

THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

Journal of the
British Thematic Association
which is a member of the
Association of British
Philatelic Societies

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

Top topics this issue look forward to Thematica and back to some recent successful events. Thematica will be on 25 - 26 June, with the AGM on 26th'. Page 71 has the agenda and balance sheet to bring to the meeting. Prior to the formal business the President will present this year's winner of the Francesca Rapkin Memorial Bowl. This is awarded annually to the author of the best article published in Themescene the previous year, as voted for by the BTA Committee. I am delighted to say that this year it has been won by John Leathes for his highly entertaining "The Humble Spud". This is the third year this award has been made, and we've had three different winners. So why not submit something yourself? I can't give you a recipe for winning it, since we all have a vote, but I can tell you what attracts me: an interesting subject (which means more or less anything), written in a lively way, with a few illustrations. Not so hard really, and - surprise surprise - just what I need to make this an attractive magazine anyway. If you are reading this and are unsure about whether to do something, or how to submit it, drop me an email or telephone me. I am happy to talk you through any queries.

Thematica will have the usual range of dealers and specialist societies. The BTA will of course have its own stand -why not come along and introduce yourself if you are a member not known to the Committee. I will be there both days and will be happy to hear what you have to say about Themescene. On the Sunday at 2pm the presentations of the competition trophies will be made. These are for the John Fosbery Trophy, the BTA Cup. and the Inter-Federation Healey 8; Wise Salver. This will take place in the Exhibition Hall.

The BTA has had some highly successful meetings recently, and our hard-working reporter-about-town, aka Simon Moorcroft, reports on these on pages 64 and 66. He also flags up future meetings. Do try and support these. We have an excellent programme this year. but it can only be a success if there is a good attendance. Regular contributors Ian Paton, David Jones and Barry Floyd all have articles this month. Many thanks to all of them.

Recently my attention was drawn to an article in a society newsletter denigrating thematics. (Brian Sole refers to this in his President's Page). I have no interest in getting in a slanging match with the writer, but I have to say that I was disturbed: not only by the article but by the fact that a local society thought it worth publishing. The article demonstrated complete ignorance about thematic collecting: all the old clichés about modern cheap stamps and no philatelic knowledge. We all know this is nonsense, but it never seemed to cross the author's mind that most of us do pursue other aspects of philately of which the writer approves: postal history. traditional etc. If we can be philatelists when collecting postal history do we shut down our intellectual faculties when working on our thematic collections? People can think what they like, but they do not have the right to gratuitously insult other collectors.

Fortunately this attitude is in the minority. Many of us give displays to local societies and get much pleasure from doing so (let's face it, it's an innocent form of showing off). My own experience, to which I know others would concur, is by and large that the audience will enjoy your talk, and people will want to chat to you afterwards about some aspect of your display. Sharing your knowledge, and your enjoyment, is what our hobby is about. Long may it continue.

Happy collecting. ☒

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

The display by BTA members to the Royal Philatelic Society on 10th March 2005 was a great success. Almost 30 members contributed material from their collections. The various displays arrived at the Royal on time and the frames were full before 12 noon.

The small party of BTA helpers adjourned to a local hostelry, where we enjoyed a convivial lunch together. A toast was raised in memory of Franceska Rapkin and the BTA. We returned to the Royal in time for the usual 1pm opening time of the meeting room. I was very pleased that 27 BTA members accepted our invitation to attend as guests. At about 4.30pm David Beech, President of the Royal, gave a short speech of thanks to the Society, to which I responded. David then presented me with a bronze plaque with the words "British Thematic Association 10 March 2005" engraved on the back. John Hayward, who had organised the event so well, has taken the plaque into his care, as unofficial archivist of the Society. After the displays had been dismantled, and returned to those owners who were present, we were able to relax and chat together in the Library, over a glass of wine. The day was brought to a very pleasant close with a meal at a nearby restaurant, hosted by David Beech. The party of seven included Margaret Morris, Tony Farmer, John and Maureen Hayward, Anne and myself, and David Beech. Reports and photographs of the event have appeared in the Philatelic press and I hope that the publicity will result in an increase in membership.

It was unfortunate that I was unable to attend the Members' Meeting at the Victory Services Club on 23rd April, but I had accepted an invitation to display "Go by cycle!" to the West of England Thematic Society (WETS) on the same day! Mary Claydon and the members of WETS gave me a very warm welcome at Ashburton and I recognised many faces. As there was a morning and afternoon session, I divided each session into two halves, to avoid speaking too long (and boring the audience). I was asked a number of questions about thematic philately and it was encouraging to have such good-humoured audience participation. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. It also enabled my wife and I to travel down to South Devon and enjoy the sea and country air for a further 4 days, before returning home.

The bad publicity thematics have been receiving in the Newsletters of two Societies in Surrey was brought to my attention at Ashburton. I was pleased to learn that there had been a vigorous response, opposing the comments to this unwarranted criticism, in a subsequent Newsletter of one of the Societies. Thematic philately is as much a part of the hobby as traditional stamps, postal history, revenues, aerophilately, maximaphily, social philately and Cinderellas. We should all be doing our best to encourage newcomers to take part in one or more of these divisions of the hobby, which we all enjoy. To single out one category as unworthy of collecting, in a Society magazine, is destructive to the hobby. ☒

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Christine Earle

I am writing these words almost immediately on my return from Sydney, and the successful Pacific Explorer 05 exhibition, where yours truly was officiating as a member of the FIP Jury. Although a small exhibition, with less than 1800 competitive frames including Youth, and lasting only the four days from April 21st to 24th, the exhibition was exciting and vibrant. Our Australian hosts were both efficient and friendly, and although the judging was by necessity rather more rushed than usual, the atmosphere was of a happy band all willing to work together. Leading the team of international jurors was our own BTA member Francis Kiddle FRPSL, who as Jury Secretary had the unenviable task of keeping all our noses to the grindstone and ensuring that we finished the judging on time Which we did, in fact ahead of schedule. Well done Francis! There were 33 Thematic entries (sadly none from the UK), the standard was on the whole excellent with two Large Gold Medals, and five Gold medals being awarded. I think this proves that Thematic Philately is no longer the 'poor relation' of philately but is accepted, internationally at least, as a far-reaching and challenging philatelic discipline. It is very pleasing to see how far some of these exhibits have come over the last 5 years.

On a more personal note, your Chairman is proud to announce that, in order to enhance her new 'The City of Sydney' collection, on 14th April 2005 she, along with her daughter Sam, successfully completed the 'Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb'. The Climb takes a total of 3½ hours, with trained leaders escorting each small group (there were eight of us in ours) up the 1337 steps leading to the Bridge summit, 134 metres above sea level. Advertised as 'The Climb of Your Life' it certainly lived up to its name! It was exhilarating and scary all at the same time, and a day I shall never forget, and yes I bought the T-shirt! ☒



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members UK	197
Family members UK	20
Junior members UK	3
Society members UK	19
Overseas members	23
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	2

Total number of members 265 at 1st May 2005

In spite of a good rate of recruitment the total number of members of the Association has fallen below the number recorded at this time last year. It is noticeable that several of those choosing not to continue in membership are in the 'top' age bracket and are generally retiring from philately. Disappointingly, a number of people who joined during 2004 have chosen not to renew, and it is our intention to try and find out if the Association is failing to fulfil some specific need for Thematic collectors. Bearing in mind the limitations of an International Society, a letter to the Editor is always welcome if a way of improving the Association's activities can be seen.

Some of the letters of resignation received have been most complimentary about the work of the BTA and several have sent their thanks for the help and kindness received during their time with the Association. So despite the loss of a member, it is encouraging to note that the work of the BTA has been enjoyed and appreciated. Don't forget that help with your collection or contact with members collecting similar themes is available by contacting a committee member.

Our Publicity Officer, who is working hard to raise the BTA profile, would be glad of help from members keeping a weather eye open for potential new recruits. Additional subscriptions provide a healthier income and would give the association greater flexibility. ☒

New Members joining since the March issue

Mr A. Almond	Newton Abbott	Mr. P. Bowles	Lowestoft
Mr. D. Grant	Stourport	Mrs. P. Minett	Farnborough
Mr. R. Goodenough	Newbury	Mr. E. Day	Rayleigh
Mr. D. Hogarth	Invergowrie		

Deaths advised since the December issue

None

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

As I sit down to write this page and look back at the past two months I realise what a very successful and busy time it has been. In February Spring Stampex took place with a very good selection of thematic dealers offering a very wide range of stock. We now look forward to the thematic competitions in the Autumn.

Next year it will be our turn, when we will be displaying on the Village Green. Your Committee, and especially John Hayward, are working very hard to make this event a special and successful one. However, for it to be a success we need people to display. Many people have already returned their forms and we have filled a good number of the frames. But there are still many which need filling, so do not be shy and come and show off your thematic collection! If you have lost your form there is a copy after this article. This is a real chance for us to show the philatelic world what thematics are and the enjoyment and fun they can bring, so do not let the opportunity slip!

On Saturday 6th March the BTA and the Cinderella Stamp Club held a joint meeting at the British Philatelic Centre. It was well attended and featured displays from both societies. From the BTA, myself, Jean Alexander, ... Alexander, Christine Earle, Stuart Henderson, Lesley Marley, Alan Sabey and Brian Sole displayed. Many thanks goes to Francis Kiddle who organised the meeting and to the Cinderella Club for the excellent lunch. It was a very relaxed and enjoyable event and the day illustrated the enjoyment and variety joint society meetings can bring.

On 10th March the BTA's premier event for 2005 took place when we displayed to the Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Society London. In total twenty seven of our members attended as guests which was an excellent number. Twenty six members took the opportunity to display which filled almost all of the frames. Please see page... for a full report of the day and photographs. It was a very enjoyable event and was a great privilege to be asked to display to the world's oldest and most prestigious philatelic society.

