

THEMESCENE

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REGULAR COLUMNS

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

With this issue you will receive the official BTA brochure which accompanied our display at Stampex, taking pride of place at the Village Green. Writing about this in early February your officers are looking ahead, rather than looking back, so our comments are written in a spirit of optimism rather than having a basis in fact! However, what I do know is that John Hayward has put a lot of work into this over a long period and I have no doubt that it will all pay off. Filling 200 frames was quite a task. I'm sure there are lots of you out there, like me, who are at the time of writing desperately putting the last-minute touches to your contribution to the exhibition. I hope you managed to get to the Business Design Centre to see your own work, as well as others. Thank you to all those who have supplied a frame or more; thank you to our affiliated societies for taking up the offer of free exposure, and a particular thank you to all those firms and organisations who supported the brochure through advertising.

I hope you enjoy the mix of articles in this issue of *Themescene*. One of the pleasures of being Editor is the unexpected arriving through the post. I'm always encouraging people to write, but I never know what they may choose to write about, so there is always a sense of anticipation when new mail arrives – what will it contain, and what illustrations will it have? I have the advantage of seeing the originals illustrated here, and what a fascinating selection they are. Are you intrigued by the range offered here? Does your collection have some general interest? The answer is undoubtedly “yes”, so why not put pen to paper and send me a short (or not so short) article? Those of you who give talks know just what a pleasure it is to see your material displayed on frames; well seeing your work in print has something of the same effect: it does wonders for your sense of achievement.

With this issue we introduce a new feature for 2006: a Junior Page (31). If you have children in your household, or know of friends and neighbours who might be interested, do spread the word. This has been introduced on the initiative of Lise Whittle, and I know she would love to generate interest for the feature. School teachers might consider taking it along to a class one day.

The June issue of *Themescene* will of course have all the relevant paperwork relating to the BTA Annual General Meeting at Thematica. However let me put in a reminder now that the AGM will be held at 2.30pm on 25th June. Following the official business, last year's winner of the BTA Cup, Carol Turner, will give a talk and display on “Man and Malaria”.

But before then we've got WORPEX (<http://www.worpex.com/worpex2006.php>) on 13th May (see page 25 for details of the BTA meeting to be held there). The event hosted by the Worcester Philatelic and Postcard Society will have around 25 dealers. With that, thematic displays, a talk and a workshop there will be plenty to keep you busy for the day.

I hope I can meet up with some of you at one or more of our events.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

John Hayward spent nearly two years organising the BTA displays on the Village Green for Spring Stampex. We are grateful to the many members who supported this initiative. We hope all the visitors who came to the Business Design Centre went away with a strong recollection of at least one or two of the displays. The advance publicity was good. John Holman printed a two and a half page article by Simon Moorcroft, our young Publicity Officer, in the February issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Hugh Jefferies kindly published an 8-page American History article by Ian Paton, in full colour, in the February issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, with a 2-page report on the history of the BTA. There was a fine photograph of John Hayward presenting the BTA Certificate of Life membership to the late John Fosbery, the founder of the annual Thematica event. Every member should receive, with this issue of *Themescene*, a copy of BTA's 28-page A5 brochure, specially prepared for the Spring Stampex event. Our special thanks go to John Hayward for all his efforts in compiling the booklet; to Wendy, our Editor, for organising and editing the material for printing and to all our advertisers, who provided that additional financial support for our efforts.

My contribution to the Village Green displays included some pages for the Bicycle Stamps Club's frames. It had been decided that the displays did not have to conform to the normal rules of competitive thematic philately. I was able to show my recent competitive entry "Go by Cycle!" but in an additional 3 frames I picked out from my collection some unusual items, which cannot be shown in competition, e.g. illustrated envelopes, poster stamps and picture postcards.

