3). Tonga used this design again in 1923 (overprinted) and in 1942 with multiple script CA watermark. The watermarks are the main way to distinguish the 1897 and 1942 issues. The parrot was introduced to Tonga in prehistoric times.

Then I began to read about how parrots are arranged according to their biological groups. According to Wikipedia, parrots belong to the order *Psittaciformes* (fig 4) and they are placed in a tree diagram to show how they are related to other birds and then how all the parrots are related to one another. This concept provided me with not only a way of organising the stamps, but a story for one of my first stamp displays.

The order *Psitticiformes* is divided into three superfamilies. The oldest superfamily is the New Zealand Parrots (*Strigopoidea*). This group evolved about 60 mya (million years ago). They include the Kakapo (*Strigops habroptilus*) (fig 5), the Kea (*Nestor notabilis*) (fig 6), the Kaka (*Nestor meridionalis*) (fig 7) and the extinct Norfolk Kaka (*Nestor productus*) (fig 8).

The second superfamily to evolve was the Cockatoos (*Cacatuoidea*) about 50 mya. The most familiar of these are probably the Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) (fig 9) and Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*) (fig 10).

The third superfamily is that of the True Parrots (*Psittacoidea*). They diversified about 40 mya to form the largest of the three superfamilies and includes the African Grey (fig 11), Amazons like Pedro (fig 1 above), Macaws (fig 12), Parakeets and Budgerigars (fig 13) and Lovebirds (fig).

So now a lot of my stamp displays are essays about parrots which I find a good way to stimulate my mind now I have retired. I feel more like a zoologist and a philatelist these days. 📖

Acknowledgment

First published in *Hampshire Philatelic Federation Bulletin* no. 154, 2020



Fig 10: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Fig 11: African grey



Fig 12: Macaws



Fig 14: Black-collared lovebird



Fig 13: Parakeets and Budgerigars

BTA ONE-PAGE VIRTUAL COMPETITION

The BTA is excited to announce its first-ever ‘One-Page Competition’.

We have launched this to encourage people, regardless of age and experience, to exhibit something from their thematic collection that excites them and will be of wide interest to our members as well as other thematic and topical collectors. The rules are simple, you do not need to have exhibited before to enter and, as the theme of the competition is ‘Fun with Thematics’, why not have a go!

Those of you who read *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *Stamp Collecting* will have seen their one-page competitions, and you may find inspiration there.

Rules:


1. Exhibits can be on any aspect of pictorial, thematic or topical collecting on any topic you like. Stamps, covers, postal stationery, slogan or commemorative postmarks, picture postcards, etc. are included: i.e., anything within the remit of a thematic, topical, picture postcard or open class in an organised competition.
2. Exhibits are restricted to one A4 page (including international equivalents) and other pages of approximately A4 size, or an album page, in either portrait or landscape format.
3. The balance of philatelic material-to-text is your choice.
4. Your page can be printed, typed or handwritten. It must have a title, but do not include your name on the page.
5. The closing date for entries is 31 January 2021.
6. There is no fee to enter this competition (though in future years there may be a modest entry fee) and each person can only submit one entry.

Scanning and file details:

Exhibits should be prepared as you would for a normal display.

- Scan the page at 300 dpi as a separate pdf or jpeg file. Do not use protectors.
- Name the file with your “Family name; space; First initial; space, First three letters of your exhibit title” (e.g., Citizen J Uni.pdf or .jpeg). If your title begins with the word THE, use the first three letters of the second word. Also, if the first word is less than three letters, e.g, A, use the first three letters of the second word.
- Send the file as an e-mail attachment to acmillington@gmail.com, include your name and, if you are under 16, your age in the email.

If you do not have access to a scanner personally or through a local stationer or printer, please contact [Andrew Millington](#).

Entries will be judged by a panel drawn from the British Thematic Association committee. Judging criteria are being developed and will be published on the BTA website under “[Displaying Thematic Collections](#)”. At least two classes – Junior (16 and under) and Senior – will be judged. Depending on the entries, the BTA may add classes. All entrants will receive e-certificates and feedback. Entries will be published on the BTA website, winning entries will be published in the BTA’s journal, *Themescene*, and printed and displayed at Spring Stampex in London in February 2021. 