On Saturday 23rd April a Thematic Workshop took place at the Victory Services Club (see full report on page...). This was a very enjoyable event with a very good display of Heraldry to coincide with St Georges Day: members' displays and invaluable information on how to form thematic checklists and use catalogues. Many thanks to John Hayward for organising and running a very successful event.

By the time you read this Eurothema will have just taken place. As it was mentioned in the last *Themescene* the BTA has fielded a team of five members consisting of David Griffiths, Geoff Hood, David Hunter, John Leathes and Simon Moorcroft. Results to follow in the next *Themescene*.

Although much has happened a lot is still to come and we have a busy two months ahead of us. This month we have the event we all have been looking forward to: Thematica. It will take place at the normal venue of the Victory Services Club on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June. As usual there will a very good number of thematic dealers present and I am sure they will have something for everybody. In addition, it will also feature the annual competitions and a large number of society tables. The BTA will be having a table and if there are any members willing to man the table, even for a very short time, it will give others a chance to look around. If you can help please let the Secretary, Anne Stammers know (see page ... for telephone number) or just turn up on the day.

On the Sunday our AGM takes place and will start at 2:30 pm. Although usually on the Saturday, after discussion at the last AGM, and not to clash with Midpex, the Committee decided to hold it a day later. As usual, after the formal proceedings, last year's winner of the BTA Cup will give the display. This year it will be Peter Wood showing The Irish Empire. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, especially on the Sunday.

As mentioned above, Midpex will take place on the same Saturday as Thematica. Because of our presence at Thematica there will only be a BTA table and static display at Midpex. However, if anybody is going could you please consider manning the table for a short time. If you would like to volunteer, again, please contact the Secretary.

Also this month we have our meeting at Swinpex on 11th June. Only five people attended this meeting last year. Although there were some very good displays it was a very disappointing turnout. If you want these regional meetings to continue you have to support them.

As you can see we have had a very busy few months and have many to look forward to. With the many important meetings this year and the presence at Stampex next year, the profile of the BTA and thematics is being increased. The committee always works hard to make every event a success. However, it is up to you, the members, to come along and make the event a real success. Please do come along and get involved in the forthcoming events and together we can make the BTA and thematics stronger and better.

Finally the Committee feel that to raise the Association's profile and membership it would very much like members who give thematic displays to societies to take membership application forms with them when they give the display. These could then be given out to any interested people. If any of you feel you would like to do this then please contact me (address on page...) and I will be happy to send you the required number of application forms.

Happy collecting and look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming events! ☒

STAMPEX VILLAGE GREEN 2006

BTA Member's Name.....

Address

.....

.....

Phone No

Title of Display.....

Short Description of 16 Page Display: maximum size 28.6cm high x 23.1cm

wide -

.....

.....

.....

Please cut out and send to :- J.C.Hayward
18 Waverley Drive
Camberley
Surrey GU15 2DL

UPU ILLEGAL ISSUES

From the official UPU listings

BENIN

Cars

- One MS featuring series of racing cars in the background, inscribed "FERRARI" and six stamps featuring different models of car. Values are 100f, 300f, 450f, and 250f, 400f and 500f, and each stamp inscribed "POSTES 2002".
- One MS featuring racing cars in the background, inscribed "FERRARI" and six stamps, each featuring different model of racing car. Each stamp has a value of 500f, is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One MS featuring series of cars in the background, inscribed "Classic Automobiles", and six stamps, each featuring different models of vintage car. Values are 100f, 300f, 500f, and 200f, 400f and 600f.
- Two MS, depicting car in the background and containing a postage stamp depicting another model of car. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One MS containing three se-tenant stamps, featuring different models of car. Values are 150f, 300f and 450f and the year 2003.

Elvis Presley

- One MS featuring scenes of jubilation and an enlarged portrait of the actor/singer Elvis Presley and the inscription "25e anniversaire ELVIS PRESLEY". Comprises a set of six stamps, each featuring a different portrait of Presley, with values of 100f, 200f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f.
- Six MS, each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f. Two of the MS are inscribed "POSTES 2002" and the other four "POSTES 2003".
- One MS containing nine stamps, each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley. Values of the stamps are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002".
- Two MS, each containing six stamps inscribed "ELVIS PRESLEY" at the top. Values of the stamps are 100f, 200f, 200f, 300f, 300f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One of these MS has also been found on sale in imperforate format, as though it were a separate MS. One of the stamps on the same MS, with a value of 200f, has also been found on sale as though it were a separate issue.
- One MS inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY", and containing six stamps. Values are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One MS featuring Walt Disney and other portraits, inscribed "100 WALT DISNEY" and "ELVIS PRESLEY". Contains six stamps. Each has a value of 100 FCFA and is inscribed with an illegible year.
- One MS featuring Walt Disney portraits, inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY" and in the middle "100 WALT DISNEY". Contains two stamps inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA and an illegible year.
- One MS inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY", made up of ten stamps. Upper row is inscribed with values of 100f, and the lower row with values of 250f. The top and bottom are inscribed "LOUPS".

Japanese women

- One MS depicting a Japanese woman in traditional costume, and containing stamp depicting another Japanese woman. Has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There is an inscription in Japanese at the bottom of the MS.
- One MS featuring a Japanese woman, together with an inscription in Japanese. Two horizontal strips of three se-tenant stamps. Values are 150f, 200f and 250f, and 300f, 400f and 500f.

Musicians, musical groups

- Fifteen MS depicting, each containing four stamps with "AC/DC", "BACKSTREET BOYS", "The Beatles", "BeeGees", "The Doors", "F. Mercury", "KISS", "Led Zeppelin", "Metallica", "Mick Jagger" and "QUEEN". Values are 100f, 200f, 300f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo.
- One MS featuring several pictures "The Beatles". Two horizontal strips of three se-tenant stamps. Each stamp features a different picture of the group, has a value of 100FCFA and is inscribed 2003.
- Two MS, each depicting "The Beatles" in the background. Contains one postage stamp in the bottom right-hand corner. Each stamp has a value of 500FCFA and bears the year 2003.
- One MS containing four stamps, each with a different picture of Bob Hope inscribed "TRIBUTE TO BOB HOPE". Values are 100f, 200f, 300f and 500f. There are other depictions and caricatures of the comedian on the margins of the MS. These MS are also sold cancelled, as though it were an authentic issue.
- One MS containing six stamps, each featuring a different depiction of a jazz musician. Values are 100f, 200f, 300f, and 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed with the musician's name and "POSTES 2003".
- Two MS each containing eight stamps: one MS featuring "Robbie Williams" and another featuring "Vin Diesel". Values oare 100F, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f and 450f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

Immoral and provocative scenes

- Six MS, each containing nine stamps, featuring a man or a woman in a provocative pose. Inscribed at the top "Anton Corbijo", "Baron Jerry von Lind", "Dorian Cleavenger", * "Drew Posada", "Helmut Newton" and "Matt Hughes". Values are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002".
- Seven MS. Each MS contains a postage stamp featuring another provocative pose. Value of 1,000 F and inscribed "POSTES 2002". Each MS is inscribed with the name of the artist "Baron Jerry von Lind", "Dorian Cleavenger" and "Drew Posada", and one MS with "Matt Hughes".
- Ten MS inscribed at the top "All Buell", "Billy DeVorss", "Boris Lopez", "Edward D'Ancona", "Luis Royo", "Nude Miyazawa", "Pearl Frush", "Sexy Models" and "Top Models" respectively. Values are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- Four MS inscribed "Ricky Carralero", and "Carlos Cartagena". Each MS contains a postage stamp featuring another woman in a provocative pose. Each has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- Three MS inscribed in large characters "Pin-Up". Each MS contains postage stamp featuring another woman in a provocative pose. Each has a value of 500 FCFA and is inscribed with the year 2003.
- Two MS, inscribed "Edvard Runci", and "Top Models". Each contains two horizontal strips of three se-tenant values. Values are 150f, 200f and 250f, and 300f, 400f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One MS containing six stamps, featuring a different actress or model, half-naked or in a provocative pose. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 500f and "POSTES 2003", and vertically inscribed with each woman's name.
- Three MS, inscribed "Carlos Cartagena", "Sean Gallimore" and "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN". Values are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f, 500f, 550f, 600f and 650f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- One MS featuring a half-naked woman in a provocative pose, and containing a stamp featuring a woman whose depiction constitutes one of the stamps in the MS "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN" Stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".
- Two MS, each containing a set of twenty excerpts in the form of perforated vignettes. Each has value of 3,000f and inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each recounts a tale in comic strip format "GULLIVERA – PART I" and "GULLIVERA – PART II".
- One MS containing six stamps, each featuring Japanese erotic art. MS is inscribed "SHUNGA" and "Otagawa Kunisada". Each stamp has a value of 300f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views expressed in these letters may not necessarily be those of the Editorial Board.

From Nahum Shereshevsky, Israel, by email

Dear Wendy,

I would like to invite BTA members to my site "Heraldry in Philately", which features two full versions of my thematic exhibit 'Behind the Shield: the Story of Heraldry'. The URL: <http://www.phil-her.qn.com>. I'm also proposing an Internet philatelic heraldry study group. The purpose of the group is to exchange information about heraldry related philatelic items between the members. This will be done in English and only through the Internet - no hard copies, no postage expenses and therefore no need for membership dues. In fact, no need for any formal association. Anyone who is interested should contact me: nasher@actcom.co.il. I will appreciate your mentioning this in your journal and/or site, especially the study group. With my best wishes,

And a note passed on from Michel Abram, following his talk to the BTA at Basildon;

Dear Brian,

You can't imagine how happy I have been to spend two days in Basildon with you all, British thematic friends.

Thank you very much for your friendly reception.