It is often the items that do not strictly conform with the rules that attract more attention when giving displays to Societies. For example I was able to include in the BSC display the back of a 1938 cover with an illustration of a Safety Bicycle. Nothing special, you may think, but the illustration is partly covered by a slip of paper with the message "Accidente de Aviao" and a two ring cancellation with the date 20 VI 38. The envelope had been recovered from the sea on 5 June 1938, following an accident to the Condor seaplane, "Guaracy", on 22 May 1938. Imagine my surprise therefore, when attending a display by Ian Nutley, "Flying to Rio – the Deutsche Lufthansa Service to South America" at the Royal Philatelic Society to see another 3 items with similar labels attached, also recovered from the "Guaracy" seaplane. Ian explained in his talk that water had entered the floats and that the seaplane had slowly sunk, rather than crashing into the sea. Additional information can come when least expected!

Finally, on a sad note, one of our larger Thematic Group members, the Philatelic Music Circle, has been unable to fill vacancies on its committee and is about to be wound up. In the 37 years of the Circle's existence there have been just two Editors of *The Baton*, Irene Lawford, for 27 years, and Alena Pascual for the past 10 years. This is a sober warning. No Club, Society or Group can continue without volunteers prepared to take over duties from existing officers, many of whom having served faithfully for several years. ☒

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Christine A. Earle

By the time you read this in the March edition of *Themescene*, the extravaganza of Thematic Philately displayed on the 'Village Green' during Spring Stampex 2006 will be over. I make no apologies in using my Chairman's Page to give me the opportunity to give a great big thank you, on your behalf, to the BTA Committee, especially Display Organiser John Hayward, our President Brian Sole & past Treasurer Tony Farmer, for the inspirational effort they put in to bring about this event. With 200 frames filled to the brim with material covering every conceivable theme and subject, all supplied by members of the BTA, it must surely mean that 'Thematics' and especially the BTA is well and truly thriving in the UK. The Stampex 'Display' was a great showcase for our branch of the hobby of philately; well done to everyone who either took part or helped out!



Flushed with success, I am pushing forward to promote the coming of another major event involving Thematic philately in this country, 'Torquay 2006'. This, the 6th Bi-annual ABPS Exhibition and International Competition, is to be held in Torquay, November 24th – 25th 2006, and will contain the opportunity for collectors to enter either the National Thematic Class (no qualifications required) or the International Thematic Class for those who have already obtained a vermeil in the Nationals. More details and entry forms can be obtained from the organisers of 'Torquay 2006' c/o The British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London. EC1M 6PT. Deadline for the entry forms to be returned to the organisers is Friday 7th July, and the entries will be required early in October for the judging sessions. Go on — Do it — Have a Go!

On a slightly sadder note, the BTA Members meetings, previously traditionally held during Hampex and Swinpex, have proved harder and harder to draw members attendance. This has resulted, in the past few years, with often only members of the Committee turning up, and less and less members making the effort to attend. Consequently, at the last Committee meeting it was reluctantly agreed to suspend these meetings for the foreseeable future. However, with Thematica, including the BTA AGM, 24th – 25th July and Thematica II in November 2006 looks like being a bumper year for Thematic collectors — make sure you are part of it. ☒

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	UK 207
Family members	22
Junior members UK	3
Society members UK	19
Overseas members	24
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	2
Total number of members	278

The response to the call for subscriptions has been very heartening with 75% of members having paid to date. A reminder for those of you who have still to pay is included with this issue of *Themescene*. It is to be hoped that no further reminders will be necessary, as this is all a drain on our finances.

Those members who are regular visitors to Stampex will recall the forest of display frames that occupies the 'Village Green'. To see them filled with Thematic displays will surely be a treat indeed, and will demonstrate the great diversity of subjects available for the collector. Looking at the BTA database, and the list of collecting interests (thanks to Ian Paton), there seems hardly a topic under the sun that hasn't attracted someone's attention.