THE SEARCH FOR VACCINES

James Dickinson

My local stamp club holds a four sheet competition each year based on a letter of the alphabet. A few years back when it was the letter "V" I did an entry on vaccines. I thought that this might be of interest in the current climate with the ongoing search for a covid vaccine etc.

V is for **V**accine and **V**accination

A vaccine is a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. The first vaccine was developed in 1796 for the virulent disease **smallpox**.

Sometime during the late 1750s whilst serving his apprenticeship as a surgeon/apothecary **Edward Jenner** learned of the story, common in rural areas, that dairy workers would never have the often fatal or disfiguring disease smallpox, because they had already had cowpox, which has a very mild effect in humans.

In 1796, Jenner took pus from the hand of a milkmaid with cowpox, scratched it into the arm of an 8-year-old boy, and six weeks later inoculated (variolated) the boy with smallpox, afterwards observing that he did not catch smallpox.



PHQ card of 1999 depicting Edward Jenner (1749-1823) inoculating a boy with cowpox, the first of many vaccines to be developed.

However it was to be 75 years before the next vaccine was developed and the fledgling science owes a debt to the acknowledged father of germ theory **Louis Pasteur** (1822-1895).



A selection of stamps issued to commemorate Louis Pasteur.

The **Pasteur Institute** is a French non-profit private foundation dedicated to the study of biology, micro-organisms, diseases, and vaccines. It is named after Louis Pasteur, who made some of the greatest breakthroughs in modern medicine at the time, including pasteurization and vaccines for **anthrax** bacillus and **rabies** virus. The institute was founded on June 4, 1887, and inaugurated on November 14, 1888.



The **Pasteur Institute** also features prominently on stamps.

Vaccines for **cholera**, **Rabies**, **Tetanus**, **Typhoid Fever** and **Bubonic plague** all followed before the turn of the century.



Meter mark commemorating Pasteur.

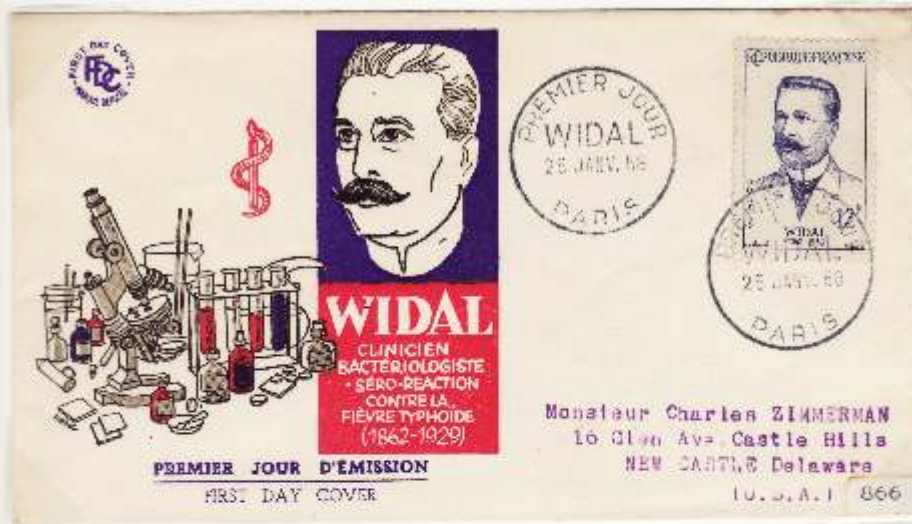


Special postmark and stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of Pasteur and Roux developing the Rabies vaccine (1885).

Other scientists soon took up the challenge of developing new vaccines!

In 1880 **Karl Eberth** (1835-1926) described a bacillus that he thought caused **typhoid fever** and the vaccine was developed in 1896.

The standard test for diagnosis was invented by **Georges Widal** (1862-1929) and is still used today.



**If diagnosed with typhoid fever, thank Widal as he developed the test.
1958 First Day Cover commemorating his achievements.**

Robert Heinrich Herman Koch (1843–1910) was a celebrated German physician and pioneering microbiologist. The founder of modern bacteriology, he is known for his role in identifying the specific causative agents of tuberculosis, cholera, and anthrax and for giving experimental support for the concept of infectious disease.

His vaccine for **Tuberculosis** was developed in 1925.



Numerous stamps have been issued to commemorate the discovery of the TB vaccine.



Albert Calmette (1863-1933)
co-inventor of the BCG vaccine.

Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was trying to invent a vaccine
for influenza but came up with penicillin instead!

Vaccines have now been developed for diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, yellow fever, typhus, influenza, polio, anthrax, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, pneumonia, meningitis, hepatitis A and B, and Lyme disease.

In fact it is estimated that the smallpox vaccine alone has saved more lives than any other invention. Over 400 million deaths were attributed to smallpox in the last century, as late as 1967 over 2 million died. The last case was diagnosed on 26th Oct 1977 and the disease is now officially dead.

While this may seem impressive the microbes are continually developing and mutating and coming up with new strains and variants. In 2010 over 17,000 died from swine flu, H1N1 while bird flu, H5N1 still develops.



21st century Chinese cover for H1N1 and modern Algerian stamp hoping for an AIDS vaccine.



BTA AGM AND ACCOUNTS

THE NEXT AGM FOR THE BTA

Some of you may be wondering what is happening to our AGM. It should have taken place at Swinpex in June but because of the COVID-19 guidance Swinpex was cancelled this year. Your committee has taken the decision that COVID-19 guidance outweighs any formal or informal requirement to hold an AGM and until we have been advised that it is safe to do so the BTA AGM for 2020 has been postponed until further notice.

We have considered holding the AGM via ZOOM or any similar on-line package but we feel that this is a very unsatisfactory solution. My own personal view is that the AGM is unlikely to happen in this calendar year. The AGM date is further complicated by the pragmatic need to have it associated with a philatelic event. This limits the possible available dates. It is possible although not desirable that we may have the 2020 and 2021 AGMs at next year's Swinpex. But I would like to stress that no decision has yet been taken and we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 guidance.

The BTA committee did have its first ZOOM meeting earlier in the week and we did receive and accept the finances as presented by our Treasurer - see below.

Barry Stagg, Chairman, British Thematic Association. 18 July 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RESULT FOR 2019

The 2019 accounts show an operating SURPLUS of £123.

This was despite a fall in income of £464 (after excluding the 2018 weekend surplus) and increase in expenditure of £334.

INCOME

Subscription income was down some £400 from the 2018 level and we had very little other income.

Advertising income fell however this was offset by another donor helping make *Themescene* all-colour. We are grateful to them both.

EXPENDITURE

Costs were £334 higher than last year primarily as a result of having two committee meetings at the Royal – action has been taken on this by a change of venue – for the moment overtaken by events.

The good support shown meant that the BTA competitions were an almost break-even situation and there was a slight increase in insurance as a result of the up-to-date valuation of the regalia being obtained.

General administration costs remain low and officers as a group are not always claiming full expenses they could be entitled to. The Association should be grateful for this but be aware of it.

2020

I propose subscription levels remain unchanged.

Again I am grateful to Grahame Boutle for examining the accounts and delighted to say he is willing to continue in that role next year.

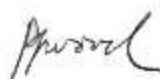
P. J. Wood, 22 March 2020.

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
Account for the year ended 31 December 2019

2018	INCOME	2019
3,126	Subscriptions	2,721
94	Sales and other income	33
137	Weekend 2018 (Total surplus £407)	-
3,357		2,754
	EXPENDITURE	
1,497	"Themescene" - Printing and distribution expenses	1,563
-460	less : Advertising Income and Donations	-367
453	Meetings (incl. AGM)	427
125	BTA Cup expenses	133
-60	less : entry fees	-120
94	Committee Meeting expenses	451
68	Publicity	47
225	Web Site	137
126	Insurance	142
194	Affiliations	182
35	Administration expenses	36
2,297		2,631
137	to Weekend events reserve	-
923	Surplus	123
3,357		2,754
	<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019</u>	
	Accumulated fund	
9,614	Balance at 1.1.2019	10,537
923	add : Surplus for the year	123
1,117	Weekend Events Reserve	1,117
612	Stampex 2020 Reserve	612
12,266		12,389
	Represented by:	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
8,684	Current Account	8,817
13,574		13,707
-906	less: Subscriptions Received in advance	-873
-402	less: Amounts due or Received in advance	-445
12,266		12,389

Hon Treasurer, P.J.Wood

Hon. Examiner, G.C. Boutle




6 February, 2020

HERE AND THERE

AUTUMN STAMPEX 01 - 03 OCTOBER 2020

Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre has been cancelled but the Philatelic Traders' Society will be running a 'Virtual Stampex' with partners ABPS, RPSL and the Museum of Philately. Entering via a 'virtual lobby' you will be able to connect over the web with dealers, auction houses, postal administrations, philatelic societies and museums. There will also be a staffed information desk where you can ask questions and download the show guide. A programme of ten talks and question-and-answer sessions will be presented. There will be a Court of Honour, featuring some of the world's great rarities. Postcrossing will be celebrating World Postcard Day, ABPS is organising competitions, and Stamp Active will be there for younger collectors.