WANTS

The Editor welcomes Wants Lists from readers and is very happy to print them. However neither the Editor nor any other member of the BTA committee may be held responsible for any subsequent dealings or exchanges done through contacts made through these columns

Sir,

As a philatelist, I respectfully write to you about my request for a correspondent. My goal is to find someone who would be interested in exchanging letters and stamps. We could exchange the postage stamps that we put on envelopes, or stamps inside the envelopes, if wished. I would be very interested in sharing information with the person about anything cultural he or she would be interested in (history, general culture, arts, society, culture etc.). I already have a correspondent in Switzerland, and another one in Iran, and it is very gratifying.

Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who would be interested. I think I make a very generous correspondent.

With my very best regards,

Josée Michaud, MD, FRCP©, CSPQ, 15-555 10th Avenue, St-Georges-de-Beauce, Canada G5Y 6Y9

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A DISTINGUISHED DOZEN

Ian Paton continues his revue of some historical figures

COUNT JEAN-BAPTISTE BERNADOTTE = KING KARL XIV JOHAN OF SWEDEN (1763-1844) was the son of a French lawyer and at the age of 17 enlisted in the French Army. By 1790 he was an ardent supporter of the Revolution and by 1794 was a Brigadier. He first met Napoleon in 1797 and in 1798 married Désirée Clary who was Napoleon's former fiancée and sister-in-law to Napoleon's brother Joseph. He was a Councillor of State from 1802-05 and became commander of the Army of the West. He was not in favour of all the powers assumed by Napoleon in 1799 as 1st Consul, but in 1804 when Napoleon proclaimed the Empire Bernadotte declared full loyalty to him and was made a Marshal of the Empire. He played an important part in Napoleon's victory at Austerlitz in 1805. In 1807 he was named as Governor of the occupied Hanseatic cities of North Germany.



In 1809 a palace revolution had overthrown King Gustav IV of Sweden and placed the aged childless Carl XIII on the throne; the Danish prince Christian August had been elected as Crown Prince but he died suddenly in 1810. Though Napoleon was asked for advice he was reluctant to interfere, and the Swedish Baron Carl Otto Mörner approached Bernadotte because he respected his military ability and had been impressed by his humane administration of the Hanseatic cities. The Riksdag was similarly impressed and voted for the election of Bernadotte as the Swedish Crown Prince, Carl Johan. He converted to Lutheranism and was adopted by Carl XIII as his son. It is this 'secondary interest' as King of Sweden which is illustrated with a stamp.

Carl Johan proved that he had 'changed sides' by landing his troops in Germany and in October 1813 he joined in the defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Leipzig. He went on to defeat the Danes in a swift campaign which forced their King Frederick VI to sign the Treaty of Kiel transferring Norway to the Swedish Crown. At the Congress of Vienna (1815) the support of Britain and Russia secured Carl Johan's position and on the death of Carl XIII in February 1818 he became King of Sweden and Norway. Following his death in 1844 his dynasty continued to rule in Sweden to this day.

SIR JOHN MOORE (1761-1809). The islands in the British West Indies are a rich source for stamps depicting events related to the American Colonies and I picked out a 1974 St. Lucia set showing past Governors, one of whom (Governor 1796-1797) was named Sir John Moore.



These dates meant that he could have been at Corunna in 1809, and biographical research confirmed this. Like many others of my age group I remembered the poem The burial of Sir John Moore at Corunna by Charles Wolfe which I had learnt by heart at school:

*Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,
as his corse to the rampart we hurried;
not a soldier discharged his farewell shot,
O'er the grave where our hero we buried.*

Reading a military history book about the Peninsula War in Spain confirmed the accuracy of the burial description in the poem. In December 1808 the French had over 300,000 men in Spain and cut off Lt.-General Sir John Moore with only 29,000 soldiers so that he was forced to retreat to Corunna and have his army evacuated by sea. He

was struck on the shoulder by grape-shot on the 19th January 1809 and died that evening after learning that the French attack under Marshal Soult had failed and his army was able to embark. After discussion it was decided to bury him at Corunna rather than to bring his body back to England and it was wrapped in his cloak before being buried by candlelight. The evacuation was a British victory of the Dunkirk type.

GEORGE SMITH PATTON (1885-1945) known as 'Old Blood and Guts', came to fame as a distinguished, if controversial, American General in World War II for his aggressive use of armoured columns in Western Europe. He is commemorated on stamps of both Belgium and Luxembourg (as well as the USA) for his victory in the 1944 Battle of Bastogne. He also fought in WWI, commanding an armoured brigade using tanks on the Western Front. Seven of his ancestors fought in the Confederate Army in the American Civil



War.

My 'secondary interest' is his participation in the U.S. Team at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm. He came fifth in the Modern Pentathlon and the record books show he might have won if he had not done so badly in the pistol shooting in which he came 21st in a field of 32 competitors.

SIR RONALD ROSS (1837-1932) won the 1902 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his work on Malaria in India. This stamp draws attention to the 'secondary interest' possibilities for many themes which are provided by the series of Swedish stamps depicting Nobel Prizewinners. Ronald Ross worked in a remote field hospital in Secunderabad, India and in 1897 he examined the Anopheles mosquito under a microscope after it had fed on a malaria patient, proving the connection with the spread of the disease. He



proposed an anti-mosquito campaign in a letter to the Indian Government in February 1901, and the results led to his Nobel Prize.

My strong 'secondary interest' lies in Dr. Ross staying for a week in the Panama Canal Zone in 1904. He was in the USA for the St. Louis Fair and met the Canal's Medical Officer William Crawford Gorgas who was home on leave, before he went on to the Canal for a week. He pronounced Gorgas' anti-mosquito campaign as sound in every particular. It was Malaria and Yellow Fever killing the labourers which had caused the French to abandon their attempts to build a Panama Canal in the pre-1900 period. By 1905 Gorgas had eliminated Yellow Fever in the Canal Zone and in 1914 was promoted to Brigadier and made surgeon general of the U.S. Army.



WALT WHITMAN (1819-1891) as an American journalist was associated with at least ten newspapers and periodicals between 1841 and 1848. As a Poet he became known internationally for his collection of poems *Leaves of Grass* first published at his own expense in 1855

with 95 pages - the cover carried a portrait of Whitman 'Broad shouldered, Baachus-browed and bearded like a Satyr', but not the name of the author. In eight subsequent editions it grew to 440 pages. Biographical research shows that though he travelled widely in America he never visited Europe, and the *Literary History of the United States* records that the earliest recognition of Whitman's poems in France began about 1872. This is relevant because a stamp depicting Walt Whitman resembles the cover portrait, though I do not understand the significance of the African Village which is also shown. It was issued in 1970 by the former French West African Territory of Dahomey (now Benin). If anyone knows why Dahomey (rather than some other French territory) issued this stamp please let me know; I have only glanced at *Leaves of Grass*, which is not to my taste, so I could have missed some subtle point. I suspect that based on other Dahomian stamps their post office saw 'people and art related subjects' as a trap for thematic collectors.

My 'secondary interest' is Whitman's strong link to the American Civil War, because in 1862 he went to Virginia to seek out his wounded brother George. He went on to Washington to become an unofficial nurse to Northern and Southern soldiers in hospital, and subsequently published poems under the title *Drum Taps* in 1865 and *Memoranda during the War* in 1875. An American stamp issued in 1940 has a portrait of Whitman.

JOHN ROWLANDS was born in 1841 in Wales to a one-parent family, but as **SIR HENRY MORTON STANLEY (1841-1904)** he is probably the best known of my twelve people to British readers, and his life is an almost unbelievable adventure story (*The Man Who Presumed* by Byron Farwell 1957). His mother ran off to London leaving him with his grandfather who died in 1845; after years as an orphan in a workhouse and a one-way trip to the USA as a cabin-boy he arrived in New Orleans in 1857. By good fortune he came to the notice of a prosperous businessman Henry Morton Stanley who arranged for him to work in a store, and take his name by baptism though without any formal documentation.



At this point my 'secondary interest' arises when Henry Stanley fought for both sides in the American Civil War! I illustrate this with a British stamp. He joined the Confederate Army in July 1861 and in April the following year he was taken prisoner fighting at the battle of Shiloh. In POW Camp Douglas he accepted the Union terms for release and joined the Union Army before going down with dysentery, being sent to hospital and then discharged. He recovered while working on farms and took U.S. citizenship. After a brief visit to England to try and locate his mother, who did not wish to see him, he returned to the USA and in July 1864 enlisted in the Union Navy for a term of three years. He was posted to the USS Minnesota on blockade duty and witnessed the attacks on Fort Fisher in North Carolina, about which he wrote a story that was accepted and used by a magazine. Seeing little prospect for writing in the Navy he deserted in February 1865, two months before the end of the war. He went off to visit Turkey and wrote a number of newspaper articles before going to New York looking for a job as a journalist.

In 1867 he persuaded James Gordon Bennett the publisher of the New York Herald to employ him to cover the British Expedition to Ethiopia commanded by Sir Robert Napier with

12,000 men drawn from the Indian Army. The mad Emperor Theodore had British and other European hostages whom he would not release from his capital at Magdala - a careful, methodical campaign resulted in the destruction of his army, and the release of the hostages following his suicide. Bennett next instructed Stanley to report on the opening of the Suez Canal (November 1869) before going on to find the Explorer David Livingstone; neither cost nor time taken were of any consequence. At Ujiji on the banks of Lake Tanganyika on 10th November 1871 one of the best known meetings of all time took place and the memorable words *Dr. Livingstone I presume* were uttered. These are shown on the Centenary stamp



Belgian Congo. He married Dorothy Tennant in July 1890, and became a naturalised British subject again in 1892, before being elected a Unionist MP for Lambeth 1895-1900. He was made a Knight of the Order of the Bath in 1899.