My own interest which covers most activities to do with the sea has recently been blessed with issues all devoted to Nelson and Trafalgar. The stamps and FDCs (if collected) should not prove too difficult, however good commercial mail or something penned by one of the participants may take a little longer to find. But there-in lays one of the great pleasures of this hobby, ploughing through dealers' boxes looking for that one item that may bring a display to life. So here's to good hunting at Stampex and the enjoyment of what should be one of the finest thematic displays to be staged.

New Members joining since the December issue

Mrs B.M. Wakeley	Plymouth
Mr B. Fullick	Heysham
Mr R. Higgins	Gillingham

Deaths advised since the December issue

Mrs M. Webber	Dumfries
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PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

A very enjoyable day was had by all on 15th December at the last meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London for 2005. Prior to the start of the meeting a number of BTA members convened for lunch at the local hostelry where service was noted to be slightly slower and less efficient than normal. It was a great pleasure to see Damien Läge at the Royal again. He very kindly offered to attend an informal meeting of BTA members who were present to discuss material and album pages which some people had brought along and offer any advice he could as to how they could be used or improved. Damien is a true expert on thematic philately and one can learn so much just by listening to him. After this we were all entertained by Colin Mount (see full report on page 22) who presented his paper entitled Pig in the Post. This relaxed and highly amusing display was the perfect way round off an excellent day.

Our first meeting of 2006 will take place on Saturday 13th May as part of Worpex. This will consist of 5/6 frames of thematic material in the public area and a meeting in the afternoon. The first half will be a display entitled "The Man with a Thousand Faces" given by Cyril Stapley with the second half given over to a thematic workshop similar to the ones held during 2005. This looks to be an excellent meeting and one which will be well worth attending. The City of Worcester is a lovely place to visit and you may wish to combine your visit to the meeting with a short break. No, I am not on the payroll of the Worcestershire Tourist Board!

It is a pleasure to see that there will indeed be an international stamp show in 2010. The Business Design Centre, although not perfect, will provide a perfectly adequate venue. True, holding it somewhere like Earls Court or the new Excel centre would have been preferable but like so many things nowadays compromises have to be made. If funding for a larger venue cannot be found then smaller, cheaper locations must be sought and used. In any organisation financial constraints are prevalent and the hobby of philately is no exception. It is always far better to have a smaller exhibition than not to have one at all.

I would urge you all to become involved in the events the committee has organised for you this year. We have a busy year ahead and let us ensure that it is a success.

Enjoy your collecting! ☒

DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY

INTERESTED IN THEMATIC COLLECTING?

WOULD THEY LIKE TO JOIN A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THEMATIC COLLECTING? IF SO, WHY NOT TELL THEM ABOUT THE...

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

THEMESCENE JUNIOR PAGE

From: Lise Whittle, 11 Nether Auchendrane, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4EE.

Dear Adult Members,

You may have noticed that we have a new Junior Page. We would welcome any surplus material you may have to use as prizes for the competitions: anything suitable to post to youngsters, colourful and bright, or something older and unusual that may have a story behind it. If you can spare any items please pass them on to myself at the above address. If you are in contact with any youngsters, you might like to show them the Junior Page and encourage them to have a go at the activities. Many thanks for everyone's support so far.

Lise Whittle

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER

From: Michael Chapling, by email

Re Dr D. Jones letter in the December 2005 *Themescene*, I give below a list of all the stamps known to me showing the above subject.

Australia	60c	1981	shows Walter Lindrum
Belgium	6f+2f.	1982	
	25f. ex M/s	of same issue	
Brunei	20c	1999	
Denmark	3k.70	1984	referred to in the letter
Indonesia	1000r.	2003	
Kuwait	30f.	1981	
Netherlands	75c	1986	referred to in letter
Peru	34s.	1979	
	65s on 34s	1980	the above stamp surcharged
Sri Lanka	5r.75	1988	
Tanzania	100s.	1992	
Thailand	2b.+1b.	1995	

Total number of stamps 12, I have not given SG numbers so as not to fall foul of copyright rules.

