

# THEMESCENE

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SEPTEMBER 2005

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### THEMESCENE

Journal of the  
British Thematic Association  
which is a member of the  
Association of British  
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#### Editor:

Wendy Buckle  
71 Churchward Avenue  
Swindon  
SN2 1NW

#### Advertising Manager:

Brian Sole  
3 Stockfield Road, Claygate  
Esher, Surrey KT10 0OG  
Email: [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

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# YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*President:* **Brian Sole**, FRPSL

3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0QG Tel: 01372 467652  
Fax: 01372 469755 Email [brian.sole@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.sole@btinternet.com)

*Chairman:* **Christine Earle**, FRPSL

“Ashurst” Green Roads, Thorpe, Surrey TW20 8QS Tel: 01932 564725  
email: [Chris@earle3.freemove.co.uk](mailto:Chris@earle3.freemove.co.uk)

*Vice Chairman:* **Lesley Marley**

17 Boundary Way, Havant, Hants, PO9 1NE.  
Tel: 023 924 77859 email: [lesley.marley@ntlworld.com](mailto:lesley.marley@ntlworld.com)

*Secretary:* **Anne Stammers**

40 St. Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford OX10 6SW email: [annies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:annies1@btopenworld.com)

*Membership Secretary:* **Peter Denly**

9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 2BY  
Tel: 01279652458 email: [denly@petelor.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:denly@petelor.fsnet.co.uk)

*Treasurer:* **Tony Farmer**, FRPSL

“The Peppers”, The Street, Crookham Village, Fleet, Hants GU51 5SG  
Tel: 01252 616552 email: [farmer.thepeppers@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:farmer.thepeppers@tiscali.co.uk)

*Publicity Officer:* **Simon Moorcroft**

2 Ramparts Court, Bakers Lane, Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BJ. Tel: 01206 855260.  
Email: [sammoorcroft@aol.com](mailto:sammoorcroft@aol.com)

*Editor:* **Wendy Buckle**

71 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1NW Tel: 01793 431783  
Email: [wendybuckle@hotmail.com](mailto:wendybuckle@hotmail.com).

*Advertising Manager:* **Brian Sole**, FRPSL

(see under President)

*Displays Organiser:* **John Hayward**

18 Waverley Drive, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2DL.  
Tel: 01276 29246 email: [ssasman@btinternet.com](mailto:ssasman@btinternet.com)

*Back issues and Themescene Distribution:* **Elizabeth Miller**

258 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster LA1 2TU Tel: 01524 34727

*F.I.P. Co-ordinator:* **Christine Earle**, FRPSL

(see under Chairman)

*Committee member* **Mike Chapling**

104 Hollyfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7SH

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

*Librarian:* **Ron Backhouse**

10 Hoe Lane, Ware, Herts, SG12 9NU. Tel: 01920 484974

# EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

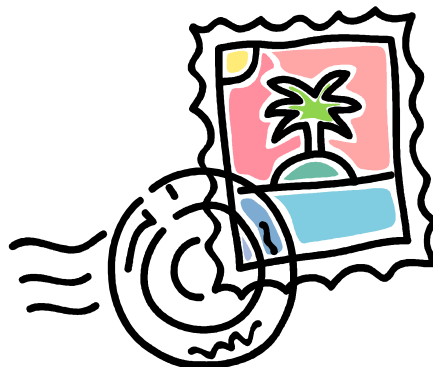
As you would expect, much of this issue is taken up with Thematica (page 109 onwards), which was as successful as ever. The dealers continue to attract the public, and the competitions continue to attract people trying to improve their exhibition skills. Pleasingly, a lot of effort is also put into attracting juniors, through Harry Wright's "Kid's Corner" and through competitions. It was nice to see youngsters proud to receive their awards.

The BTA aims to represent all thematic collectors, serious or dabbling, competition-minded or not. For the serious and/or competition-minded we have articles looking back at Eurothema (page 121) and looking forward to a proposed European championship (page 124). If these don't appeal (or indeed if they do) try our subject-based articles. These are a varied selection on thematic topics. All sorts of things prompt people to write: a new issue: "Just like that" (page 98), a childhood memory: Anyone for pneumatics (page 103), a holiday: Highest working post office (page 106) or general interest: Ferns (page 101). Would you like to contribute something? It's very easy – just send me some text and a few illustrations and I do the rest. I get sent articles in all sorts of formats: by email, with illustrations ready scanned; on a floppy disc or CD-ROM; or in hard copy with original stamps or colour photocopies. All these are fine. I'll put your article into Word if wanted, I'll scan and return the illustrations promptly, and I'll do the layout. If your topic interests you, it is bound to interest other people. Do consider writing something.

The BTA held its AGM at Thematica, at which two new Committee members were voted in: Lesley Marley as Vice-Chairman and Mike Chaplin as Committee member. Welcome to them both. However we still need more help. I particularly recommend you read the Chairman's Page in this issue. Chris's message must ring true for all of us involved in the hobby; I am sure we have all witnessed local societies 'go under' for lack of volunteers. Read page 93 and ask yourself: can you help.

Congratulations and apologies. At the AGM of the Royal Philatelic Society earlier this year our President Chris Earle was nominated for a place on the RPS Council. Many congratulations from all of us. I owe a huge apology to stamp designer Jeffery Matthews, whose first name I spelt incorrectly in the last issue.

Whether this lovely summer weather means you are giving yourself a break from stamps for the season, or whether it means long light evenings where you can indulge your hobby even more, may you get what you want out of collecting. ☒



# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## Brian Sole

**T**HEMATICA 2005 took place on 25 and 26 June 2005, for the 19<sup>th</sup> year in succession. John Fosbery, the Founder and Life Member of BTA, died in January 2005 but his memory will be perpetuated through the annual competition for the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy. There are no rules, apart from the number of sheets, reflecting John's view that thematic collecting should be fun and not hidebound by Rules. See page 89 for a complete list of entrants and details of the winners of all the competitions. Jeffery Matthews MBE, the British stamp designer, presented the winners with their trophies.

There were 50 entries in 3 classes for the Barclays Cup Competitions for young collectors. The main criterion was originality and the children were encouraged to adopt vibrant methods of presentation. Judging was carried out about 2 weeks before Thematica and the first 3 in each class were advised in advance that the prize giving ceremony was to be held on Sunday afternoon. It was very encouraging that 6 of the 9 winners, including 2 from Scotland, were present to receive their trophies from Eric Friedman of Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd, who had generously contributed towards the organisation of these competitions.

### *Harry and Award of Merit*



Thematic collectors granted 2005 ABPS Awards of Merit include Val Beeken of the North East Thematic Group; Tony Farmer, BTA Treasurer (and who also wears many other 'hats') and Harry Wright, organiser of Children's Corner at Thematica each year. Margaret Morris, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented Harry with his framed Certificate at Thematica, immediately before the various trophies were awarded. Congratulations to all three!

I like to think that the BTA caters for the collector who wants to collect every stamp on a particular theme, but is not interested in competing, as well as the collector who aims to develop a collection for exhibiting to National level and beyond. The former can enjoy the efforts of the latter by visiting Exhibitions at both Federation and National level and making a note of items which can be added to his or her subject collection. The exhibitor who enters competitions at National level should be aware of the existence of the F.I.P., which is the body responsible for setting the Rules. Each Philatelic Class has a Commission, with delegates from every country with FIP membership, and a small Commission Board. Damian Läge is the Chairman of the Thematic Commission Board and he has just issued, "TC News No 19". This has been circulated to delegates by e-mail and its 11 pages include details of the new web-page, a report on Eurothema 2005 and details of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Championship of Thematic Philately to be held May 4 – 6 2006 in Essen (see page 124). Christine Earle is the delegate for Great Britain and requests for a copy of TC News and/or details of the European Championship should be addressed to her, preferably by e-mail.



# CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Christine Earle

**B**y the time *Themescene* reaches you a new collecting season will be upon us. Traditionally September is the start of the philatelic season after the summer break. But how many of you are finding your local society, possibly one that has been going for years, is now no longer? Oh well, you will have to travel a bit further to another society, but never mind there is always another one! Or is there? Over the past few years a steady decline in the number of local societies has been noted by the committee of the ABPS (Association of British Philatelic Societies). At first it was believed that this decline was due to many philatelists, now specialising in their own subject, finding more appeal by joining a specialist society dedicated to their own interests; but now it seems specialist societies are succumbing to the same disease that had previously only been thought to affect local societies. I'm talking about apathy. So many societies have folded in the last few years, not for lack of members (as was previously believed) but through the lack of willing volunteers to help with the essential day-to-day running of the club. Many of the committee members and officers of these societies are advancing in age and are finding the work that they have previously done willingly and uncomplainingly, sometimes for many years, is getting too much for them. Often they retire quite reluctantly, for these collectors have found a great deal of fun and satisfaction can be had helping their local / specialist society. But eventually the time comes to move over and let someone else a bit younger and fitter take up the reigns, only to find there is no one willing to do just that. Time and time again I hear the sad news that so and so society has had to fold, due to lack of willing volunteers for the committee. This is so sad — don't let it happen to the BTA! I believe philatelic societies, whether local or specialised, are the lifeblood of stamp collecting — they keep the hobby alive by organising meetings and activities where members can talk to likeminded people, workshops to encourage the beginner, and the all important 'newsletter' or magazine publications to keep the members informed. The BTA desperately need someone to take over from our loyal Treasurer who wishes to retire due to failing health, and someone to help our hard-pressed *Themescene* Editor set up a Web site for the BTA. Neither of these jobs are demanding, we just need someone to spare a few hours and join us in helping to keep the BTA running. If you think you can help, contact me by phone, e-mail, snail mail, pigeon! (I don't care how) just please 'Lend a Hand'. ☒

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

**Peter Denly**

Ordinary members UK	206
Family members UK	22
Junior members UK	3
Society members UK	19
Overseas members	24
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	2

Total number of members 277 at 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005

**M**y first year as Membership Secretary has now been completed and I am pleased to be able to report that the Microsoft Access programme (with suitable back-ups) is performing well. Enrolling new members is the real pleasure in the job, and it was with great enthusiasm that I renewed 10 to 15 members per day as the subscriptions came in for 2005/2006. The disappointment came with the deletion of members who chose, for whatever reason, not to renew. However as you will see from the notes below, new members are steadily swelling our ranks – a total of 25 since the beginning of the year.