While the live events will only be available from 01 to 03 October, the standholders' booths will remain online for 30 days. [Click here](#) for a full list of dealers.

To sign up for the show free of charge [click here](#).

COVID-19 AND THE POST

The Postal Museum is running a project to document the COVID-19 crisis. It is inviting people to donate letters, envelopes, greetings and postcards, and parcels and packaging, to put together a collection which will reflect how postal operations have changed to deal with the pandemic, how people are using them to maintain personal relationships and the importance of post to the economy.

[Click here](#) for full details.

NEW PUBLICATION

In May BTA member John Davies had a new book published by the Royal Philatelic Society London. *A Jubilee Reminiscence: a philatelic history of the Great Britain 1890 Postage Jubilee* tells the story of the celebrations which were held for the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of the Uniform Penny Postage in Great Britain. The book is available from the [RPSL](#).

STAMPIT

StampIT, the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies youth programme, is organising 'Stamp over October' a series of activities for youngsters.

FEPA NEWS

All issues of FEPA News (2002 to present), the magazine of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, have now been digitised and are available on their [website](#).

EUROPA STAMP COMPETITION

Voting for your favourite Europa stamp of 2020 remains open until 09 September. 28 stamps from 26 countries celebrate the theme "Ancient postal routes". [Click here](#) to vote.

DELCAMPE

Delcampe has recently launched a [bi-monthly magazine](#) for collectors. Click on the cover image.

BOOK REVIEW

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK: THIRD VOYAGE 1776 - 1780, FIRST DAY AND EVENT COVERS

Daryl Kibble

Published by the author. 2020. Two vols, 495 pages, col. illus. throughout.


For purchasing details [contact the author](#)

Reviewed by Alwyn Peel, Captain Cook Society

If your theme is Captain Cook and you have a special interest in covers with interesting cachets this new publication by Daryl Kibble will be of interest to you. With an 8½inch by 11 inch format, there are hundreds of illustrations, accompanied by descriptions of the material. Kibble explains in the Preface that he has had an interest in Captain Cook since he was fifteen and for the past twenty years he has focused exclusively on first day and event covers relating to Cook. These two volumes are devoted to Cook's third and final voyage. Kibble describes his evolution as a devotee, collector and exhibitor, who in 1982 joined the Captain Cook Study Unit (CCSU), the predecessor of the current Captain Cook Society (CCS). His long term objectives were to "develop a FDC exhibit on the Third Voyage, and to publish a philatelic book on the subject". The scope of the book includes Kibble's criteria for inclusion, generally limited to first day and event covers for which a cachet directly relates to the Third Voyage. There are some exceptions to this general rule, excluding FDCs issued after 1979 by "dubious stamp authorities, or from countries which have no valid connection with the subject matter". He uses a star rating to cover scarcity, importance, condition, supply and demand.

All images are in colour accompanied by much information on each page, and cover the period from 1928 to 2018 organised chronologically, by date of issue of the stamp, then alphabetical by cachet maker. There is a page index at the beginning of each chapter, listing the year of issue, and the subject of the stamps. Chapter 3 is devoted to Exhibitions and Shows 1951-2009 mainly in the USA. Chapter 4 is devoted to cachets of Elwood Etter 1976-1981. Elwood Etter was a well known US maker of cachets relating to Cook. Kibble details Etter's history from childhood in Ohio, to his interest in stamps and Cook, and ultimately to his position as an artist and technician. In 75 pages, the reader can follow Etter's early efforts using a manual printer technique to produce the first covers with his early cachets, through the evolution to use of novel techniques. Etter became an early member of CCSU. Establishing contacts worldwide, he was able to obtain service on his covers from far-flung locations. Chapter 5 lists and examines Event Covers and has 98 pages, detailing covers that "celebrate an event or anniversary". It is organized chronologically by the date of the historical event being noted. Covers are only included "where the cachet design itself (image or typography) directly relates to the Third Voyage".