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 THOMAS LIPTON AND THE AMERICA'S CUP

From: Mr. W. Lightbody, 66 Jerviston Road, Motherwell, Strathclyde, ML1 4AA

Dear Editor

I am trying to start up a little theme on yacht racing; specifically the America's Cup, and even more specifically referring to a Scotsman, Sir Thomas Lipton. He made his money mainly from tea and had a string of grocery shops across the U.K.

He is featured on a Dominican stamp SG 1647 of 1992, part of set SG 1641/1655, which I cannot get. I found a postcard of one of his boats, *Shamrock III*; he had five altogether, all named *Shamrock*, and I've also found him on a postcard.

I wonder if any member can help with stamps, especially SG 1647, or postcards. There are stamps from Grenada Grenadines, Nevis, Belize, Guyana, Kiribati, Central African Republic, Australia, New Zealand, and USA.

Yours faithfully

*Half page advertisement for
Thames Themes*

THEMATIC USE OF 'AIRMAIL': PART 2 – LINDBERGH AND EARHART

Ian Paton continues his look at early aviation heroes and heroines



Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) (only portrait of Lindbergh on a U.S. stamp) had more impact on aviation in the 20th century than any other single person, and after his solo crossing of the Atlantic in 1927 he became an international hero, and his popularity in the U.S.A. knew no bounds. His life story is well told in *Lindbergh* by A. Scott Berg.

He learnt to fly in 1922 and the following year he bought a World War 1 surplus Curtiss



‘Jenny’ and made his first solo flight. In 1924 he completed his training in the army flying service and was commissioned a captain in the U.S. Air Service of the National Guard. In 1926 he became chief pilot for the Robertson Aircraft Corporation and flew the airmail on CAM 2, the St. Louis to Chicago Route, for which they had the contract.

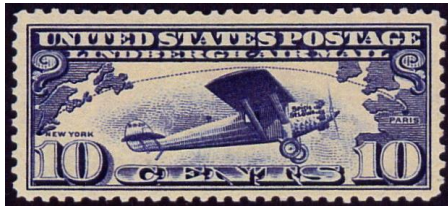
This cover has a Springfield cancellation, which looks like a cachet, but was applied by the postmaster to the 10c stamp; standard cancellations were to be used at all the cities on the route, but the Springfield PM obtained permission to include the wording ‘where Lincoln lived’.

Raymond Orteig, a French-born American who owned two New York hotels, was inspired in 1919 by the spirit of U.S.-French cooperation in the war, to put up a prize of \$25,000 to the first aviator of any Allied country crossing the Atlantic in one flight between



Paris and New York in either direction. After the offer had remained on the table for 5 years he renewed it and placed the prize under the auspices of the National Aeronautical Association. Several French and American aviators were known to be giving the flight serious thought. With great difficulty Lindbergh found backers who would provide \$15,000, and the Ryan Aeronautical Corporation who would build a special plane for the

flight. One of his backers, Harry Knight who was President of the St. Louis Flying Club, suggested the plane should be called the *Spirit of St. Louis*. This suggestion was taken up and Lindbergh's entry was accepted by the Contest Committee of the N.A.A. At 7.54am on 20th May 1927 the *Spirit* was airborne over New York. Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget airport in Paris at 10.24am on 21st May 1927 (Paris time) after a solo flight lasting 33½ hours. Thousands had gathered to greet him and the news flashed round the world. As part of the massive celebrations on his return to America, Postmaster General New presented him with two of the 560,000 copies of this stamp, commenting that while regulations prevented his portrait being on a stamp there was nothing to prevent his name being used, and he was the first American to be honoured with a stamp while he was still alive.



He had great enthusiasm for all aspects of aviation and used his popularity to advance plane design and manufacture, airline operation, air mail route selection, city airport construction and route illumination for night flying.