I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to Betty Miller who organises the despatch of your *Thamescene* magazines. My job is to ensure that her address list is up-to-date and thankfully, when I get it wrong Betty can be relied upon to pick up the error. So far we seem to have avoided irate or disappointed members asking where their magazine might be!

Membership numbers determine the subscription payment required in order to generate the funds needed for the Association to undertake its full range of activities for the greater benefit of the members. Although we have a hard working Publicity Officer, whose efforts are bearing fruit, it would help greatly if the ordinary member would spread the word at their local societies, and encourage thematic collectors to join the BTA. ☒

## **New Members joining since the March issue**

Mr A. Bell	Dalkeith
Mr M. Hemmings	Sywell
Mr M. Henderson	Weston Super Mare
Mr & Master T. Humfrey	Stevenage
Mr A. Jordan	Gravesend
Mr. A. Price	Milton Keynes
Mrs A. Reilly	St Leonards on Sea
Mrs R. Ross	London
Mr W. Thompson	Lisburn

## **Deaths advised since the December issue**

None

# PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

## Simon Moorcroft

It seems hardly possible that a whole year has past since I joined the committee of the BTA as Publicity Officer. Looking back I realise what pleasure I have had, firstly from the many events I have visited and participated in, and secondly in watching the BTA and thematic philately in general become stronger and better.

A demonstration of the popularity of thematic exhibiting was shown when I went with my family to Naposta which was held in the city of Hannover in Germany. Naposta, Germany's main national stamp exhibition, takes place once every five years in different parts of the country. In total, taking into account all competitive classes, there were some 2,500 exhibition frames with a large proportion being thematic exhibits. During my visits to the exhibition I spent a considerable amount of time studying the thematic exhibits. I was amazed by the many different themes which were exhibited and the different ways in which people had presented the story behind their theme. For me the star attraction was the exhibit entered by Damien Läge. It embodies what all thematic exhibitors should aim for: an interesting theme, well presented, and most importantly centred around a plan which is living and which the exhibit sticks to. Absolutely fascinating! Naposta was a fantastic show and one which we in this country could learn a lot from.



*Simon receiving his Eurothema award*

Staying on the continent, in May Eurothema took place in France. I am pleased to say that all entrants did very well indeed gaining some excellent results. David Griffiths did especially well achieving a Large Vermeil medal. Overall we attained joint third place with Belgium. I was unable to go but I heard it was an excellent show and as enjoyable as ever. (See page 121 for a full report).

Thematica was held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June and was once again a great success. (Full report page 109). I very much enjoyed the event and was pleased to be able to assist Christine in opening the show on the first day. Although our AGM was moved to Sunday it did not seem to deter people from attending. I just hope you found the show as rewarding as I did.

I say once again that if any of you give a thematic display(s) to societies would you consider taking along a few BTA application brochures when you display? I had no response to my request in my last Page, so do please consider it. It would not only allow the BTA to recruit more members but also ensure that those who wish to join a thematic society can do so. If you would like to help the BTA please contact me, address on page 90.

I hope as many of you will try to come to our Roadshow being held this month on 24<sup>th</sup> at Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton, Devon.

Enjoy your collecting! ☒

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## **NEW PAGE FOR THEMESCENE? FROM A LETTER TO BRIAN SOLE**

*From:* Lise Whittle, 1 Nether Auchendrane, Carrick Pines, Alloway, Ayr. KA7 4EE.

Dear Brian

Thank you so much for all your organisation at Thematica 2005. We really enjoyed coming down and seeing all the exhibits and displays as well as stands - as always just wish we'd had more time and money to spend!! The event was very well organised, and we all enjoyed the quiz, the voting for our favourite entry (really made us look closely) and the Kid's Corner. ...

On a completely different matter, I've had an idea for *Themescene*. I'm sure you know that the Post Office postal stamp club for children stopped a year or so ago, and I gather that Kidstamps is also under major review. To my knowledge, this only leaves Junior Raflet, which I am encouraging our club children to join (the junior section is written by Erine Grieve). As *Themescene* is specifically aimed at thematic collectors, and most children nowadays are thematic collectors, I wondered whether it might be possible to have a junior page in *Themescene*. This may have already been tried in the past, but as there is now such a shortage of philatelic services for children, it might be worth a try again. Maybe it is something you might be able to discuss with your committee. I'm prepared to volunteer to either assist or be solely responsible for the section if your committee likes the idea, and there may be others who would like to be involved, even your junior members themselves. I appreciate that I'm a new member and you don't know me well yet, but I have known Richard West, Erine Grieve and Frank Soutar (in Scotland) for some years, and assisted Erine at youth stamp days on several occasions. I've run a Primary School stamp club in Scotland for six years (although I was a complete novice when I set it up!) and run several youth stands at various stamp fairs in Scotland.

The knock-on effect of this idea is that new membership could be encouraged through our own and other school stamp groups - believe me, there are more than people think - and although some youngsters would primarily join for the youth page, gradually it is hoped they would begin to read the other articles in the magazine. Even their parents might become more interested - either as complete newcomers to philately, or who haven't collected since their own childhood. And I am always being asked by parents where they can buy stamps - they would be able to contact the advertisers, so they might benefit too. I would see the page as being something along the lines of a little bit of factual information, a few suggestions for thematic collecting, a competition, quiz or wordsearch, or even a contribution from a junior collector or an interview with one of the adult club members about their collection. The editor would obviously always approve it, and there would be no cost to *Themescene* apart from space in the magazine and the occasional request to adult members for competition prizes. Even if it wasn't particularly successful, it could be seen as a service to the future of philately especially at a time when so much for youth philately is being withdrawn. What do you think?

I look forward to hearing from you,

With very best wishes,



*Editor's note:* The proposals in this letter will be discussed at the next BTA Committee meeting. Meanwhile I would be interested to hear the views of members.

### SHIP LABELS

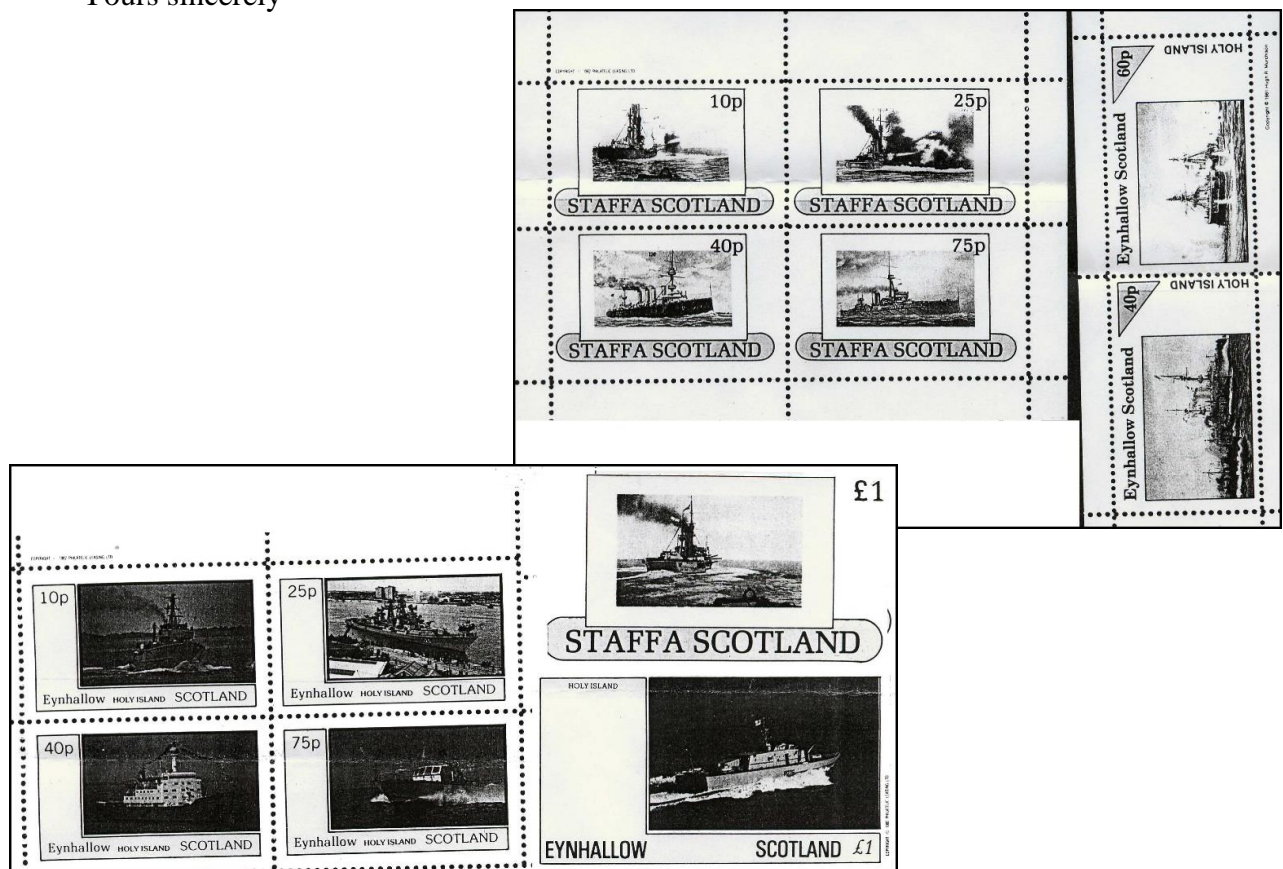
*From:* Peter Jenkins, 8 Regnans Avenue, Endeavour Hills, Victoria, Australia 3802.  
ATA Member 53831.

As a member of the ATA I am writing to you hoping you or one of the members of the British Thematic Association can help me. I am seeking information on some British local stamps which I wish to write up for my warship collection. I request that if any of your members can supply me with the names of the ships shown would they please drop me a line. I would be happy to defray any expenses they may incur.

I was originally English, having migrated to Australia in 1951. I still have relatives in Hastings (my old home town) and retain links with the Old Country having visited there in 1995 and 2002.