Over the years Stanley received many honours, gave many lectures, and attended many receptions both in Europe and the USA, but it was travel and the exploration of Africa which was his real interest. Unlike most of the other Explorers he put something back into Africa and led a five year project in the

PIERRE AUGUSTIN CARON (1732-1799) is best known as a playwright under his pen-name '**BEAUMARCHAIS**' and as the author of the comedies *Le Barbier de Séville* and *La Folle Journée ou le mariage de Figaro*. I have left him to the end because his 'secondary interest' is the most obscure and difficult to uncover, since conventional history books largely ignore it. At the time of the American War of Independence the French had no altruistic motives for helping the American colonies in their revolt, and King Louis



XVI and his Foreign Minister Vergennes acted only in what they saw as the best interests of France. Above all they wanted to destroy British trade and so eliminate Britain as a European power without the need to go to war. They therefore wished to conceal from the British any aid they might choose to give the Americans, and Vergennes authorised the playwright and wealthy businessman, 'Beaumarchais' to be a 'front man' and to set up the trading company Hortalez & Co in 1778, (See *American War of Independence 1763-1783*, Pages 515-518, by Mark M. Boatner; Cassell 1973). This company was established with one million livres (\$200,000)

each from the French and Spanish governments and a further million raised by Beaumarchais, and organised to smuggle money and arms to the Americans. Another service rendered to George Washington by Beaumarchais in 1777 was to provide travel funds for Baron von Steuben to go to Boston - his staff training in the Prussian army was just what was needed to turn raw recruits into disciplined soldiers, and he became Inspector General of the Continental Army.

The French Revolution in 1789 was a disaster for Beaumarchais and cost him his fortune. He was suspected of attempting to sell arms to the émigrés and in 1793 had to take refuge in Holland and England. ☒

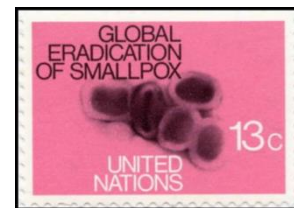
*Full page advertisement
for the Stamp Centre*

LIFE'S EVENTS CHRONICLED ON POSTAGE STAMPS: A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

Dr. David Jones looks back over his life

I celebrated an important birthday recently and it prompted me to feature stamps which bring back memories; some good, some not so good, to illustrate some of the landmarks throughout this 'incredible journey' as it was referred to in one birthday card. I suffered from tubercular pleurisy as a student and recovered because of the expert medical treatment with streptomycin, an antibiotic discovered by a soil microbiologist, Selman Waksman (Gambia S.G.953). Whilst hospitalised I fed caterpillars of the Emperor moth (*Saturnia pavonia*; see Yugoslavia S.G.2311) in a special cage until they spun cocoons. Adult moths eventually emerged from the cocoons and were set free 'into the wild'. Grasses featured in my undergraduate days but unlike the ones shown on stamps (not too often) from Bophuthatswana (S.G.80-83 and 116-119) were British species. As a postgraduate student I was vaccinated against smallpox (United Nations S.G.303).

I became a research microbiologist and used optical microscopes (Russia S.G.3242; Brazil S.G.1859) and electron microscopes (Japan S.G. 1852; a transmission electron microscope on a pre-stamped envelope issued in Russia in 1993 is shown here) in my studies on *Penicillium* spp. (Monaco S.G.1117) and a plant pathogen on *Agathis* sp. (Fiji S.G.817). A colleague attended the 3rd. International Protozoologist Congress in Leningrad (Russia S.G.3694). I attended an electron microscope conference in Budapest in 1984 (EUREM) and the roses stamps are cancelled as shown. And now I have to get my blood checked for glucose (Denmark SG 941 displays insulin crystals). And finally, lichens, which played a prominent part of my research, were the subject of an article I submitted recently to a philatelic magazine. I do hope that it is accepted! ✉





A ROYAL DISPLAY

Simon Moorcroft reports on the BTA display to the Royal Philatelic Society London

On Thursday 10th March the BTA displayed to the Royal Philatelic Society London. The Royal, as it is commonly known, was formed in 1869 and is the oldest and most prestigious philatelic society in the world. It was therefore a great privilege to be invited to give a 1:00pm display to their Fellows and Members.

The meeting was in memory of Francheska Rapkin RDP FRPSL, past President and Chairman of the BTA, and to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the formation of the BTA.

57 Fellows and Members and 27 guests from the BTA were in attendance, which was an excellent number. At lunchtime the majority of BTA members attended a lunch at a very exclusive local restaurant, the Kings Head Public House. Although informal, our President, Brian Sole, did speak for a short while on the formation of the BTA and how the association has developed since, and the role that Franceska played in that formation and development. He also proposed a toast to her and the BTA and said that if Franceska was watching he thought she would be extremely pleased.

In the afternoon the President of the Royal, David Beech, presented Brian Sole and Christine Earle with the Society's plaque in recognition of the display. He commented on the wide range of themes and subjects thematic philately embraces and was particularly impressed by the magnificent treatments and subjects which were displayed. David also mentioned that he had overheard that Tony Farmer had been up until 2am that day writing up his display. This is dedication at its highest.

In response to David's kind words, Brian Sole thanked the President for inviting the BTA to display to the Royal to commemorate its 21st anniversary. Brian recalled in his talk how Ron Lee had kept his promise to form a Thematic Philately Federation and that Franceska Rapkin had been the BTA's first Chairman, first person in the UK to win a gold medal in the thematic class, and how she had been an inspiration to all.

After the display many people stayed for the wine and nibbles served in the society's large library.

This was one of the greatest events in the BTA's 21 year history and all those attending felt honoured to be part of such a superb display and to be present at such a great event.

The following BTA members displayed, in frame order:

R. David Locke:	Animal Welfare
Jean Alexander FRPSL:	Waterfalls
John Leathes:	Tigers
Ron Trevelyan:	Doing Business at the Fair
Ian Paton FRPSL:	Abraham Lincoln, the C.S.A & the Civil War, 1861-65
Philatelic Music Circle:	Music in Britain
Peter Wood:	The Irish Empire
Miller McGrath FRPSL:	Black Gold
Jacque Benham:	Alternative Medicine
Tony Farmer FRPSL:	Carlo Philately
Jon Perrott:	Wickies World
Erica Banks:	The Versatile Scallop
Anne Stammers:	From Rocks to Riches
Wendy Buckle:	Tell it in print
David Wiskin:	Shackleton

Guild of St Gabriel:
Simon Moorcroft:
Scout & Guide Stamp Club:
Malcolm Hawkins:
Bernard Symonds:
Francis Kiddle RDP FRPSL:
Prof. Charles Oppenheim:
Peter Denly FRPSL:
Brian Sole FRPSL:
Sheila Foster:
Sheila Foster:
John Hayward:
Margaret Morris FRPSL:

The book of Hours
Sir Winston Churchill-The Greatest Briton
Romania Scouts, 1914-1936
Po Poiru
Rugby Football
The Basics of Golf
Chess pieces and the Chess Board
For a Love of Ships
Go by Cycle!
From Vine to Wine
Proverbs
Postal Stationery
Astronomy

Editor's Note:

Check out the RPSL website report of our meeting at:

http://www.rpsl.org.uk/british_thematic_association/index.html

David Beech, Brian and Chris



the local

Lunch in

ST GEORGE, HERALDRY AND THE BTA

Simon Moorcroft Reports

Our Members' Meeting and thematic workshop took place on St George's Day, Saturday 23rd April, at the appropriate venue of the Victory Services Club in London. Thirteen members and guests attended. During the first part of the meeting members were invited to show ten sheets of their most recent acquisitions and the following members displayed: Simon Moorcroft: Winston Churchill; Peter Denly: Ships; Erica Banks: St George; Anne Stammers: From Rocks to Riches; Gerald Lovell: A for Autographs; David Hunter: Inventors and Machinery and Stuart Mallindine: Antarctic Patrol and Supply Ships. It was most interesting to observe the very wide range of material acquired by the members and the story behind the material.

After morning coffee, Geoff Hood, the invited speaker, gave his display entitled "Heraldry, more than just a pretty picture". Geoff began by talking about how heraldry had emerged and explained that it was seen as early as 1066 at the Battle of Hastings but started being officially recognised in the 13th century. He said that one of the reasons for displaying heraldry at a battle is to represent your strength and power to the enemy. In addition to being used during battles, in organisations such as the Roman Catholic Church, rank is shown by shields and that Pope's shield is distinguishable by the triple tiaras above the shield. Power can also be represented on shields by the inclusion of certain animals, such as a lion, into the design.

Geoff went on to mention the formation of the College of Arms, which was founded by King Richard III in 1484, for which the British Post Office issued a commemorative set to mark its quincentenary in 1984. He also said that countries and royalty use heraldry and how some have simple designs, such as Italy, and very complex ones such as Jamaica.

One of the most interesting areas illustrated was the art of heraldry. When it was first conceived very often the design consisted of only a plain or sparsely decorated shield. However, over time additional elaborate decoration has been included on and around the shield. Interestingly enough he said that saints, such as St George, who are associated and pictured with heraldry, lived many years before heraldry had been conceived.

All aspects of the story of Heraldry were illustrated by a very wide range of high quality material.

The vote of thanks was given by Peter Denly.



After lunch the thematic workshop took place. John Hayward started off by asking people how they find out about available material and where they find that material, which generated a good discussion. He developed the discussion by saying how useful the internet and particularly search engines, such as Google, are when looking for material and information, especially the web sites of postal authorities. John also talked about various databases and checklists, including the ATA ones which are available from the BTA.

After this John discussed and clearly laid out the positive and negative points concerning the four main stamp catalogues: Gibbons, Scott, Yvert and Michel. He also went through various other lesser known books and catalogues.