In 1927 Dwight Morrow, his financial adviser at J.P. Morgan, was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, charged with the responsibility for improving the relationship between the two countries. When asked to visit him in December 1927, Lindbergh with maximum publicity flew non-stop from Washington, DC to Mexico City in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. People turned out in their thousands to greet him and the national relationships improved almost overnight. Following up on this the Ambassador and the State Department arranged for

Lindbergh to carry out a 16 nation 'good will tour' in Latin America which was a great success. One nation on the tour was Cuba, and this cover has a Cuban stamp overprinted LINDBERGH/FEBRERO 1928 and machine cancelled



in Havana on 11.FEB.1928. During numerous visits to Mexico Lindbergh met the Ambassador's elder daughter, Anne, and they were married in May 1929. On 22nd June 1930 their first child, Charles Jr. was born.

In February 1928 he went back to his old CAM Route and piloted the air mail from St. Louis on 20th February 1928, including this cover to New Jersey.

In connection with his visits to Mexico, Lindbergh worked out a FOREIGN AIR MAIL ROUTE (FAM) between Mexico City and Brownsville, Texas, in his capacity as technical adviser to Pan American Airways.

It is worth remembering that at this point in time navigating a plane over land was largely a matter of using a map and following the courses of rivers, railroads and roads from city to



city. He was the pilot on the inaugural flight which left Mexico City on 9th March 1929 and this cover was included in the mail.



This is not a biography of Lindbergh so I will end here, though he continued to make a vast contribution to International and American Aviation until his death in 1974. Before closing I must mention what came to be known as the ‘Crime of the Century’ committed on March 1st 1932 when Lindbergh’s son was kidnapped, and found murdered two and a half months later. A

carpenter, Richard Hauptman, was arrested and put on trial in 1935; found guilty and executed in 1936. In *Crime of the Century: The Lindbergh Kidnapping Hoax* the authors, Gregory Ahlgren and Stephen Monier, set out the doubts which existed about Hauptman’s guilt, the poor quality of both the investigation and the subsequent legal proceedings. They even mention one rumour that Lindbergh himself had staged a hoax kidnapping which had gone wrong. To escape the publicity of the American press the Lindbergh family went to Europe in 1935 and remained there until 1939. His fame attracted the attention of Herman Goering who proudly displayed the strength of the Luftwaffe, which he duly reported back to the American Government. He strongly advocated isolationism and non-involvement of the USA in Europe. Unfortunately his admiration for the German Airforce extended to admiration of the Nazi Government because of its efficiency. He even opposed the initial limited support which President Roosevelt extended to the Allies, and it was not until Japan attacked Pearl Harbour that he swung his full support behind his country in World War 11.



The pioneer American aviator Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas. She was an army nurse in WWI and learnt to fly in 1920-21. She is internationally remembered because of her 1937 crash in the Pacific when attempting to fly round the world. Starting in Oakland, California, her route took her across the Caribbean, down South America including a stop in Surinam (June 1937), across the Atlantic to Africa, then on to India, S.E. Asia and Australia before turning North-East for Howland Island in the Pacific on the way back to the USA.



Amelia: The Centennial Biography of an Aviation Pioneer by Goldstein and Dillon is fascinating reading. Her career was built round using her fame to advertise the safety of flying for the small American airlines keen to persuade women to be their passengers. This cover is an example for the Thompson Aeronautical Corporation, when it employed her as a special pilot to

fly on the Cleveland-Detroit Mail Route (CAM 27) across Lake Erie. The cover dated 14.MAY.1929 has the cachet ‘AMELIA EARHART SPECIAL PILOT’ and is also signed by



her. The reverse of the cover has the wording 'Approved by the U.S. Post Office Dept, for AIR MAIL ONLY'. In 1928 she was the first woman to fly the Atlantic as a passenger, and she followed this up as the first woman to make solo flights across the Atlantic in 1932 and the Pacific in 1935.