Trusting that someone in your Association can help with my query and looking forward to a reply in due course. Kindest regards to you and your Association members.

Yours sincerely



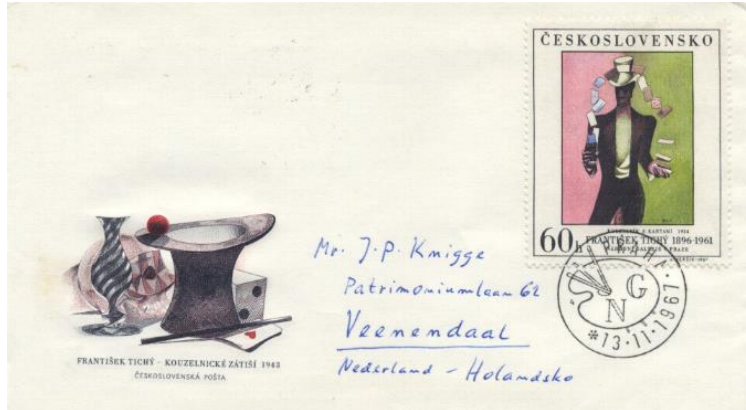
*Editor's note:*

If anyone can help Peter please write to him direct. I have sent him contact details of the Ship Stamp Society.

# “JUST LIKE THAT!”

Richard Wheeler flourishes his cloak to reveal the stories behind a recent issue of GB stamps

That phrase “just like that” immediately conjures up a vision of the late great Tommy Cooper. He was the very first British magician to have his image on a stamp, in the ‘Heroes of Comedy’ series in 1998. It could be argued that Harry Corbett in the 1996



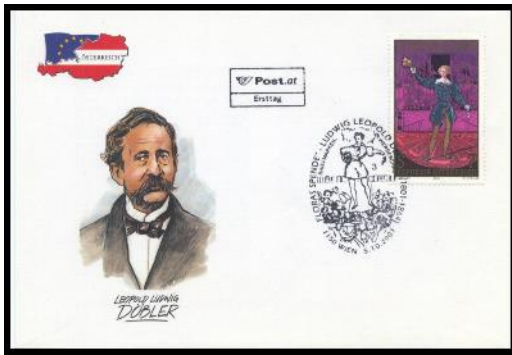
issue commemorating ‘Children’s Television series’ came first, as he had a magic wand in his breast pocket and Sooty in a top hat. However he made his name with puppets. The very first Magician featured on stamps was issued by Czechoslovakia in 1967. It showed a 1934 painting ‘Conjuror with Cards’, by artist Frantisek Tichy which hangs in the Prague National Gallery.

Relative to thematic collections of Cats, Dogs, Flora, Fauna, Railways, etc. there have been far fewer stamps issued celebrating famous magicians or magic in general. However, from the 1970’s onwards there have been a number of Magic issues in the true sense, as opposed to related items for which we thematic collectors carry out exhausting searches. Of the latter, one of my favourites is the 1898 USA cover advertising ‘Magic Cough Drops’. I guess those who took them will have been cured by now!



In 1971, France issued a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Jean-Robert Houdin, acknowledged as the Father of modern magic. In 1976, Jersey and the USA authorised cachets commemorating the of death of Harry Houdini, the renowned escapologist, whilst in 2002, the USA issued a stamp of Houdini, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of The Society of American Magicians, for which he was the first President.

In 1974, Leicester Magic Circle celebrated it’s Golden Jubilee and produced a special hand-stamp, which is probably the first of it’s type mentioning Magic in this country. Monaco is a country that is very keen on promoting festivals connected with the entertainment industry. One such Festival is devoted to Stars of Magic and stamps have been issued in 1989, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2004.



In 2001, Austria issued a stamp to celebrate the life of a famous Magician, Ludwig Leopold Dobler, who was born in 1801. He was one of the first Magicians to entertain Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle in 1842, despite being able to only speak German. His tricks were really fascinating. A painting of a winter landscape suddenly changed into a painting of springtime, a wonder fountain well provided any drink called for by members of the audience and a tin spoon was melted without heat! It

would appear that this was a forerunner of spoon bending.

Other countries to issue magic stamps include Nevis, Dominica and Guyana with pictures of David Copperfield; Finland celebrating the 60th anniversary of their Magic Circle; Brazil and Iraq featuring a magic carpet; whilst Mongolia have issued a Fantasia set with Mickey Mouse.



The big Magic issue of course was in March this year, when the Post Office issued a set of stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of The Magic Circle. It is very interesting in that a variety of ingenious printing techniques were used so that each stamp can perform a simple 'trick'.



Two are heat sensitive, two show optical illusions and one can be scratched to reveal either 'heads' or 'tails'. The Magic Circle was founded in 1905 when music hall enjoyed a great popularity and famous magicians headlined shows. David Devant (1868 – 1941) was the most popular performer of his day and

became the first President of The Magic Circle.

On the subject of lateral thinking, Israel issued a stamp to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Operation 'Magic Carpet', Austria has Mozart who composed 'The Magic Flute', Australia has a Magic Rainforest set and the USA has 'Magic' Johnson. Numerous other countries have 'magical related issues'.



I have a particular interest in magic stamps as well as my puppet display in that I have performed magic for over 60 years and as a professional for over 55 years playing theatres, nightclubs and venues the length and breadth of the country. I am honoured to be counted amongst the Members of The Inner Magic Circle under my stage name of John Dudley.

I was converted to collecting thematics five years ago when Mary Claydon presented the WETS road show at the Taw and Torridge club in North Devon. I was so fascinated that within a year I was fully involved with WETS as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. As the title heading says – JUST LIKE THAT. ☒

*New issues from*

# **SOVEREIGN STAMPS**

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Tel: 020 8770 1373

# FERNS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

*Dr David Jones explores some of our oldest plant life*

The ferns are Pteridophytes, the most primitive forms of the Cormophytes which are the higher plants having a vascular system, shoots and also roots which anchor them to the soil. The Pteridophytes do not produce flowers and fruits like the Cormophytes but are spore producing vascular cryptogams and have roots (Jahns 1987).

This article will concentrate on ferns featured on postage stamps from Ireland and the Channel Islands and many of the ferns will be popularly known. Reference will also be made to ferns on stamps issued in some other countries.

Tree ferns attain the size of trees reaching twenty to fifty feet in height, and sometimes more (Heath 1879), and the British Virgin Islands produced a stamp featuring this magnificent pteridophyte (S.G.761).



The well known spleenwort, the Hart's tongue fern is featured on Ireland S.G.632 as *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and also on Liechtenstein 1992 S.G.1039.

It is known as *Asplenium scolopendrium* in Rickard (2003) and is shown as *Scolopendrium vulgare* on a Russian stamp, S.G.

5773, and referred to by the latter name in Druery (no date) and Heath (1879). It is widespread in Ireland (Jahns 1987) and can withstand the frosts of winter (Heath 1879). According to the latter author it is named after the centipede, *scolopendra*, because of the line of spore cases that resemble the feet of the centipede and because the fern is so common, hence the species *vulgare*. The rusty back fern *Ceterach officinarum*, Ireland S.G.633, also shown on a Russian stamp S.G. 5774 is given as *Asplenium ceterach* (a spleenwort) by Rickard (2003). The third stamp in this series is the Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum*, Ireland S.G.634, also known as the bristle fern (Step 1947), which is amongst the most beautiful of the native species (Heath 1879). It is found in North Wales, protected by law (Jahns 1987) and is difficult to find there (North et al. 1949).



The Jersey fern *Anogramma leptophylla*, S.G.69 Jersey, was first discovered in Jersey in 1852 and known in the early days as *Gymnogramma leptophylla*, the Annual Maidenhair (Heath 1879). Other species are known in Ascension, S.G. 258.



Guernsey issued a set of stamps on ferns which included *Asplenium x sarniense*, S.G.122. Rickard (2003) puts the spleenworts into this genus as does Step (1947). Liechtenstein S.G.1038 features the Maidenhair spleenwort and Singapore S.G. 642 the Maidenhair fern. The genus is derived from the Greek word Asplenon and the fern was prescribed for disorders of the spleen and liver (Step 1947). *Isoetes histrix*, Guernsey S.G. 123, known as the Guernsey Quillwort, is only an inch or two long (Step1947) and is very rare (Jahns 1987). The penultimate stamp in this set is Guernsey S.G. 124, *Asplenophyllitis microdon*, and the fourth stamp, S.G. 125, *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* or Small Adder's tongue (Step 1947) which is made into Adder's spear ointment in Surrey and Sussex as an antidote to biting snakes. The same species (or Little Adder's tongue), according to Heath (1879), starts life in January and disappears early in the year.

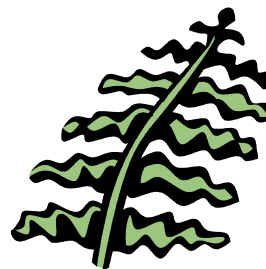
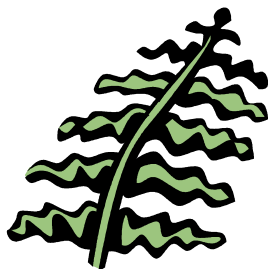


The few other countries which have issued stamps illustrating ferns include Venda (S.G.115-118), Trinidad and Tobago (S.G. 799-802), Tuvalu (S.G. 471-474; two are shown here) and Tristan da Cunha (S.G. 478-481; three are shown here).

The postage stamps referred to here will be found in Stanley Gibbons Simplified Catalogue Stamps of the World, Volumes 1-3, 1997 edition; those stamps with ferns that may be included in subsequently published volumes have not been included. ✉

## References

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# ANYONE FOR PNEUMATICS? TRY THE INTERNET!

*Ian Paton looks at an early form of post office transport*

I have not seen much written about Pneumatics in thematic literature so this article is my attempt to draw attention to an interesting subject, and I hope it may cause someone to consider it as a possibility for a new theme and at least to investigate further to see if there is enough material to make it viable to form a thematic collection. Possibilities come to mind when 'pneumatic' is associated as a prefix to tyre, drill or tube. Applying a Google search on the Internet is likely to be productive, but I will confine this article to pneumatic mail.