The final chapter is devoted to Kibble's Large Gold Medal Cook FDC Exhibit in an US national exhibition. Note this type of FDC competition is not in use in the UK.

Included are a Glossary of philatelic/cover terms; acknowledgements of assistance and support; bibliography; index of cachet makers and artists; and the two volumes include an enticing, handsome hard cover. This is not a book that lends itself to being easily read, cover to cover, being much more of a reference book for those thematic collectors interested in covers and cachets related to Captain Cook's third voyage. 

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OBITUARY: SHEILA ANN FOSTER

It is with great sadness we inform members of the British Thematic Association of the death of Sheila Foster, at one time secretary of the society. I feel sure many of you will remember her superb collection of ‘**Roses, Roses all the Way**’.

Sheila was a self motivated stamp collector, regarding herself as just an ordinary stamp collector, but like all Thematic collectors determined to prove that she could do as well as people who had been collecting for many years.

Introduced to the hobby by her young daughter who was collecting stamps while at school, she was bitten by the bug, at first collecting the Wilding definitives of Great Britain. A couple of years later she joined her local philatelic society Clapham and Balham, but after visiting Stampex and seeing thematic entries which she liked she set about collecting ‘Horses’ and produced a twelve page exhibit for her society meeting. But that interest soon faded and looking for another subject she settled on ‘Roses’, on which she had some knowledge as her grandparents were amateur rose hybridisers. Reading up on anything relevant to do with roses she soon had a list of wants. Encouraged by her club members she entered Stampex and received a silver bronze medal, that was in 1987. Wanting to enlarge her knowledge of different stamps she joined the France & Colonies Society and the National Philatelic Society. Sheila attended a stamp exhibition in Valence in France through her society’s twinning, showed her ‘Roses’ and was presented with a certificate and medal.

Joining the newly formed British Thematic Association, their bulletins had many useful tips and hints on writing up thematic pages for local and national level. If Sheila wanted to enter her local society competitions she had to choose a different theme, as anyone who had won was not allowed to show the same entry again. So another collection came into being, a medical collection in which she could show many different aspects of medicine each year. This was followed by photography, but Roses was where her heart lay, supported by her husband Joe who travelled all over Europe with her following his passion of photography.



Receiving the Rowland Hill Award in 1999

Over the years she was winner of the Stampex Link House Trophy twice and then moved on to International competitions receiving many Gold Medals, including London in 2000 and 2010. In 1999 Sheila was awarded the Rowland Hill Award which she received in the Royal Mail Innovation category for “Journalistic Excellence” for an article in *Stamp Magazine* on Photography.

After retiring Sheila was able to devote more time to events in the stamp world. At the 21st North East Philatelic Weekend held at Gateshead in 1998 she gave a presentation of her Roses in great depth, plus an in-depth teaching session on the use of computers for writing up collections.

Friends of Thematica organised collector activities in 1997 and the BTA table and two frames, prepared and presented for the BTA by Sheila, won the 'best dressed society table' for them. She also served as Secretary of the BTA from 1995 to 1998.

In 2001 the BTA joined Eurothema, with other European countries Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands, competing in teams to see who was the best. Sheila was one of the first to join the UK team and was a great supporter to all of us who followed. Members of the BTA travelled to each other's countries every two years. In 2007 it was the BTA's turn to host the competitions, held at the Victory Services Club in London. Sheila arranged for a cake to be cut by the President Mrs Margaret Morris.

After a very full thematic life in London, and after her mother died, she decided to move to Derby to be near her daughter and family. So ended her very full and fruitful thematic life. In London she had no garden to grow her beloved Roses but was an inspiration to all who knew her. Sadly she never continued her collection after moving. A great loss for the British Thematic Association.

Lesley Marley FRPSL

OBITUARY: BARRY FLOYD

Members will be sad to learn of the recent death of Barry Floyd at the age of 94. He had been a member of the Captain Cook Society for many years, as well as the BTA, joining after retirement from a life in academia not only in the UK but in the USA, West Africa and the West Indies before becoming Director of the Centre for British Teachers in Malaysia.