Sheila Foster then gave a presentation on the differences between sheets for a competition entry and for a display. Most importantly she outlined and illustrated what material is and what is not appropriate for a competition entry. She explained that it always good if each sheet contains two or three elements such as stamps, a slogan postmark and a booklet pane. She also gave other important and helpful advice on other details which can ensure that a higher award is attained in a competition.

The whole day was very successful, thoroughly informative and enjoyable. Many thanks go to John Hayward who organised and conducted the meeting. ☒

1.5 ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS - cont'd

MANTLING Mantling represents cloth protecting the helmet from the heat of the sun.

The colours of the mantling are generally the same as the main tinctures of the shield.

Mantling may be retained in a decorative or stylised form even if no helmet is borne.

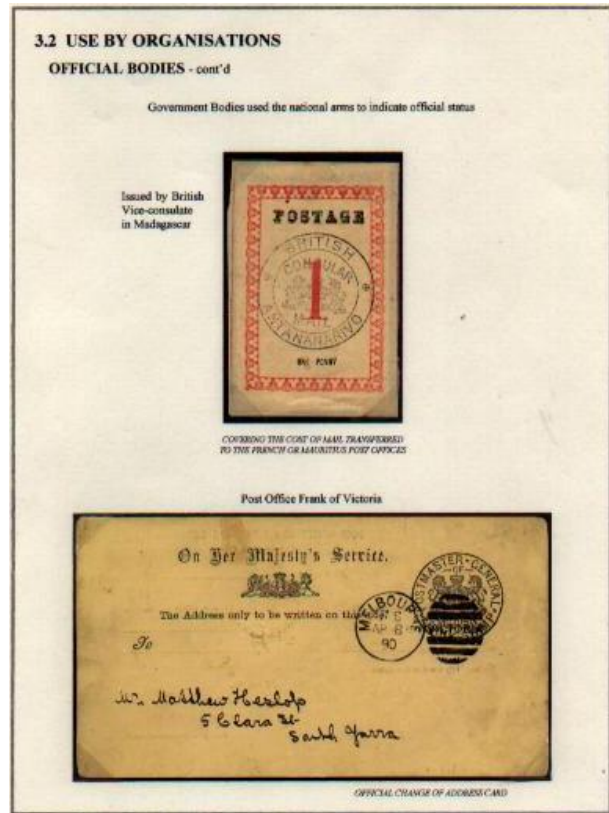
RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED LETTERS

2.1 TINCTURES - cont'd

HATCHING

When large scale colour reproduction was impracticable, a system of shading, known as **Hatching**, was developed to allow different tinctures to be represented in monochrome in books and on documents.

GENÈVE CANTONAL POST RECEIPT - 1837



Geoff and

from his display

Hood pages

THEMATICA 2005

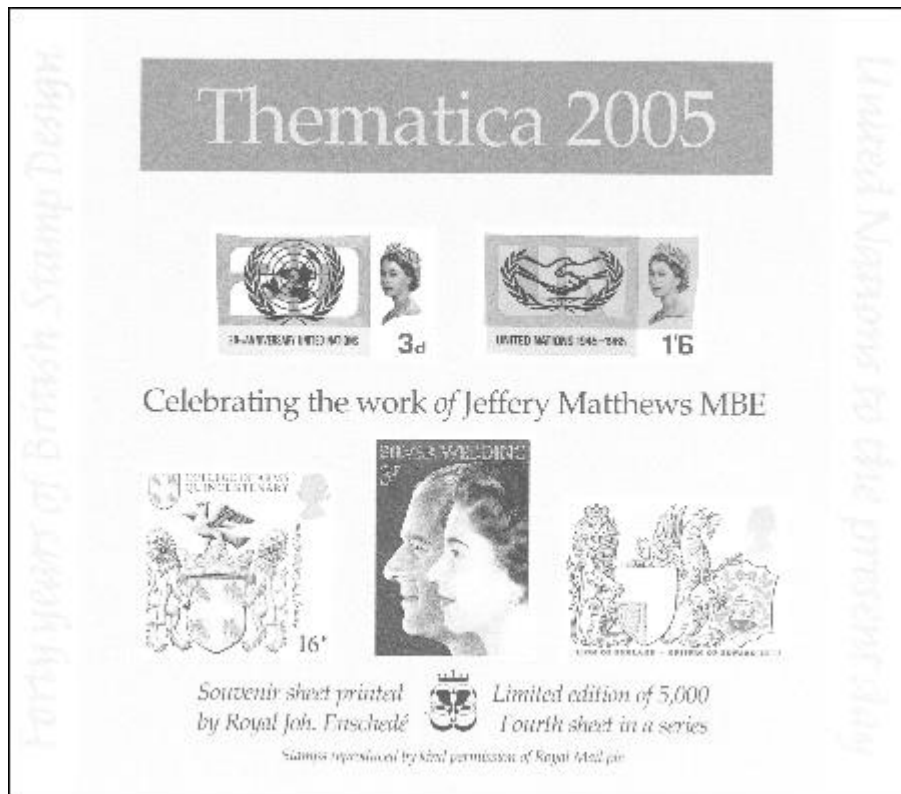
Looking ahead to the major thematic event this month

The past 18 months have been particularly significant for Jeffrey Matthews. First he was awarded the MBE in the 2004 New Year's Honours, and recently, at the Rowland Hill Awards, received the Rowland Hill Award for Outstanding Contribution, and the Phillips Gold Medal for stamp Design, which is awarded once every five years.

These accolades are particularly pertinent as it was 40 years ago, in October 1965, that Jeffrey's first adopted stamp designs appeared, to mark the 20th anniversary of the United Nations.

Visitors to Thematica 2005 will each receive a free souvenir sheet which celebrates the 40 years of stamp design by Jeffrey Matthews. Jeffrey has designed the sheet, which has been kindly printed by Joh Enschedé, one of the world's finest stamp printers.

The Thematica sheet will make a fitting companion to the miniature sheet being issued by the Royal Mail on July 5th to mark the end of World War II. This miniature sheet has also been designed by Jeffrey and printed by Enschedé.



This year for the first time there will be a special handstamp for Thematica, which has been sponsored by the Friends of Thematica. Visitors will be able to buy a special cover, subject to availability, which will bear the souvenir sheet, and will be stamped with stamps designed by Jeffrey and cancelled with the special handstamp. Jeffrey will sign and number each of the covers in a strictly limited edition of 100. They will only be available for purchase at Thematica at £10.00 each. All of the proceeds will be donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, a charity supported by Jeffrey. ☒

AGENDA

**For the 14th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association
to be held during Thematica on SUNDAY June 26th 2004 at 2.30 p.m. in the Albany
Room at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* September 2004
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2004
6. Election of Officers: -
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
7. Election of Committee members
8. Motions for discussion
9. Ratification by the membership of appointment of
 - (a) The Membership Secretary
 - (b) The Publicity Officer
 - (c) Advertising Manager
 - (d) The Librarian
 - (e) Examiner
10. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by June 20th by the Secretary or 'from the floor' at the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a display "The Irish Empire" by Peter Wood winner of the BTA Cup at Thematica 2004.

Annual Accounts (unaudited) follow on next page

Subject to examination**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION****Income and Expenditure Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2004**

£2,003	INCOME		£2,004
£3,561	Subscriptions		£3,595
£35	Publications - net surplus on account		£117
£162	Miscellaneous sales		£279
£104	Donations		£20
£173	Net Bank Interest		£223
<u>£4,035</u>	TOTAL INCOME		<u>£4,234</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
£3,263	<i>Thamescene</i> : printing, distribution, expenses	£3,389	
-£1,355	<u>Less</u> Advertising income	-£1,100	£2,289
£74	TC News and International Activity		£39
£60	Meetings - AGM		£0
£154	BTA Cup Competition Expenses	£162	
-£60	<u>Less</u> Entry Fees	-£135	£27
£262	Committee Meetings and Expenses		£377
£337	Publicity and Web Site		£376
£54	Insurance		£54
£348	Affiliations: ABPS, ATA, Friends of Thematica		£395
£200	Officers' Expenses (other than under relevant activity)		£206
£0	Basildon		£303
£482	Miscellaneous		£244
<u>£3,819</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>£4,310</u>
	SURPLUS (2003) DEFICIT (2004) EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		
£216			-£76
<u>£4,035</u>			<u>£4,234</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2004

	ACCUMULATED FUND		
£12,526	Balance at 1.1.2004	£12,742	
£216	<u>Add</u> Surplus (2003); <u>Less</u> Deficit for the year	-£76	
<u>£12,742</u>			£12,666
-£581	<u>Less</u> Stocks of Publications		-£513
<u>£12,161</u>			<u>£12,153</u>
	REPRESENTED BY:		
£13,200	Cash at Bank: High Interest Account		£13,300
£451	: Current Account		-£59
£80	Amounts due to us, and payments in advance		£265
<u>£13,731</u>			<u>£13,506</u>
-£952	<u>Less</u> Subscriptions received in advance	-£686	
-£618	Amounts due or Received in advance by us	-£667	-£1,353
<u>£12,161</u>			<u>£12,153</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN POST MASTER GALLERY

Barry Floyd reports from some time spent 'Down Under'

BTA members who are fortunate enough to travel to Australia should make every effort to visit the Post Master Gallery in the City of Melbourne, State of Victoria. The Gallery is located at 321 Exhibition Road (enter from La Trobe Street), and is open Monday and Saturday from 12pm to 5pm; Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm. The Gallery is closed on public holidays and from 24th to 31st December. Admission is free!

The Post Master Gallery contains Australia's National Philatelic Collection: the country's most significant assemblage of philatelic knowledge and art work. It also possesses one of Australia's foremost graphic design archives. "At the Post Master Gallery, philately, Australian histories, fine art and graphic design meet in diverse and innovative exhibitions". (Brochure provided for visitors).