As a child I was fascinated by the pneumatic tubes in large stores in London, where they



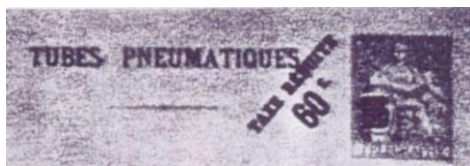
were used to link the sales counters to a central cash office - the return of change in a container which crashed out of the tube into a basket was quite exciting. Because of this practical experience, when I first saw an Italian pneumatic mail postage

stamp [Fig.1] I did not find it strange to think of letters going through tubes; some of the Italian stamps were so common at one time that unused ones turned up in mixed packets of European stamps.

Rome, Naples and Milan did not have pneumatic post until 1912, with stamps first issued



in 1913, but London had started in 1863, Berlin (Rohrpost) in



1865 and Vienna in 1875; though none of these issued special stamps. Paris began in 1866 [Fig.2], followed by Marseilles in 1876, and

Fig.3 is a picture of a pneumatic envelope introduced in 1887.

As usual I wanted some background information so I used 'snail-mail' and wrote to the postal headquarters in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Vienna; but I am sure all of them have Web Sites though information tends to be current rather than historical. I received photocopied information from all of them - I could handle English and French, but German was a minor problem. If you are lucky on official Web sites you get a choice of language!

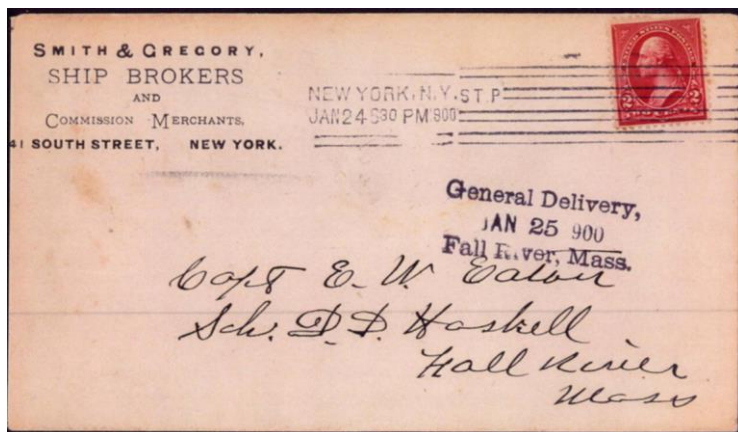
For my American Panorama collection I was interested in the way the United States POD used pneumatic mail prior to 1912, and had discovered that its introduction in large cities improved the mail service when tubes were installed to overcome traffic congestion. The POD increased the speed of mail movement by off-loading it from streetcars to pneumatic tubes for the last part of the journey to railroad stations and main post offices. Unlike some European countries the public could not choose pneumatic post, which was entirely controlled by the POD. Information about it is buried so deep in Post Office history that it is not even mentioned in a small booklet *History of the US Postal Service 1775-1993* published by the U.S Postal Service in 1993! By accident I discovered that I had overlooked a short section on the subject in a book in my library *A short History of the Mail Service by Carl Scheele* (1970). This credits Philadelphia with the first pneumatic tube lines in 1893, followed by Boston in 1897 and New York in 1898, after which Congressional expenditure constraints prevented further extension until 1902. It is difficult to detect tube mail in philatelic postal history books

because of the absence of any special stamps or postal stationery and the very limited use of pneumatic postal markings.

To add to the confusion, when cancelling machines were introduced in 1876 to speed up the handling of the ever increasing volumes of mail, one of the later manufacturers was named 'The Pneumatic Cancelling Machine Company' [*Machine Cancel Society Specialized Study # 8, Pneumatic*] and its pneumatically operated machines were used in some 40 cities between 1898 and 1904, without any connection with the 'tubes'.

A researcher at the American Philatelic Research Library kindly sorted me out and provided a photocopy of the 150 page *Report of the Pneumatic Tube Commission* issued by the American Pneumatic Service Company. Among much other information this gave the distances covered by the pneumatic tubes in use in 1910, which required an annual Post Office appropriation of nearly \$1 million -

Boston, Mas.	6.7 miles
Brooklyn	1.4 miles
New York	21.3 miles
Philadelphia, Pa.	9.9 miles
Chicago, Il.	9.2 miles
St. Louis, Mo.	1.9 miles



I have a cover cancelled (24<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1900) by a Pneumatic Machine at New York Postal Station 'P' [Fig.4] to illustrate their very distinctive style. The machine was in use from October 1899 to June 1901, and by coincidence Station P was located at the New York Produce Exchange which had a pneumatic tube 0.7 miles long connecting it to the Head Post Office. Mail posted at Station P went through the tube but there

was no mark on it which indicated this.



Now I come to Chicago where the pneumatic tubes started to operate in 1905. These were eight inches in diameter with carriers twenty-one inches long - in theory these could hold 600 letters each, but a more practical limit of 450 was imposed. An hourly rate of transmission of 108,000 letters throughout the whole system was reliably achieved (See *Chicago's Mail* by Harvey Karlen p.142-152). Two scarce American postal markings were used and

these are the rare exceptions which do identify the use of pneumatic mail. The first is a picture postcard with a duplex for CHICAGO III/ N. WESTERN TUBE STA dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 1910



[Fig.5] which was located at the Wells Street Railroad Station and provided tube links to other railroad stations as well as the Main Post Office.

The last cover illustrates the use of combined street car and pneumatic tube communication; and proof that the cover went through the tubes requires an understanding of the markings on both the front and the reverse of the cover. The Front [Fig.6] shows that it was deposited on the streetcar and marked CHI & WENT AVE/ R.P.O , NOV. (8). 1905/ TP 14 (Trip 14. very faint). It was dropped off at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Station and sent up the tube to the ARMOUR PO where the ‘flag style’ machine cancel CHICAGO/ NOV 8 1905/ ILL ARMOUR/ STATION RECEIVED [Fig.7] ]was applied to the Reverse. The ARMOUR/ STATION/ RECEIVED replaces the normal flag and slogan and proves the use of the tubes.



I will end with a touch of humour which shows that the tubes were not without their problems, one of which was a ‘jam’. One such jam took place on the tubes carried across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York in the winter of 1931 when Prohibition was still in force (ended 1933). The cause was found to be ice which had to be thawed out by pouring in denatured alcohol - forbidden of course to those doing the pouring. ☒

*Editor's note*

Shortly after writing this Ian obtained a copy of an article from the June 2005 edition of the *American Philatelist* by David Straight entitled “The pneumatic mail bag”. A copy of this article has been deposited in the BTA Library.

# THE HIGHEST WORKING POST BOX IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

*Barry Floyd offers a new angle for civil engineering or architecture collectors*

When visiting Australia, fellow philatelists will want to take in some of the sights and sounds offered by the nation's foundation city, Sydney in New South Wales. A prime feature aiding the visiting tourist is the imposing Sydney Tower (known also as AMP Centrepoint Tower, or simply Centrepoint), which rises some 305 metres



Sydney Tower, taken 14 April 2005

above the city's Central Business District. Australia's tallest free-standing structure (Figure 1), as well as the second tallest observation tower in the Southern Hemisphere (after Auckland's Sky Tower in New Zealand), it is not a particularly attractive structure when compared in design with other high-rise towers around the world such as Kuala Lumpur's Petronos Twin Towers or Toronto's CNN building. Nevertheless the views of Sydney from above are quite spectacular. From the Observation Deck, 250 metres above ground level, one experiences breath-taking 360° panoramic views of the beautiful harbour city.

The so-called 'turret' has a capacity of 960 persons and contains two levels of restaurants, a coffee lounge, the Observation Deck, two levels of telecommunication transmission and three plant levels. Three high-speed double deck elevators take approximately 40 seconds to bring viewers from aloft, breath-takingly back to earth!

After taking in the splendid urban scenes — as if in a low-flying aircraft — although noting that Sydney's famous 'coat-

hanger' harbour bridge is partially and disappointingly obscured by nearby tall business blocks, the visiting philatelist may stumble quite by chance upon a small feature located against the inner wall of the Observation Deck (Figure 2). Set upon a wooden base is a firmly-padlocked historic New South Wales Post Box, embellished with the State's brightly-painted coat-of-arms. Above the heraldic shield is a hinged cover for the posting slot complete with a small knob for pulling the cover open, and the caption. "POST HERE".

On the wooden pedestal is the engraved announcement proclaiming that this is "The Highest Working Post Box in the Southern Hemisphere"! Is this a valid claim, one wonders? How about conventional post boxes in the high Andean states in Latin America for example? or the Kenyan Highlands in East Africa? And, who knows, the New Zealanders may have placed a post box in their own higher Sky Tower, just to get one over on their friendly rivals in Oz. Still, one should not be too churlish about the Aussie boast, particularly if the philatelic observer is a mere Pommy.



On the left side of the dark green New South Wales LETTER BOX is a further plaque which explains the mail service provided by the receptacle (Figure 3). An enlargement of the announcement is provided by Figure 4. While the daily clearance procedure is described, there is a curious and rather confusing statement which declares that: “Any article put in this box shall not, for the purpose of any enactment, law or contract, whereby due posting is evidence of the receipt thereof by the addressee, be deemed to have been duly posted”! Just what is one to make of this disclaimer? If an attempt is made to simplify the wording, it would appear to read: “Any article put in this box has not been duly posted”. Presumably the authorities owning and running the Sydney Tower do not want to be held responsible for any posted items which fail to reach their addressees, not having been received by the regular St. James Post Office at ground level. Nowhere on this lofty private post box facility is there a notice stating that, before posting, all mailed items should carry the correct stamps to reach their destinations. These can, in fact, be purchased from a nearby shop assistant, who will also inform mailers of the required postage to send a colourful postcard back to Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh, GB. ☒



*Skyline with Tower to the right*

*Full page advertisement  
for the Stamp Centre*

# THEMATICA and JOHN FOSBERY RDP FRPSL

*The death of John Fosbery earlier this year prompted Brian Sole to look back over John's successful brainchild*

THEMATICA '87 was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1987 at the Carisbrooke Hall and organised by the London & Provincial Stamp Club. The Sub-committee consisted of John Fosbery, Leo Harris, Stuart Henderson, Ron Negus and Brian Sylvester. Ronald Butler RDP carried out the official opening at 11.00 am. In the morning there were 30-minute displays by Franceska Rapkin, Brian Sole and Colin Fraser and throughout the afternoon there were 30-minute displays on the Stage and on the Balcony by 12 Specialist Societies. However the general buzz of conversations between collectors and dealers made it difficult for the speakers to be heard!