The book describes her Round the World attempt in 1937 with her professional navigator Fred Noonan; explains how they could have missed such a tiny area as Howland Island in the middle of the Pacific (2 miles long, half a mile wide and rising only to 20' above sea level); and includes the searches mounted to locate them. In the last four short chapters the authors discuss the many rumours which exist that Amelia had been spying on the Japanese islands for the U.S. Government and how, after a pancake landing in the sea, they made it ashore and were subsequently picked up by the Japanese and taken to Saipang where they were eventually executed. There are unproven eyewitness sightings of two white people on the island. They refer favourably to the extensive research carried out in 1961 by Fred Goerner in his book *The Search for Amelia Earhart*, which is also worth reading.

Ahlgren, G. & Monier, S. (1993) *Crime of the Century: The Lindbergh Kidnapping Hoax*. ISBN 0-8283-1971-5

Berg, A. S. (1998) *Lindbergh*. ISBN 0-333-73578-1

Goerner, F. (1966) *The Search for Amelia Earhart*

Goldstein, D. M. & Dillon, K.V. (1997) *Amelia: The Centennial Biography of an Aviation Pioneer* ISBN 1-57488-134-5. ☒

DON'T FORGET
THEMATICA 24th – 25th JUNE 2006
Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London.
FEATURING:
Specialist thematic dealers
Youth area
Annual competitions.
Thematic Societies
BTA table
BTA Annual General Meeting on the Sunday
Talk and display by BTA Cup winner.

*Full page advertisement for
The Stamp Centre*

THE ORIGINS OF THE CARMELITES AND THEIR DEVOTIONS

Stephen Toynee gives the Old Testament origins of a present-day Christian order

As thematic collectors we often find ourselves asked the question “What started you on this thematic?” The answer in my case is that I was ill and signed off work for a number of weeks; and I began sorting out my huge world stamp collection. There amongst it was Saint Teresa of Avila - a Carmelite nun - and so began my first attempt at a thematic. But more about Saint Teresa in June *Themescene*.

The history of the Carmelites begins with the Old Testament prophet Elijah (Vatican SG 661) on Mount Carmel (Israel SG 64c). The Vatican stamp shows Elijah wearing a white cloak - which down through the centuries since the foundation of the Carmelite Order, the nuns and friars wear whilst celebrating Mass and Divine Office.

Elijah heard the voice of the Lord calling: *Leave here, go east and hide in the Wadi Cherith, east of the Jordan. You shall drink of the stream ...* He went east and drank from the stream (1 Kings 17). Elijah came from Tishbe in Transjordan and lived in the ninth century before Christ and his apostles (Surinam SG 716).

At the time of the Crusades to the Holy Land hermits settled in various places throughout Palestine. Some of these adopted a solitary life on Mount Carmel near a spring called Elijah's Fountain. Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem, brought the hermits together and around 1208 wrote the *Carmelite Way of Life* or Rule for the Prior on Mount Carmel and the other hermits living in obedience to him. Albert is known as the Carmelites' Lawmaker and his feast is celebrated on September 17th. The Jerusalem Cross has been depicted by West Germany on SG 1233.

The earliest Carmelite on a stamp is Saint Simon Stock. Little is known about him except that he was an Englishman who lived in the 13th century. He was Prior General of the Carmelite Order at Aylesford in Kent. On the night of July 15th 1251 Simon had a vision in which Our Lady appeared to him. She told Simon that “this shall be to thee and all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire”. Simon was given the brown Scapular at that moment and Carmelites have worn the Scapular ever since. (Malta SG 258-260) The Carmelites have a devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the scapular is seen in her left hand (Chile SG 650-651; 735; 1090). Her feast day is July 16th.

A Carmelite's way of life is one of prayer for the world and the Church. Another form of prayer, which is recited by its members, is the mysteries of the rosary, as depicted in the Spanish issue of 1962 (SG 1524-1538) and illustrated by artists including El Greco and Murillo.