During my visit in March 2005 I was able to view the entire range of Australian postage stamps from 18..... to the present day, clearly labeled and illumined. Mounted above the display were large pull-out frames providing information on the design and print details. I was also privileged to view a special display on postal services to and from Victoria's goldfields (1851-1860). Fascinating records from the Eureka Post Office and the correspondence of gold miners and those in support services were on show, demonstrating the importance of mail to every aspect of life in the diggings. "Mail provided the news from home, enabled business to be done and provided one element of normality to the chaos and turmoil of life on the Victorian goldfields". This outstanding display was assembled by the current Gallery curator, Mrs. Elizabeth Gertsakis, who offered a most informative oral commentary on her work.

Earlier exhibitions had covered a wide range of thematic topics. 'Behind the Stamps' uncovered interesting stories concerning Australian stamps. These included "pioneering ventures such as the world's first 'instant' stamps printed and distributed within a day to honour [Australia's] Olympic gold medallists; controversies such as a 'simple kangaroo' which replaced a dignified monarch's head on the first Australian Commonwealth stamps; and occasional mistakes by stamp artists, notably when the wrong man's portrait was featured on a 1947 commemorative stamp".


Another exhibition featured 'Philately on Ice: Stamps of the Australian Antarctic Territory 1957 – 2003'. These issues were part of a political strategy to confirm and validate a large sector of Antarctica as Australian territory. The stamps told the story of "political aspirations, scientific endeavour and ... growing appreciation of the fragile Antarctic environment". The 5d 1961 issue commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1911-14 Antarctic Expedition, led by the distinguished Sir Douglas Mawson.

'Tasmania 1804 - 2004' was the subject of another special display at the Post Master Gallery. This marked the bicentenary of European settlement on the island in the early 19th century. Tasmanian colonial stamps included the Commonwealth's first scenic series. "More than 50 Australian stamps portray Tasmanian themes relating to people, landscapes, exploration, history, flora, fauna, transport and communications". The exhibition included historic and contemporary photographs supporting Australia Post's role in Tasmanian history.

Another display on 'Produce Food' drew attention to the time when Australia's economy and image 'rode on the sheep's back'. "The icons of the traditional Australian agricultural economy were primarily based on wool, wheat and beef. Australian agriculture today is diverse and includes such burgeoning industries as wine and gourmet bush foods. Australian

stamps have reflected the importance and contribution of agriculture to [the country's] economic life".

Train buffs and thematic collectors would have welcomed the display: "Stampspotting: 150 Years of Australian Railways". The country's first railway opened in 1854. Trains have "a long history of carrying the mails across Australia and often the job of sorting mail [as in Great Britain] was performed in railway vans called 'travelling post offices'".

We may be sure that future visitors to the Australian Postal Gallery will continue to be entertained and informed through exhibitions still in the design stage. The curators who will be involved deserve in advance our sincere appreciation. 

Editor's Note:

For current opening times, map and access details go to:

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/displayObject.cfm/objectid.28AE7E71-E852-480E-B583091C11DD0672/vvt.vhtml>

For up to date information on their latest displays go to:

http://www.auspost.com.au/philatelic/stamps/index.asp?link_id=7

BTA NEWS

SWINPEX 11th JUNE 2005

There will be a Members Meeting at 2.30pm: St Joseph's Lower School, Queen's Drive, Swindon. Please bring 12 sheets for display on the letter "I". There is ample free parking at the School; and the fair will have 40 dealers.

MIDPEX 25th JUNE 2005

The BTA will have a stand including 6 frames for publicity and display at Midpex. The venue is Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry. There will be no BTA members meeting at this event.

BTA ROADSHOW 24th SEPTEMBER 2005

Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton, Devon. The programme for the meeting will be:-

1030am	Members' displays of 10 sheets
1130-1145	Coffee Break
1145-1245	Guest Speaker Colin Mount - "Pig in the Post"
1245-1345	Lunch
1345-1600	Thematic Workshop (with tea break)

Those members attending should bring 10 sheets from their latest acquisitions and be prepared to talk on them for no more than 2 minutes. The Thematic Workshop in the afternoon will include advice on forming thematic checklists, use of catalogues, where to obtain material, preparing a display and a criticism of some 16 page thematic exhibits.

There is no charge for the meeting, coffee and tea will be provided. Lunch will be available at the hotel, but those attending should pay for their own lunch.

STAMPEX VILLAGE GREEN 2006

BTA plans for a display on the Village Green at Spring Stampex 2006 from 22nd to 26th February, at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, are well advanced. We have been allocated 200 frames for the event and so far we have 9 of our affiliated thematic societies and 27 individual members promising to provide displays. We will want volunteers to man the information stand during the event, so please, it is not too early to let our Displays Organiser, John Hayward, (address and phone number at the front of this edition), know that you can assist on one or more of the days.

HELP REQUIRED

Do you enjoy (or would you enjoy, given the chance) designing Web pages? Would you like to practice your skills in this area? If the answer is "yes" and you have a bit of spare time then the BTA needs You. Until now our website has been freely hosted by Stamp Domain. However despite regular requests they have not updated it for two years; and unfortunately the prospect of a website hosted by ABPS has not been forthcoming. We are looking for someone with a little knowledge in this area who is prepared to sign up with a free hosting service and design and maintain a page for us. It can be quite basic with minimal maintenance, or be regularly updated with our programme and current news. We (the Committee) will undertake to provide the information, so you will not be expected to attend meetings. If you would like to talk about this further (or even better say "Yes") please contact *Themescene* Editor by telephone or email (see page 46).

NICE ONE!

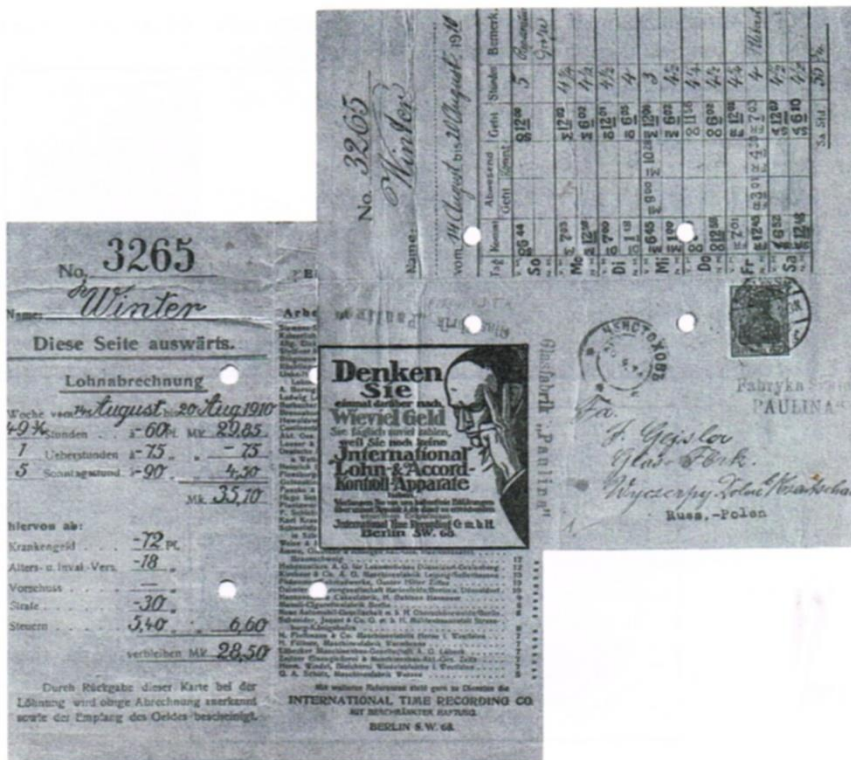
Brian Buckle finds an unusual item for the computer technology theme

Look at this illustration and it is obvious what it is: a double side advertising card for Clock Cards. A sample is shown of a typical working week, an on the other side the working out of the owner's pay packet: Mark 28.50 after stoppages. Not that generous for six and a half days when one mark = 1 shilling in 1914.

The card is dated Berlin 12.4.14 and sent to a glassworks at Czestochowa in Russian Poland. The stamp has a perfin ITR and is from International Lohn & Kontroll Apparate, acting apparently as the German agents for another company, International Time Recording Co.

Why is it a nice item? Well, out of curiosity I put International Time Recording Co into Google, and as so often happens everyone knew about them except me. Many, many hundreds of websites popped up.

The International Time Recording Co was one of four American companies that amalgamated in 1924 and are known to this day as International Business Machines. What I found I had was a rather fine IBM forerunner. I tell you, it pays to Google if you can. ☒



SPRING STAMPEX

Adapted from the official press release

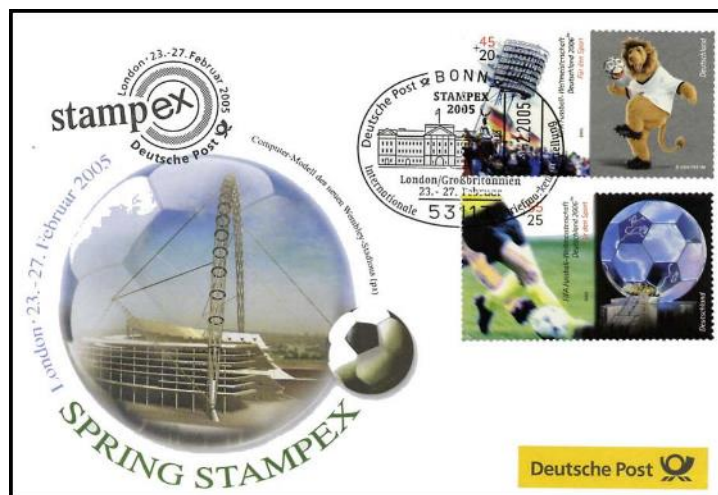
Despite the snow and bitter cold over 6,750 visitors attended Stampex, the third highest total since 1997. Royal Mail launched their Jane Eyre stamps on the second day, resulting in long queues at their counter. A special Stampex First Day Handstamp was available for mail posted in the special box at the exhibition. The Malta and Germany post office counters also had special Stampex postmarks.