John Fosbery issued a press release on behalf of the London & Provincial Stamp Club advertising THEMATICA '88 to be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 1988 at Carisbrooke Hall, "to promote interest in thematic philately and try to encourage and guide thematic collectors". Partly because John felt that the British Thematic Association was not actively promoting thematics, the Press Release mentioned the dates of three thematic meetings to be held by the L & P Stamp Club during 1988, beginning with Christopher Columbus by John Fosbery.

John had announced in advance that there would be 30 frames of exhibits at THEMATICA '88 but the plan had to be cancelled because there would have been insufficient time to erect the frames. He did continue meetings of Specialist Thematic Groups at half hourly intervals and introduced a Prize Draw for the first time. Once again, tables occupied by dealers and specialist societies were intermingled. An A4-sized Programme of 26 pages was produced by Michael Birks.

Reluctantly, John handed over the organisation of THEMATICA '89 to Maurice Gale. It became a 2-day event, on Saturday to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 1989; and Maurice Gale separated the dealers and the specialist societies into two rooms, to the annoyance of John! Maurice organised the dealers in the Carisbrooke Hall and the British Thematic Association became responsible for the Exhibition Hall, set up in the El Alamein Room. Stuart Henderson of the L & P continued to play a major part in the organisation and other L& P members assisted him by distributing free 28 page A4 size glossy Programmes at the entrance. The John Fosbery Thematic Trophy Competition was held for the first time. In keeping with John's wishes, entries had to consist of 16 pages, in protectors, but NO other rules. Visitors to THEMATICA '89 voted for their favourite entry. There were 24 entries in all and the winner was Frank Pegley's "The Bicycle". In addition there were 22 invited exhibits, including "Raphael" and "Picasso" by John Fosbery.

At THEMATICA '90, John Fosbery displayed "Art" and "Cats" on the Balcony. He also announced the formation of the "Stamp Art Group". A free glossy Programme was again issued and included an article by Frank Pegley, the winner of the previous year's John Fosbery competition, "My Introduction to Thematics". Dorothy Anderson was the winner of the John Fosbery "no rules" competition in 1990, with an entry "Hands".

THEMATICA summer events continued in a similar way, with the BTA claiming a grant from the British Philatelic Trust to cover running costs of the Exhibition Hall until 1996, when the grant was discontinued. 'Friends of Thematica' was formed in January 1997 and Friends and Patrons now sponsor the Collectors' activities. Harry Wright runs "Children's Corner"

and Young collectors' competitions have been successful. A free souvenir sheet has been designed by Jeffery Matthews and issued to all visitors in the last 4 years. Maurice Gale introduced an Autumn THEMATICA at the same venue but this is normally a dealers event without activities for collectors.

THEMATICA 2005 was the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive exhibition and a special postmark was available for the first time. It is doubtful if John Fosbery envisaged his "shoe-string" thematic exhibition of 1987 continuing until 2005, and hopefully beyond! ☒

## THEMATICA 2005

This year's Thematica missed the presence of its brain-child, John Fosbery. This year our Chairman Christine Earle opened the show in the usual way by cutting the ribbon. She opened what many were relieved to see was a much less crowded show. This year the dealers were back in their normal hall, thus resulting in a lot more space for all concerned. There was a fine selection of material from dealers from this country and abroad, supplying a feast of themes and unusual items.

The BTA table was once again in a prominent position by the entrance to the exhibition hall. As in previous years there were a very good number of exhibits with the overall standard being very high. The BTA Cup was won by Carol Turner for her entry 'Man and Malaria'. It covered man's early ideas, discovering parasites and the cause of malaria, elimination of the vector and parasite elimination. We look forward to seeing that collection displayed to us at next years AGM.

This year six federations entered the inter-federation competition. Once again Hampshire Federation won the competition for the entry 'Black Gold' submitted by Miller McGrath. 'Black gold' is the colloquial name for oil, and the display looked at its origin, oil in antiquity, exploration, drilling and storage and transportation. In the absence of Miller Harry collected the Healey and Wise Salver on behalf of Hampshire.

The John Fosbery Competition proved no less popular this year with a total of nine entries being submitted. This year the visiting public voted 'The Emperor's Arctic', entered by Peter Miller, as the winner. It seems the notion of a competition with no rules is as popular as ever. 'The Emperor's Arctic' refers to the philately of Zemlya Frantsa-Josifa (Franz Joseph Land), around 100 islands in the Arctic Ocean. The story started with its discovery in the nineteenth century, looked at it as a destination for explorers, as a base for further polar exploration and as a source for modern 'locals'.

The presentation of awards took place on the Sunday and ably assisted by Brian Sole and Stuart Henderson Jeffery Matthews MBE presented the trophies to the winning entrants. Jeffery himself was presented with a cheque for £1,000 for his favoured Multiple Sclerosis charity. The money was the entire proceeds from the sale of a limited edition of 100 covers, sold at £10 each, bearing the 2005 Thematica souvenir sheet (designed by Jeffery), stamped with two stamps specially cancelled with a Thematica handstamp. Each cover was signed and numbered by him. A few souvenir sheets remain (celebrating 40 years of stamp design by Jeffery Matthews for Royal Mail) and will be given free while stocks last, one to each visitor to Thematica on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. ☒

<b>Entrant</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>BTA CUP (32 sheet)</b>	<b>(Same rules as Stampex Thematic class)</b>	
Peter Duck	Scouting and guiding in World War II	Silver-Gilt
John Leathes	Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright	Silver-Gilt
Pam Minett	Toadstools and other fungi	Silver-Bronze
Jon Perrott	Wickies world	Silver-Gilt
Carol J. Turner	Man and malaria	Silver Gilt
<b>HEALEY &amp; WISE SALVER (Inter-Federation, 16 sheet)</b>	<b>(Same rules as Stampex Thematic class)</b>	
Grahame Boutle, Kent	What Islam did for us	Silver
Wendy Buckle, Wiltshire	Worth the paper it's written on	Silver-Gilt
Beryl Jones, North West	First Hanoverians	Silver-Bronze
Miller McGrath, Hampshire	Black gold	Silver-Gilt
Roger Swindells, Essex	Business in great waters	Silver-Gilt
Dave Wiskin	Columbus: early days and birth of a dream	Silver-Gilt
<b>JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY (16 sheet)</b>	<b>(Popular vote, no rules)</b>	N/A
Grahame Boutle	Development of postal transport	
Wendy Buckle	Tell it in print	
George Etoe	American bald eagle	
R. Howell	Ffestiniog story, 1836-2000	
John Leathes	Advertising tiger	
Peter J. Miller	Emperor's Arctic	
Simon A. Moorcroft	Winston Churchill: the greatest Briton	
Angela Reilly	Guided tour counties: England, Scotland & Wales	
Barry Stagg	History and use of parachutes	
<b>BARCLAYS CUP (Young collectors)</b>		
<i>To eight years old (14 entries)</i>		
Antonina Chichlowska	Christianity	Winner
Lara Whittle	Las W Polsce (The Polish forest)	Second
Abhiraami Navaneethanathan	Seasons: Spring	Third
<i>9 – 12 years old (33 entries)</i>		
Shona Norval	Nursery rhyme time	Winner
Jennifer Gaskell	Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady	Second
Celine Cairney	War and peace 1914 – 1945	Third
<i>13 – 18years old (3 entries)</i>		
Jacob Whittle	My checkmate (chess)	Winner
Bertie Brown	All the world's a stage	Second
Maathumai Navaneethanathan	Flying feathered friends	Third



*Peter Miller, Jeffery Matthews  
And Fosbery Trophy*



*Carol Turner, Jeffery Matthews and  
BTA Cup*



*Stuart Henderson, Jeffery Matthews  
and £1,000 cheque for charity*



*Chris Earle opening the show*



**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in the Allenby Room, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 at 2.30p.m.**

**One Minute's silence was held prior to the commencement of the meeting in memory of John Fosbery who died in January 2005.**

**Present:** The Chairman and 23 other members present.

**Apologies:** Steve Bourne, Brian Buckle, Mike Chapling, Mary Claydon, Jim Dearden, Peter Greening, David Griffiths, John Hayward, Geoff Hood, Gerald Lovell, John Miller, Betty Miller, Edward Quinton.

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

These had been published in *Themescene* September 2004 and were circulated at this meeting. Francis Kiddle proposed and Lesley Marley seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record – passed unanimously.

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and began her report by thanking Maurice Gale & the Friends of Thematica for staging yet again another delightful thematic exhibition. The only one in the UK!

The Chairman continued by thanking all the current BTA officers who have performed their duties both diligently and cheerfully, she emphasised that without their continuing efforts there would be no British Thematic Association. She had heard recently of several (not one but several) societies, both local and specialist, having to fold up, not for lack of members but for the lack of someone to take on the essential officers jobs, for example Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity, etc. so she would like to emphasise how important it is to make sure these positions are filled.

If any of you out there feel you could help the BTA in any small way, please let one of the committee know. For example we are currently looking for help with our Web Site, can anyone help, is there anyone willing to help? This is an essential activity these days. Many collectors and would be members are turning to the Internet for information and help and we should be part of that.

We have had a successful year with:

- Participation in Basildon 2004 (November) with superb display by Michel Abrams, President of the French Thematic Association; please see the report in *Themescene* March 2005.
- A visit to the RPSL arranged by our Displays Organiser John Hayward in March. 50 frames were used with displays from 3 affiliated societies and 23 individual members covering 27 themes in all. This was partly to commemorate the BTA's 21st anniversary and also in Memory of Franceska Rapkin RDP FRPSL, one of the founder members and first Chairman of the society. This event was well supported and those BTA members who attended all said how much they had enjoyed themselves.
- Member's meeting 23rd April at the Victory Services Club, the programme included Member's Displays of 10 sheets.