Throughout his life Barry was a keen stamp collector eventually creating several thematic collections and becoming a prolific writer of articles for various philatelic magazines. In over 20 years he had 37 articles published in *Themescene*, more than any other single contributor. He also produced a number of books on philatelic subjects, the best known of which was *Captain James Cook the Explorer: a Historical and philatelic review*, published in 2006.

It was the preparation of this book that brought me into regular contact with Barry when he approached me for help. Initially he invited me to write the Foreword but then sought assistance with proof reading, historical accuracy and providing stamp and cover illustrations. Naturally delighted to help in this way, we were in close contact for several months by post, telephone and email, Barry living in Rye, Sussex and me in Yorkshire. Nearly all the illustrated stamps and covers in the book are part of my Captain Cook collection. After such involvement I could hardly then write the Foreword so I suggested to Barry that he invite Cliff Thornton, our then President, who kindly obliged!

Barry introduced himself to members with a four page entry in *Cook's Log* in 2006, which makes very interesting reading and takes you through his life from school to retirement, via the RAF, university, and work all over the world before retirement to his home in Rye. Further information can be found in his contribution to the *Themescene* series 'How I Started', March 2014, page 29.

He led a very full and fulfilling life and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife Jean and their five sons and family in their sad loss.
Alwyn Peel, Captain Cook 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.)

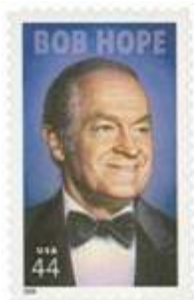
Have a go at writing a letter to your friend or relative using stamps! See if they can work out your clues. Can you work out what the letter here says? The first three answers are filled in for you. You will have to look very closely at the stamps to find the answers!



Dear



Penny



How are you (ewe)? I h_____ you are w_____ .



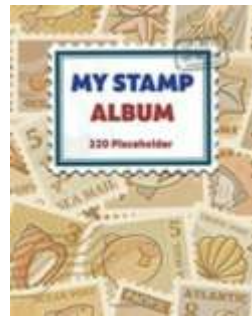
Last week it was my _____ and _____



had some great p_____ . _____ had some L_____ ,



A really good b_____ called C_____ ,



a cuddly t_____ and a new s_____ a_____ .



Because s_____ c_____ is my favourite hobby!



Did you know you can receive a f_____



s_____ a _____ from K_____ S_____ ?



B_____ w_____. L_____ from your f_____, H_____.

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

<https://www.stampactive.co.uk/art-stamped-bringing-stamps-lives/>



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Since publishing my first website in 1999 I have developed a portfolio of websites covering all aspects of philately and have recently provided a dedicated Thematics section which now contains over 2000 items and is expanding weekly.



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BTA FUN WITH PHILATELY WEEKEND

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021

voco Oxford Spires Hotel

Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS



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

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

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I wish to book:

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| <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;
[plus single room supplement £25.00] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra dinner/bed/breakfast Sunday | £99.00 per head;
[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 2021

- 17 - 20 February **Spring Stampex**
Entries to the BTA virtual one-page competition (see page 90) will be displayed at Spring Stampex. The BTA will make all the arrangements for this.
- 26 - 28 March **BTA Weekend**
At voco Oxford Spires Hotel, Oxford
Guest speakers
Members' displays
Social events
See page 105 for full details
See [hotel website](#) for full details of its COVID policy and how it looks after its guests
- 12 June **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker 14.30**
Plus guest speaker
At Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
Over 40 dealers, free parking, and cafe facilities.
- 29 September -
02 October **Autumn Stampex**
At Business Design Centre, Islington
Lead society BTA. BTA Table at the event.
Seminar led by José Ramón Moreno, former President of FEPA and an FIP judge, on 'How I could improve the evaluation of my thematic exhibit'.
- 09 October **South of England Stamp Fair**
At Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
Over 40 dealers, free parking and cafe facilities.
BTA Table

COVID - 19

Please note that this programme is **provisional**. Events may be cancelled dependant on government advice and availability of venue; please check the BTA website for current information.

If the situation improves the BTA will consider adding to this programme during the year.

How I Started, page 88



Fig 1: Yellow-Crowned Amazon



Fig 2: Rose-Ring Parakeets



Fig 3: Maroon Shining-Parrot (Turtles watermark)



Fig 4: Amazon parrots



Fig 5: Kakapo



Fig 6: Kea



Fig 8: Norfolk Kaka



Fig 7: Kaka



Fig 9: Cockatiel