Each visitor to Stampex received the eighth in the series of Stampex postcards. This one depicted an unadopted hand-painted proposal by Del La Rue of 1878 based on an American suggestion for a reply paid postcard. There was also a customised ‘Smilers’ sheet for sale, designed by Hedge & Co., containing ten first class “Hello” stamps with the Rotary International Tercentenary logo on the tab.

There were a number of displays. The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Postal Stationery Society had displays near the entrance. At the rear of the mezzanine the Centenary of Rotary International was celebrated with 20 frames from the Association’s official collection.

Various meetings went on during the weekend, the only thematic one being the Concorde Study Circle.

Next up is Autumn Stampex from 14th to 18th September, which as always will feature the senior and junior national competitions. ✉



NEW ISSUES

The stamps below are reproduced with the kind assistance of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

*The Handstamps reprinted on these pages first appeared in the "British Postmark Bulletin".
For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, Gavrelle House,
2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ*

GROUP NEWS

WEST OF ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY

The West of England Thematic Society held its Annual Day on April 23rd at our usual venue: The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel. The speaker this year was Brian Sole who showed us his display 'Go By Cycle' which was very much enjoyed by everyone. The display is very interesting but Brian also makes it very interesting with his talk. We all found him very helpful when discussing what was needed for Exhibitions. You never know, he may have inspired those of us who have not yet entered Thematica to start thinking about it.

WETS is this year looking forward to having the British Thematic Association Roadshow in Devon - at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton. This is a first visit to our part of the world by the BTA and we are all looking forward to their visit. This will be on September 24th. Anyone interested in attending (no charge but pay for your own lunch!) should inform Mary Claydon, 'Hazelhurst' Tiverton Road, Bampton, Tiverton, EX16 9LJ. We do need to know numbers so that there are enough chairs! MC

MEDICAL PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

The aims of the Group are to foster contacts and encourage the exchange of information between collectors of medical philatelic material. The Group also seeks to provide details of new issues and checklists of medical stamps.

Meditheme is distributed quarterly to all members post free. This provides regular features and articles, with Problems and Answers columns as well as dealer advertising. The MPSG maintains contact with a number of similar groups including:

- Scalpel and Tongs, USA
- Philatelia Medica, Germany
- Group Santé, France
- Esculapio Filatelico, Italy

Plus other specialist collectors in North and South America, India, South Africa, Japan and Australasia.

If your interest is related to any aspect of medicine, then the Medical Philatelic Study Group is for you. Increase your knowledge and make friends with fellow collectors around the world.

Further details are available from the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Brenda Harding, 'Uplands', Green Road, Skelton, Cleveland TS13 2BQ.

OBITUARY

CZESLAW SLANIA - 1921 - 2005

Many tributes have been paid to the great stamp designer Czeslaw Slania. This one is from John Campbell, a New Zealand member and Slania collector.

Czeslaw Slania was born 22 October 1921 in Poland. After World War II in 1945 he entered the Art Academy in Krakow, Poland. By 1950 he was engraving full time for the Polish Post Office before moving to Sweden in 1956.

In 1959 he received his first commission from the Swedish Post. A year later he was offered the permanent position. Soon he was to achieve wide international recognition. In 1974 he was appointed Court Engraver by the late King Gustaf Adolf VI of Sweden. Since that time he has received similar titles from Denmark, Monaco and Poland.

Using the steel engraving technique, Slania engraved in excess of 1000 postal stamps for over 20 countries, as well as numerous banknotes worldwide. As a time filler, and because stamp engraving was his hobby as well as his profession, he amused himself by engraving stamp-like portraits (he preferred to call them labels) of famous people, friends and family. These, along with other fine examples of his engravings are much sort after.

I have been collecting Slania material for over 30 years, the last 15 years or so as an exhibitor at both National and International level. It has enabled me to be able to meet with fellow Slania collectors and makes one more aware of his prolific standing in the art of engraving. One could say that he was one the world's best exponent of engraving.

Looking through my collection I am made aware of the wide variety of subject matter, especially in portraiture. If I had to name half a dozen of my favourites I would have to mention:- 'The Battle of Grunwald' (diploma study), Self-Portraits of himself and of his Mother Jozefa, the series of 'Monaco of Bygone Days' (1982/1985), Ballet: Sweden (1975), Stamp Day miniature sheets: Iceland (1986/1988) and the 1000th stamp: Sweden (2000).

In 1995, while taking part at NORDIA 1995 I had the privilege of visiting Slania at his studio apartment in Stockholm. Though he could speak little English, I found him very charming, and what a thrill to watch him at work engraving the 1996 King of Sweden's 50th birthday miniature sheet. Sadly this was the one and only time we were to meet.

One of his last stamp engravings was for Sweden last October 2004 which featured the singer Elvis Presley. Even after 54 years he had not lost his touch for fine detail.

Never again will we see more of these Art in Miniature's. The world is a far more richer place for Slania's contribution to the art of fine engraving. ☒

ATA HANDBOOKS

The BTA is affiliated to the American Topical Association, and has negotiated with them an arrangement whereby BTA members may purchase copies of the ATA Handbooks at a reduced rate.

Themescene will publish detailed descriptions of the more recent publications, as supplied by the ATA. Members wishing to order a copy should do so through John Hayward, address on page 46

SPACE COVER CATALOG

McMahon, Jack

Supplement for 1974 and 1975

This is the first of a planned series of supplements to the original Space Cover Catalog, published in 1974, and covering the mid-1940s to 1973. It covers US manned and unmanned spaceflights, plus flights of the experimental aircraft that led to the space shuttle. It contains an extremely comprehensive look at Skylab and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project missions.

The catalog uses a revamped version of McMahon's personal numbering system.

NEW BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS

The ATA has recently negotiated an agreement on car rental, available to members, and to members of affiliated ATA Study Units and Chapters, whether or not the collectors within those groups belong to the ATA.

Discounts may be obtained with National and with Alamo Car Rentals.

Alamo will give members up to 10% off the base price plus unlimited mileage. National offers 20% off, plus a coupon for either a Free One Car Class Upgrade or one free day on a three-day weekend. Rates are good for daily, weekly, weekend and monthly rentals in the USA, Canada, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.



BOOK REVIEWS

The volume reviewed here is an ATA Handbook, available to members at the special rate of \$21.00 instead of the published price of \$25.00. A cheque deposit of £5.00 sent to John Hayward will secure this item for you. See the previous page for our arrangements with the ATA.

Dodson, Larry. *Computers on stamps and stationery*. Vol.2.
ATA Handbook 152,2004, ISBN 0 935991-50-6

This Handbook updates an ATA Handbook first published in 1998. This new volume is not a substitute for the earlier volume, and they need to be used together. It lists stamps and postal stationery, together with a small selection of postmarks and meter marks, on the subject of computers. The coverage includes individuals associated with the history of the computer, precursors of the computer and various computer applications. Issues up to 2004 are noted. No prices are given, and few of the items are illustrated, but Scott Catalogue numbers are provided.

The Handbook is arguably over-broad in its coverage. Including individuals such as Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo, machines such as cash registers as precursors of the computer and the Mobius strip as a computer application was taking the theme too wide for me.

The Handbook is divided into a number of sub-themes, i.e., computer predecessors, contributors to computer development in order of date of birth, methods of input and output, computer systems (divided into personal computer and "large computer" - better known as mainframes; curiously, mini-computers are not listed separately), inside the computer, computer applications and stamps showing a combinations of these themes. The Handbook finishes with a wide range of miscellaneous philatelic types, such as marginal issues (that is to say, stamps which at first glance seem to have a computer theme but on closer inspection do not, rather than dubious issues in excess of postal requirements, which alas are listed without comment), a tiny number of cancellations and meter marks, postal stationery, a list of amendments to Volume 1, a glossary of terms, some sources, and a lengthy and useful index of all computer-related stamps and postal stationery including those from Volume 1 listed in alphabetical order of country - about 4,000 items are listed in all. The only omission I noted was that of Mikhail Botvinnick, the Russian computer chess expert, who has appeared on stamps from many countries, including Russia, Armenia, Central African Republic, Mongolia and Yugoslavia.

This Handbook is clearly a labour of love, and the depth of research shown is very impressive. However, the small (and sometimes inconsistent) font size of the Handbook with text in two columns does not make it an easy read. Furthermore, the lack of a comprehensive subject index and poor coverage of cancellations and meter marks is a limitation, and the way the author divides up the subject means that, because of the paucity of illustrations, those wishing to pursue other ways of dividing the theme (e.g. organisations that represent computer professionals or that promote the use of computers, computer manufacturers, the benefits of computerisation) cannot make much use of the Handbook.

One thing the Handbook told me was that my collection of computer-related stamps is far more modest than I had imagined! This Handbook provides a virtually comprehensive listing of computer-related stamps, and will therefore be an invaluable starting point for anyone pursuing this theme, despite the failure to cover cancellations and meter marks. But don't expect it to be particularly easy to use.

Charles Oppenheim

Editor's note: For those who do not wish to purchase a copy, it is available to borrow from the BTA Library.

Domfil Chess Catalogue. Borrowed from the Library by family member Jacob Whittle, age 13, who writes:

I liked this catalogue because it's all in colour. It describes which piece is shown on the stamps. It is easy to find the year and country. It's not heavy or bulky.

Editor's note: Thanks to Jacob for taking the time to write, and congratulations to his brother Rory, age 11, whose school competition entry "Kenny the Kingfisher and cousins" have gone to Perth for the Scottish National Alba Salver award.

LIBRARY LISTING

Members asking to borrow books and catalogues listed in the catalogues section of the library are no longer required to pay the cost of outward posting, only the return cost.