Guest Speaker Geoff Hood gave his display on Heraldry. And after lunch there was a Thematic Workshop where many useful hints and tips were exchanged.

Nine members travelled to La Chapelle D'Armentiers, France last May for:

#### EUROTHEMA 05

- Christine A. Earle was the GB Juror and Commissioner
- Seven nations took part: GB; France; Germany; Holland; Belgium; Luxembourg; Denmark
- There were a total of 47 exhibits.
- Top four scoring exhibits made each country's team

There were six UK exhibits:

'Here be Dragons'	David Griffiths	7 Frames
'A Whale's Tale'	Lesley Marley	7 Frames
'Up Periscope'	John Leathes	3 Frames
'More than a Pretty Picture'	Geoff Hood	7 Frames
'Sources and Use of Sugar'	David Hunter	5 Frames
'Winston Churchill'	Simon Moorcroft	2 Frames

The results were:

Germany 1<sup>st</sup>  
Holland 2<sup>nd</sup>  
GB finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> with Belgium  
Luxembourg 5<sup>th</sup>  
France 6<sup>th</sup>  
Denmark 7<sup>th</sup>

Each Exhibitor received a prize along with their award and as four of the members were there they had the opportunity to receive their prizes in person. Unfortunately two members were unable to attend and so it gave the Chairman great pleasure to ask our President, Brian Sole, to present them with their awards now – Simon Moorcroft and John Leathes.

The Chairman went on to give an outline of the programme for the rest of the year.

24<sup>th</sup> September: BTA Roadshow at Ashburton. This will be part of the weekend run by WETS and will be held at their venue – Hay Tor Toom, Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, Devon from 10 a.m. – 4p.m.

The details of the meeting will be very similar to those of the BTA meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Colin Mount will be the guest speaker with his display 'Pig in the Post'. Further details will be published in *Themescene* and the Chairman urged as many as possible to attend.

22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2006: Stampex Village Green where the BTA will have 200 frames for Society & Members non-competitive Thematic displays.

#### **Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004.**

Copies of the Accounts had been circulated to all the members present and had been published in *Themescene* June 2005.

Tony Farmer, Treasurer, regretted to say that the early part of 2005 has been rather traumatic for him as he had had a heart attack at the end of March followed by a stroke two weeks later necessitating a three week spell in hospital. All is back to normal now except that life seems to have slowed up. This resulted in him presenting accounts to the meeting as 'unexamined by our Hon Examiner, Ronald Hyams.'

The Treasurer continued - now to the figures themselves:-

**Income** - for a change there was a marginal increase in membership giving us a small increase in Subscription income.

Miscellaneous Sales were the result of clearing surplus items now that the Crown Agents have forbidden us to sell surplus material after reporting on it in *Themescene*.

Overall our income was £200 up on last year at £4,234.

**Expenditure**, the net cost of *Themescene* rose by £381, mainly due to a slight increase in costs and a further fall in advertising income. There were the usual ups and downs under the various expenditure headings but the cost of the Basildon meeting of £303 gave us expenditure of £4,310, nearly £500 more in total than last year.

This turned last years' surplus of £216 into a deficit of £76 - quite manageable with reserves in excess of £12,000.

The Treasurer had again been able to recommend to the Committee that subscription rates remain the same for 2006, although the pennies will have to be watched with displays on the Village Green at Stampex in the Spring and Torquay, the next major ABPS exhibition, which majors on Thematics, in November 2006.

Finally before Tony Farmer asked for any questions, from a purely financial angle, he thanked Ian Paton and Peter Denly for the smooth handover in Membership Secretary and to both for looking after the membership and their subscriptions so meticulously; to Brian Sole for collecting in the *Themescene* advertising; and to John and Betty Miller for looking after Publication Sales, Binders, Back Numbers etc. as well as sending out *Themescene*.

There were no questions and Brian Sole proposed and Francis Kiddle seconded that the accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2004 be formally adopted. This was agreed unanimously.

### **Election of Officers**

It was proposed by Simon Moorcroft and seconded by John Leathes that the following Officers be elected 'en bloc' This was agreed unanimously

Chairman	Christine Earle
Vice Chairman	Lesley Marley
Secretary	Anne Stammers
Treasurer	Tony Farmer

### **Election of Committee Members**

It was proposed by Stuart Henderson and seconded by Lesley Marley that the following be elected 'en bloc'. This was agreed unanimously.

Wendy Buckle	Editor <i>Themescene</i>
Peter Denly	Membership Secretary
Simon Moorcroft	Publicity Officer
Brian Sole	Advertising Manager
John Hayward	Displays Organiser
Elizabeth Miller	Committee Member
Mike Chapling	Committee Member

### **Ratification by the membership of the appointment of**

Ron Backhouse	Librarian
Ronald Hyams	Examiner

It was proposed by and seconded by that these appointments be ratified. Agreed unanimously.

### Any Other Business

- i.) Thanks – Francis Kiddle thanked the Chairman, Christine Earle, and all her committee for their hard work over the last 12 months..
- ii.) NPS Workshop – Francis Kiddle asked Brian Sole to tell the meeting about this workshop to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005 at the NPS at 107 Charterhouse Street from 10.30 – 4p.m. Brian will be assisted by Sheila Foster. Members may take some pages. Cost £5, including lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- iii.) Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl for the most popular article in Themescene during the year, voted for by the committee. The winner John Leathes for his article ‘The Humble Spud’ was presented with the bowl by The President, Brian Sole. Brian Sole the asked all members present to think about writing an article for *Themescene* and to send it to Wendy Buckle. *Themescene* is the lifeblood of the Society, particularly as some of the members’ meetings are not that well attended.
- iv.) The President went on to thank Chris Earle for all her work in a difficult year for her with the loss of her son and to Tony Farmer for his work when he had not been well and wished him a full recovery. Tony wishes to give up the post of Treasurer next year and Brian asked for anyone willing to take over to let a committee member know. The President continued by thanking John Hayward for the wonderful job he had done organising several meetings, taking over from the Chairman as necessary and for organising the Village Green for Stampex Spring 2006. The President also thanked John and Betty Miller who live too far away to attend meetings but who send out *Themescene* regularly and on time. They are both undergoing medical treatment at present and we send them our best wishes. Simon Moorcroft is doing a great job as our P.R.O. and Anne Stammers is to be congratulated on providing detailed minutes of our committee meetings. Peter Denly had done an excellent job in taking over from Ian Paton, a hard act to follow, and Brian was delighted to say that there had been an increase in membership.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.07p.m.



## AGM DISPLAY

After the AGM last year's BTA Cup winner, Peter Wood, gave an entertaining display on *The Irish Empire*. Part 1 'Country and Culture' opened with a fine wax seal 'Erin go brah' or 'Erin for ever' coined by Dr. William Drennan, poet, 1754 – 1820. There were advertising covers and slogans featuring the shamrock, Guinness labels (Guinness is a collecting topic in itself) and a splendid Emmett carton advertising the beverage "A philatelist's lick is the best sort of stick". St. Patrick appeared in this section. Part 2 'A history of Ireland' explained that many Catholic chieftains emigrated and joined Catholic armies on the continent in order to fight the English. You may not know that De Gaulle had Irish antecedents. A contemporary facsimile of a free front of Daniel O'Connor was shown, plus some excellent Hennessy wine labels (sadly no contents). In part 3 'The Irish' various famous people featured, including Winston Churchill, Michael Collins, Dr. Barnado and the literary 'greats' G. B. Shaw, James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. Marconi was also included: his mother was Anne Jameson, of the famous distilling company. The last part was 'The Diaspora', for which the main destination was America. Immigrants often set up chain migration, whereby one person would emigrate (steerage class) and then send money home so that another member of the family could join them. All together a fascinating display which kept the audience entertained and wanting to know more. ☒



*Brian Sole, John Leathes  
and the Franceska Memorial Bowl*

*Peter Wood putting up his  
display*



# BTA NEWS

## **BTA ROADSHOW 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005**

This is being held at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton, Devon, very near the A38. 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 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. Do come along if you can make it. If you cannot make the whole day from 1030am to 1600pm, why not come for the morning or afternoon session?

## **STAMPEX VILLAGE GREEN 2006**

The BTA's plans for a display on the Village Green at Spring Stampex 2006 from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, continue to advance. Of the 200 frames we have been allocated, 10 of our affiliated thematic societies and 29 of our individual members have promised to provide displays filling 163 frames so far. Our Displays Organiser, John Hayward, is hopeful of filling the remaining 37 frames from remaining members, so you may get a call from him shortly to provide one or two frames. If you have not already offered a display and would like to do so, why not contact John (address and phone number at the front of this edition) to take up any frames still available? This is going to be a really big event for the BTA and its affiliated thematic societies, to whom a trophy will be awarded for the best Society display. And because it is so big we will need volunteers to man the information stand during the event. Offers to help on this front have been slow to emerge so far, probably because it is a long time away, but it draws ever nearer. So please, do your bit for the BTA, and let John know on which day you can assist and for how long.

## **MEMBERS MEETING AT SWINPEX 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005**

What a pity this was attended by only 6 members as the thematic material displayed on the letter “T” was so diverse and interesting. Lesley Marley concentrated on one Island, Whale Island at Portsmouth. She provided a history of Whale Island through stamps, postmarks, postcards etc. Sheila Foster provided a medical theme with **Imhotep, Immunity, Inhalation, Imbibing, Immunisation and Institute.** Wendy Buckle was **Illuminated** with her **Illustrations.** Peter Greening was unable to attend, but had provided in his absence an attractive display of **Icons.** John Hayward stuck to countries with his material on motor-cycles from Ifni, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy and Ivory Coast. Chris Earle concluded the displays with material from the **International Exhibition Italia 1998.**

## **HAMPEX 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

There will be a members' meeting at 2.30pm: Wickham Community Centre, Wickham, Hants. Please bring 12 sheets for display on the letter "M". There is free parking at the Centre; and the event will have 35 dealers.

### **HELP REQUIRED 1**

Our Treasurer will be retiring at the next AGM. Can you help? Tony Farmer has looked after the books immaculately in his time as Treasurer, but now he needs to step down. The background work is not onerous – we only have two committee meetings a year, but it is a steady job. If you know enough about book-keeping to run the accounts and present them at the AGM we would like to hear from you. Contact the Committee, see page 90. It's a stark choice: no Treasurer, no BTA.

### **HELP REQUIRED 2**

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 90).

## **HERE AND THERE**

### **BELGICA 2006**

Belgica, 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006, was originally intended to be an FIP Youth exhibition only. However it has now been agreed to include a thematic class with a capacity for 500 – 600 frames, allowing around 80 exhibits. Besides Thematic and Youth there will be competitive classes for One-frame and Open. Prospectuses and entry forms are available from the commissioners. UK Commissioner is Richard West, 39 Waverley Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3JX. Please enclose an addressed A5 envelope plus £1.00 in loose postage stamps. Applications must be received not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

Bulletins about the event can be obtained from [info@belgica2006.be](mailto:info@belgica2006.be).

# NEW ISSUES

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# EUROTHEMA 05

## Our Chairman reports

**E**UROTHEMA 05 saw an opportunity for nine BTA members, including the President Brian Sole and his wife Ann, to travel to La Chapelle D'Armentiers, France, in May, for another inter-continental Thematic competition.

Seven nations: GB; France; Germany; Holland; Belgium; Luxembourg and Denmark supplied a total of 47 competitive exhibits, with a judge from each country forming the jury. The BTA Chairman, Christine A. Earle, participated as the GB Juror and Commissioner.

The judging was finished by mid-afternoon on the second day, with the top four scoring exhibits from each country making that country's final team.

There were six GB exhibits

- |                              |                 |          |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| • Here Be Dragons            | David Griffiths | 7 Frames |
| • A Whale's Tale             | Lesley Marley   | 7        |
| • Up Periscope               | John Leathes    | 3        |
| • More Than a Pretty Picture | Geoff Hood      | 7        |
| • Sources and Use of Sugar   | David Hunter    | 5        |
| • Winston Churchill          | Simon Moorcroft | 2        |

The results were:

- |            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Germany    | 1st                    |
| Holland    | 2nd                    |
| GB         | joint 3rd with Belgium |
| Luxembourg | 5th                    |
| France     | 6th                    |
| Denmark    | 7th                    |

Each exhibitor received a prize along with their award and as four of the GB team members were there they had the opportunity to receive their prizes in person.



*Chris and the rest of the judging team*

### **Lesley Marley gives an exhibitors view**

**I**n 2005 the French Thematic Association organised the event, and the exhibition took place in La Chapelle d'Armentieres ( near Lille), hosted by the local Club Philatelique Chapellois. It is a team contest and this year seven countries took part. Each country can send five or more exhibits; they are individually judged according to FIP GREV and SREV rules. The sum of the four highest awards are taken for the score of each country.

The Great Britain team consisted of David Griffiths, John Leathes, David Hunter, Geoff Hood Simon Moorcroft and myself. Our chairman Christine Earle was one of the judges, and we were supported by our president Brian Sole and his wife Ann, also Sheila Foster and Colin Marley; unfortunately John and Simon were unable to come on the trip with us. Two cars full and two on the train, we all converged on Armentieres on Friday afternoon. We were very impressed with the frames that were used, also the speed and care with which our exhibits were mounted.



*Team GB: Geoff, Lesley and the two Davids*

The exhibition was held in a large sports complex; the dealers were setting up for the opening on Saturday, and we were able to get refreshments (very welcome as it was one of the hottest days). The judging had to start that afternoon / evening as there was so many entries, and continue all next day. Christine certainly had to work very hard, so we had to leave her, find our hotel and settle in. Later, when the whole exhibition was set up, the judges, organising committee and our British contingent had an evening meal (booked in advance) in the complex. Plenty of philatelic chit chat and catching up with friends made on earlier Eurothema exhibitions, we were also able to have a sneak preview of the competitors' frames.

Next day up early to get Christine to the show for a gruelling day (punctuated by the French lunch, lucky her!!). We all went to the dealers, some we knew from Thematica and David Griffiths also had a table so we were able to help him, and of course new faces; the show was about the same size as Thematica. We spent hours it seemed looking at the other exhibits for hints and tried to see where we might come. The day was rounded off by a trip to Belgium for the Palmares dinner; as usual with the French the food was excellent, the wine flowed and the speeches were long. The British team finished joint 3rd with Belgium. We were pleased, as no

exhibits could be shown that had received an award at FIP or FEPA exhibitions, so this event therefore makes the link between national and international level where collectors can gain their first experience with exhibiting in an international atmosphere.



#### *Enjoying the hospitality*

The highlight for the Brits was the help and knowledge that the judges gave us in their critique of our frames on Sunday. They spent plenty of time with each of us, and we all had different strengths and weaknesses. I think it has helped us all as they also praised our good points as well as showing where to improve our frames. We were then able to compare ours to the winner of the competition, which was Germany. Later the prizes were given out; everyone who entered received a certificate and a prize supplied by the participating countries and the host nation. In the evening we found an Italian restaurant (The French do not open Sunday evenings in small towns, we had visions of going to bed hungry as our hotel did not provide evening meals) and were able to talk over the philatelic weekend. It is lovely talking to like minded people and to be able to bounce off ideas with each other. I would certainly recommend any of the continental shows just as a visitor to get to see other dealers and how other countries put together their exhibits.



Perhaps the British Thematic Association could host the next Eurothema? I know it will be a large amount of work but I think we could all learn something from other European countries. Even if you have no intention of entering competitively, I am sure you will find some interesting information or philatelic items or a different way of tackling your own chosen theme. ☒

## **1<sup>st</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY**

### **Information compiled by Damian Läge**

Installing regular international events for thematic philately forms one of my main goals for the period 2004 – 2008. Hence, I'm very happy to announce that FEPA board has accepted the idea of an official European Championship of Thematic Philately (ECTP), to be held each year in conjunction with the stamp fair in Essen, Germany (a fair which ranks amongst the largest and most successful events of that type in the world). Dates for the first ECTP are May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2006, the second such exhibition will be (May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2007).

I see exhibitions like ECTP or EUROTHEMA as being the first ones of a number of future international events for thematic philately. Of course, it is easiest to start within the European continent, because the number of thematic exhibits is highest, and the distances are relatively short compared to distances within the other continents. (Most people don't even need a flight to go to Essen but can travel by car or train). However, I hope that FIAF and FIAP might follow this example sometime in future given that ECTP should become an impressive success as a regular continental championship.

The European Championship will give us not only the unique opportunity of a specialised competition of our best thematic exhibits (which are usually never shown in the same exhibition but only distributed over the different FIP and FEPA events). It will also form a continuous forum to discuss new trends and developments in thematic exhibiting.

In conjunction with ECTP, a FEPA seminar for thematic jurors will be held every year in Essen. This allows experienced judges to reach a common understanding of the judging process (to reach a maximum of consistency when serving at FIP and FEPA exhibitions), and enables new jurors to gain valuable knowledge and experience. Besides accredited FIP and FEPA judges, national thematic jurors can also participate in this seminar. (If you would like to join the seminar and are not an accredited FIP or FEPA juror but judge on national level, just contact me, Damian Läge, to find an arrangement on how to participate.)

ECTP, as a competitive exhibition, will be divided into eight different thematic groups (as you can see from the special regulations printed below). In each group, a European champion will be awarded, and as well as this gold medalist, silver and bronze medal will be given to the runner-ups in this group.

Out of the eight European champions of thematic philately, a Grand Prix winner will be chosen during the palmares ceremony: All eight winning exhibits will be presented by the jury (using a PowerPoint presentation to allow the audience an insight into the strengths of each exhibit), and then the Grand Prix winner will be chosen by public vote of the jury (each jury member can award a certain number of points for this purpose).

As mentioned above, eight different thematic sections are provided. They should give room for any theme, so all thematic exhibits will fit into at least one category. (If one exhibit would fit into more than one category, it is the choice of the collector where to place it).

The number of exhibits is restricted to 10 per section. If more apply for one category, the 10 exhibits will be shown which receive the highest awards at previous FIP or FEPA exhibitions. (To qualify for ECTP, the exhibit must have been shown at least once at a FIP or FEPA exhibition).

## **Special regulations for ECTP**

### 1. General idea and location

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) shall join the best thematic exhibits in Europe in one single show, promoting the competitive aspect in high quality exhibiting, securing or even increasing the high standard of thematic exhibits in a long term perspective.

ECTP is recognized by The European Federation of Philatelic Associations (FEPA) as official European Championship for Thematic Philately and will be held for the first time in 2006.

ECTP will be arranged in conjunction with the International Stamp Fair in Essen dated May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2006. The stamp fair in the fairgrounds of the Messe Essen is organized in a professional manner and ranks amongst the most successful philatelic fairs in Europe. The exhibition itself will be realized by the German Philatelic Federation BDPPh, namely by its regional federation of Nordrhein- Westfalen.

### 2. The championship competition

*Exhibition Classes.* The exhibition will comprise 8 different classes grouping the thematic range of exhibits as follows:

- class 1: Arts and Culture
- class 2: History and Organisations
- class 3: Man and Everyday Life
- class 4: Sport and Leisure
- class 5: Transport and Technology
- class 6: Medicine and Science
- class 7: Animals and Plants
- class 8: Agriculture and Pets

Up to ten exhibits from ten different FEPA countries can be shown in each class. An exhibit comprises 7 – 11 frames of 12 pages each (German standard frames, 100 x 100 cm, contain space for 3 rows of 4 x A4 pages).

*Awards.* In each class, one gold medallist will be elected from the exhibits shown. Further on, one silver and one bronze medal will be awarded to the runner-ups. This makes 24 medallists at each ECTP. From the eight gold medallists, the jury votes for the Winner of the Grand Prix ECTP.

The ranking of exhibits within each class follows the order of points awarded by the jury according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits. The Grand Prix ECTP will be voted in public during the award ceremony with every juror contributing his own ranking of the very best exhibits.

*Participants.* Every thematic exhibit which has been shown at least once on FIP or FEPA exhibitions can apply for participation. It is in the decision of the exhibitor which of the eight classes is the most appropriate. (However, he can be overruled by the selection committee in cases of obvious inconsistencies). The exhibitor is free to choose the number of frames ranging from a minimum of 7 up to a maximum of 11.