Requests for lists of articles on particular topics must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, unless being sent with a borrowed book. The number of copies needed for articles (shown in the listing) are charged at 10p each, to which must be added the calculated cost of posting. One copy weighs 9 grams. At present, minimum 2nd class allows 60 grams, including the envelope -100 grams costs 34p. To assist, I intend quoting the current postal rates when I send a list.

If you would like to receive a list of articles on your topic(s), send a stamped sae to the librarian.

If you have any old philatelic magazines (dating back over the last ten years) that you do not wish to keep, please consider donating them to the Library. As you know, our Librarian Ron Backhouse indexes individual articles by subject and will send copies to members. This list is invaluable for all of us on the lookout for articles we may have missed, or perhaps to give of ideas of subjects associated with ours that we have not previously considered.

BOOKS

Topic	Weight in Grammes	Title
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ARTICLES

No.

copies

Topic / Title

Letterboxes

	Robinson, M.	Roadside Letterboxes: <i>see below</i>	
3	Robinson, M.	More Non-Standard Boxes	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 4/84
3	Robinson, M.	Private Letter Boxes	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 5/84
3	Robinson, M.	Stamps, covers and cards	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 6/84
2	Robinson, M.	Lamp Letter Boxes 1935 to date	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 1/84
2	Robinson, M.	Letter Boxes for travellers	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 2/84
3	Robinson, M.	Some Curiosities	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 2/84
2	Robinson, M.	1896-1935	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
3	Robinson, M.	Ludlow Letterboxes 1901-1965	Stamps 11/83
3	Robinson, M.	1879-1910 Anonymous, QV & Edw VII	Stamps 2/83

Lifeboats

3	Horgan, D.	International Rescue	Stamp Magazine 3/2000
2	Horgan, D.	Lifeboats and Stamps of Norway	Log Book 12/03

Lighthouses

2	Bawden, G.	An Introduction to Lighthouses by G Bawden	ThemNews, S.A. 4/03
2	Jones, A.	Lighthouses and Other Shipping Aids	Log Book 9/03
1	Jones, A. R.	Lighthouses in the Gulf of Finland	Log Book 11/03

Medals and Decorations

2	King, A.	Sovereign Military Order of Malta	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
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	Media	
3	Mellor, G.	The Press Through the Post Stamp Lover May/June 1971
	Medical	
2	Boorn, S.	Secrets of Cardiology Unfold (Heart/Blood) MediTheme 11/04
3	Wilson, T.	G B Medical Themes ThemNews, S.A. 12/03
3	Wilson, T.	Breaching the wall: women in medicine Stamp Magazine April 1995
2	Wilson, T.	War Against Disease (Developing a Theme) Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
2	Wilson, T.	Wound management (on the battlefield) Topical Times April 2004
	Meteorology	
3	Hillger, G. Toth, G. & Hillger, D	Anemometers and Windssocks Topical Times 11/04
3		Healing the 'hole' (ozone) Topical Times April 2004
	Money	
2	Meiring, J.	Philately and Numismatics Topical Times 9/04 no. 327
	Motor Cars	
2	Doolittle, J.	Motoring With F D R (Roosevelt's cars) Topical Times 11/04
2	Mueller, S.	Hundred Years of Motor Vehicles ThemNews, S.A. 8/03
2	Walt, A.	Toys for boys ThemNews, S.A. June 2004
	Motor Cycles	
4	Chambers, E.	One Way To Collect Motorcycles on Stamps Stamps & Foreign Stamps 10/83
2	Chambers, E.	Motor Cycling (Manx Post Office) Stamps 7/82
	Mountains	
1	Bishop, G.	The Legend of Adam's Peak, Ceylon Stamps 1/81
2	Bishop, G.	Mount Fuji on Stamps Stamp Magazine 5/72
1	De Jong, J.	Mount Sinai ThemNews 10/03
	Music and Musicians	
3	Barker, M. Bleazard, J & M	Pipe Organs in Philately Topical Times 9/04 no. 327 Masonic Philatelic Club April 2004
	Nobel Prize	
1	Morse, A	Fridtjof Nansen, 1861-1930 Topical Times April 2004
3		Nobel prize winners Stamp Magazine December 1976
	Penguins	
7	Lanspeary, P.	Penguins Stamp Magazine Feb 1995
	Perfins	
2	Edwards, T.	Perfin Collecting: Specialisation (CSC perfins) Stamps & Foreign Stamps 1/84
2	Hill, D.	Perfin myths Stamp Magazine Feb 1995
2	McAdam, G.	The Official Perfin Stamps 7/82
2	McAdam, G.	Railway Perfins part 2 [Irish, Welsh & GWR] Stamps 2/83
	Philatelic Exhibitions	
4		International Philatelic Exhibitions Stamp Magazine 10/69
	Postal Mechanisation	
2	Hillger, D.	Postal codes on stamps Topical Times April 2004
	Potatoes	
2	Leonard, A.	Spud Stamps Stamps 8/80
	Prehistoric	
2	Bantz, U.	<i>White Lady</i> of Brandberg in Namibia (rock paintings) ThemNews, S.A. 12/03
2	Miles, W.	The First Toolmakers (Apes etc) Philatelic Magazine 2/82
6	Scott, A.	A Return to Dinosaurs Stamp Magazine 10/93

		Prisoners of War	
		POW, Internment Camps on French Islands	
2	Newport, O.	Off-Shore	Stamp Magazine 11/82
		Prisons	
2	Atkins, F.	A Ventilating Windmill, Newgate Prison	Windmill Whispers 9/87
		Rail Transport	
2	Downing, K.	Railways of Guyana	Railway Philately 12/03
2	Linecar, H.	Underground Philately (The Tube)	Stamp Magazine 9/82
		Red Cross	
		Red Cross Post (Channel Islands in Wartime 1940-45)	
6	Gurney, D.		Stamp Magazine 3/93
		Religion	
2		Missionaries : on stamps	Stamp Magazine 12/90
2	Noack, M.	Luther, the Great Reformer	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
		Revolution	
3	Mackay, J.	The Year of Revolutions	Stamp Magazine 8/68
		Rhodesia	
	Beckerlegge, O.	The Rhodesia Story	
5			Stamp Magazine 2/80
		Rotary	
		Histoire de la Phil. Rotarienne (in French - many illus incl pmks)	
8			La Philatelie Thematique 4/02
		Royalty - non-British	
3	Jones, A.	Age of Louise XV (on French stamps)	Stamps and Foreign stamps 7/84
		Rugby	
2	De Klerk, A.	Nick Mallett on a stamp	ThemNews, S.A. 12/03
2	Nieman, G. N.	Rugby Thematics: Where are the Boundaries?	ThemNews, S.A. 2/03
5	Wharton, M.	A league of their own	Stamp Magazine, October 1995
		Russo-Turkish War	
3	Mackay, J.	Russo-Turkish War	Stamp Magazine 8/68
		Scientists	
1		Sir Alexander Fleming (Mason)	Masonic Philatelic Club 10/02
		Scotland	
1	Beattie, F.	Stamps for Scotland	Stamp Magazine 11/98
		Seals	
		Antarctic Anniversary (British Antarctic Territory 1982 set of 6)	
1			Stamp Magazine 12/82
		Sieges	
18	Autoycus'	Siege of Paris 1870-71	Stamp Magazine Jan-June 93
		Shells	
2	Colquhoun, E	Shells	ThemNews, S A, June 2004
		Ships	
		Guernsey Shipping: Voyage of the <i>Star of the West</i>	
1			Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
1	Breach, R.	Radio & Electricity on Ships	Log Book 10/03
2	Hogan, E.	Whaler <i>TRANSIT</i> & thoughts on Whalers	Log Book 5/03
		Spanish Civil War	
5	Blackburn, T.	Spanish Civil War	Stamp Magazine January 1994
		Stamps	
16	Finn, C.	Centenary of the Penny Black	Stamp Magazine 10 - 12/96

Submarines			
2	Proskurnicki, M.	True Story about Polish sub. ORP "ORZEL" Sugar	Log Book 9/03
4	Valls, R.	Molinology and the Sugar Industry in the Caribbean Telegraphy	Windmill Whispers 9/87
1		Telecommunications Issues Tennis	Crown Agents News 6/81
2	Backhouse, R.	Anyone for Tennis Travel	Stamp Magazine 7/01
3	Bowling, W. B.	The Beauty of Old Berlin Trees	Philatelic Magazine 5/79
1	Carstens, C.	Tree of the Year 2003 UNESCO	ThemNews, S.A. 12/03
2		World Heritage Sites Inscribed in 2001 UNICEF	UN Study Group 4/02
4	Mackay, J.	Children of the World United States Presidents	Stamp Magazine 5/97
3	Boyd, K.	Ronald Reagan	Topical Times 11/04
6	Mackay, J.	John F. Kennedy on Stamps UPU	Stamp Magazine 11/66
3	Gordon, C.	UPU: dates of joining 1874-1974 Warfare	Stamp News no.6 1986
5	Friebus, H.	Total Warfare Warships	ThemNews, S.A. Apr & 3/03
2		The Five Arcs: aircraft carriers Arc Royal Waterfalls	Stamp Magazine 11/83
4	Woolford, J.	The Victoria Falls (South Rhodesia stamps) Wearing Apparel	Stamp Magazine 4/81
3	Menzies, S.	Dr Jaeger's Sanitary Woollen System Wine	Medi Theme 8/02
3	Soper, B.	Ancient Wine Vessels Winter sports	Topical Times 9/04 no. 327
3	Brown, N.	Let's Go Skating World War II	Stamp Lover May/June 1967
3	Felmancent, A.	Covers of World War II pt 4 Red Cross Mails FDCs of the German-Occupied Channel	Stamps 7/82
4	Buchan, J.	Islands	Stamps 3/81