*Applications.* All entry forms are gathered by the national delegates for the FIP commission for Thematic Philately. They submit the entries for their countries and make sure that the best exhibits are nominated for competition. Names and addresses of all national delegates can be found on the internet site of the FIP commission for Thematic Philately (<http://www.fipthematicphilately.org>).

All collectors who want to participate at ECTP 2006 have to submit their application to the national delegate of their country not later than December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005. The national delegate

will forward the applications to the organisation committee of ECTS (Gerhard Weiß, Glatzer Weg 7, D-48366 Laer) not later than January 15th 2006.

Every FEPA country can only submit one exhibit per class. Only if less than 10 applications are received for one specific class, the selection committee can nominate further exhibits from countries which are represented in this class already to reach the maximum of 10 exhibits.

The selection committee of ECTP will select those awards at previous FIP or FEPA exhibitions. In any case, however, the two exhibits of each FEPA country having the highest qualifications will be accepted so that each FEPA country can be represented by at least two exhibits.

The exhibition fee is € 20 per frame and payable after notification of acceptance of the exhibit.

*Transport of exhibits.* Each exhibit shall be brought and collected by the exhibitor himself or by his authorized agent. In the special case of a championship, the exhibitors are in general requested to be present during the exhibition and the award ceremony. For this reason, no national commissioners are appointed for this purpose (as usual with general exhibitions on FEPA level). However, exhibits can also be sent in by mail or of course be carried by jury members from the respective country.

Exhibitors or their agent have to mount / dismount the exhibit (if not sent in by mail). The mounting of frames shall take place on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m., the dismounting on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> of May, from 5 p.m. onwards.

To forward an exhibit by the posts shall only be possible in exceptional cases which have to be announced beforehand. These exhibits must reach the exhibition-manager not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April under the following address: Werner Müller, Fliederweg 13, D-44532 Lünen. A storage of the exhibits after the exhibition took place or a reposting of the exhibits shall generally not be possible.

*General regulations.* ECTP orientates on the regulations for exhibitions arranged by FEPA and BDPH. The transport and insurance of exhibits is in the responsibility of the exhibitor. Every exhibitor may insure the exhibit at her/his own expense.

The exhibition-manager shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of the exhibit from arrival till return thereof. However, the exhibition-manager and the organizing team shall not bear any liability for loss or damage that might occur during transportation, mounting, dismounting or while the exhibition.

### 3. Jury

The ECTP jury will comprise 12 jurors representing a wide range of FEPA countries. Each member is a qualified thematic juror on FIP or FEPA level. The jury work consists of evaluating every exhibit according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits, ranking all exhibits in each of the eight classes, voting for the Grand Prix amongst the eight gold medallists, and suggesting modifications to the exhibitors during a jury critique on Saturday,

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12.30.

### **FEPA Jury Seminar for thematic jurors (May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Essen)**

The special time frame of the Stamp Fair in Essen (Thursday to Saturday) allows a FEPA seminar for thematic jurors in conjunction with ECTP, starting Saturday afternoon and ending Sunday noon. All FIP and FEPA jurors are welcome to join the seminar, and future candidates for FEPA apprenticeship shall also get the opportunity to participate. (Thematic jurors on national level are also welcome as guests.)

The seminar will include lessons, discussions and active team judging of selected exhibits. The main goal is to find a common understanding of how to allot points to certain quality of exhibits when being shown on international level.

Participation is free of charge (but accommodation has to be paid unless jurors serve at ECTP). Jurors who would like to attend are kindly requested to contact Damian Läge or the ECTP organisation committee not later than March 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. Accommodation can be arranged subject to availability (so please announce your coming as early as possible).

*Half page advertisement  
for Thames Themes*

# 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

## **MEDICAL PHILATELY STUDY GROUP**

Twelve members of the Group met for a special memorial seminar for former president SELBY HUMPHREYS who died in 1991, at the New Holmwood Hotel, Cowes, Isle of Wight on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

As John Mackett, the convenor and host of the meeting, had been hospitalised because of heart trouble the President John Kelsey, the Treasurer Brenda Harding and the Membership Secretary Steve Boorn took over the last minute arrangements and the meeting proceeded on an ad hoc basis.

Nevertheless, despite lack of display boards and initial lack of blackout for showing slides, the meeting was very enjoyable and was voted a great success. A few of us stayed on for short holidays as well. Of particular delight was that John had sufficiently recovered to give three fascinating papers, ably supported by Mrs. Mackett. Other displays included *A Charm of Lady Doctors* (Meg Ritchie, Fife); *Malaria and Warfare* (Carol Tutner, Minehead); *Drug Abuse* (Peter Tabener, Bristol); *Clinical Philately* (Stuart Menzies, Tynemouth); *Anaesthesia On Stamps* and two slide shows (Alistair Mackenzie, Edinburgh); and *Red Cross*, (Tom Wilson, Folkestone)

The Sunday morning session concluded with the A.G.M., a bourse and a ceremonial lunch in the dining room with a picture window looking out across the Solent.

## **PHILATELIC MUSIC CIRCLE**

The next Annual Convention will be held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October during Philatex. Entries for the Malin Cup and Baton Trophy will be judged and there will be a one-sheet 'Favourite sheet' competition. Entries for the Yehudi Menuhin Trophy will be on display with the opportunity to vote for 'the best music stamp of 2004' (part of an international competition). Before the viewing, Patron Margaret Morris will be giving a talk.

Regretfully this will be the final PMC convention. A motion on the agenda for the AGM proposes that the PMC be dissolved with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

Would you like details of your affiliated society to be advertised here? Drop *Themescene* Editor a line – or an email. We will be pleased to publish it.

# ATA HANDBOOKS

Members should note that ATA Handbooks should now be ordered from Lesley Marley, 17 Boundary Way, Havant, Hants PO9 1NE, instead of from John Hayward. The ATA Publications List Order Form issued with September 2004 Themescene should be amended accordingly. The arrangements for obtaining photocopies of ATA Checklists via Chris Earle remain unchanged.

## Increased Costs

The pamphlet issued in July 2004 has an order sheet printed on the last (back) page. Please note that due to the recent increase in postal rates, it had been necessary to raise the price for **Post and Packing to £ 1 for deliveries within the U.K.**

*Half page advertisement for  
The West Cornwall Stamp Centre*

# LIBRARY LISTING

*Ron Backhouse*

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.

## ARTICLES

No.

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Topic / Title

		<b>Aircraft</b>	
3	Farrar, W.	World's Worst Aircraft	Topical Times 239 2/05
		<b>Army</b>	
3	Lewis, B.	Military Uniforms on Stamps: Armour of the Medieval Knight	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 11/83
3	Lewis, B.	Military Uniforms on Stamps: End of colour and show	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
		<b>Birds</b>	
2	Seaward, J.	Kingfishers	ThemNews, S.A. 12/04
		<b>Christmas</b>	
3	Shaman, T.	From Saintly Bishop to Secular Hero - Santa Claus	Stamp Magazine 12/96
		<b>Cricket</b>	
3	Leonard, A.	Collecting Cricket Stamps	Stamps 8/80
		<b>Dolphins, Porpoises</b>	
2	Fertl, D. & Pomes	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	Topical Times 239 2/05
		<b>Europa</b>	
4	Walker, R.	Europa 1982 and the Years Ahead	Stamps 2/83
		<b>Exploration</b>	
4	Hull, R. Reef, H.	In Search of the North West Passage	Stamps 2/83
2	& Rudaizky	Travels of Charles Darwin	Topical Times 239 2/05
		<b>Folklore</b>	
2	Osborn, J.	Robin Hood	Stamp Magazine 4/87
1		Folktales from Botswana 1980	Stamp Magazine 10/80
		<b>Food and Drink</b>	
1	Foster, K.	Tea or Coffee (postmarks)	Stamp Magazine 1/87

		<b>France</b>	
18	Autoycus'	Siege of Paris 1870-71	Stamp Magazine Jan-June 93 Stamps & Foreign Stamps 7/84
3	Jones, A.	The Age of Louis XV (on French Stamps)	
		<b>Helicopters</b>	
2	Perrott, J.	Helicopters	Stamp Magazine 3/71
		<b>Hotels</b>	
1	Forster, R.	More Hotel Postmarks	Stamp Magazine 4/66
		<b>Hovercraft</b>	
1	Araignon, J. L.	Hovercraft	Log Book 5/05
		<b>Iceland</b>	
3	Lowe, M.	Iceland: land of ice and fire	Stamp Magazine, April 1976
		<b>Italy</b>	
1	Dehn, R.	Garibaldi	Stamp Magazine 2/87
		<b>Military Orders / Decorations</b>	
2	King, A.	Sovereign Military Order of Malta	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 12/83
		<b>Nobel Prize</b>	
1	Locke, D.	P C Doherty: the first vet (Australia 45c) [Nobel Prize 1996]	Stamps & Tongs 3/03
		<b>Tombs</b>	
2	Soper, B.	Tombs on Stamps	Topical Times 239 2/05
		<b>Veterinary Science</b>	
7	Best, W.	Veterinary medicine and philately	Blue Book No 12
3	Borgsteede, F.	Parasites to man [in Dutch]	
2	Greve, J.	Ian Clunes Ross: veterinary parasitologist	Stamps and Tongs 5/04
1	Locke, D.	Dog hygiene stamps	Veterinary Record 4/4/92
2	Locke, D.	P C Doherty: the first vet (Australia 45c)	Stamps & Tongs 3/03
2	Locke, D.	Military veterinary services and philately	Chiron Calling
3	Locke, D.	Veterinary medicine	Topical Times 8/03
3	Martin, M.	Postal gallery of veterinary art	Veterinary Practice 1970
12	Wagener, K.	Veterinary philately	Blue Book No 20 Mexico '71 American Veterinary Assn Sept. 78
4		Battle against rindepest I. A. Earle Kirby: veterinary surgeon, St. Vincent	Stamps & Tongs 3/03
2		<b>Whales</b>	
	Fertl, D. & Pomes	Whales, dolphins and porpoises	Topical Times 239 2/05
		<b>Women</b>	
5	Mackey, J.	Women of Achievement: faces on 1996 Europa issues	Stamp Magazine 10/96