The Carmelites have another devotion, to the Infant of Prague. The origin of this can briefly be traced back to Father Cyril of the Mother of God who was ordained a Carmelite priest in 1624. He rescued the statue, which had its hands broken off, from a damaged church. One day whilst at prayer Father Cyril heard the words: “Have pity on Me and I will have pity on you. Give me back my hands and I will give you peace. The more you honour Me, the more I will bless you”. The statue was repaired and the friars received many blessings. The Statue can be seen in the Carmelite Church in Prague, and down through the centuries people have received miracles through the Divine Infant of Prague. The Infant was depicted on the Christmas issue from the Vatican (SG 518-520) in 1968 and more recently by Czechoslovakia (SG 3071).

☒

DORUS RIJKERS: A FAMOUS DUTCH LIFEBOATMAN

Edward Quinton investigates some unusual postal stationery.

What started this quest about this Dutch gentleman was at the 1980 International Exhibition in London. I bought a Dutch postal stationery card with a small portrait of a lifeboatman in the top left corner (fig.1). Identification and information took a time to find, but eventually I found there were three other cards to the series. A dealer at Thematica had them, but at a much higher price. They were finally purchased at the 2000 International for the same price as the first one.

The cards all have a premium for charity and the last three have verses extolling the work of lifeboatmen. Next problem was trying to translate the poetry, they did not make sense to me. Around that time Dutch sail training vessels used to visit Great Yarmouth so I asked if somebody would translate for me. The Bosun kindly offered, and did so over a cup of ships' tea (strong and sweet). (Illustrations and translation below).

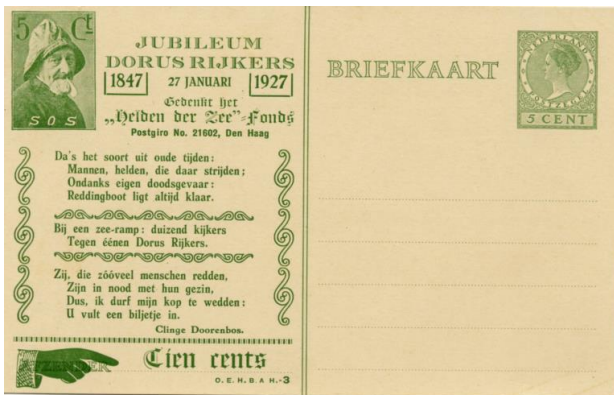
Now, some brief but interesting information from the Dutch Lifeboat Society (Koninklijke Nederlandse Redding Maatschappij):

Dorus Rijkers was born in Den Helder in 1847 and died there in 1928. It is not known when he joined the Den Helder lifeboat, but he was coxswain from 1886 until 1911, and helped save 493 people. One of his most notable rescues was to the German Barque *Renown* on 9th December 1887, on passage from Bangkok to Bremen. The vessel had grounded in a South Westerly storm. Eleven of the crew were saved but fourteen perished. The story goes that because he lived a distance from the lifeboat he sometimes missed a launch, so he sold one of his gold medals (a Bravery Award) to buy a bike.

Reading the verses on the cards, it appears a lot of old lifeboatmen were living in near poverty as was Dorus Rijkers, and asking people to donate to the Heroes of the Sea Foundation to help support them. I wonder how many cards were sold and how much money was raised?



Foundation heroes of the sea



When an artist turns sixty
 All of Holland cheers together
 Now Dorus Rykus becomes eighty
 The lifeboat artist of Holland.

Dorus Rykers and his kind
 Were men of action.
 Now Holland should show
 It too can do its duty.

The most precious possession – life
 They were ready to give.
 Took hundreds off the wrecks...
 Holland! Did you pay your debt?

Those are the people from the old days
 Men, heroes, who battle.
 Never mind the danger to themselves,
 The rescue boat is always ready.

At a sea disaster: thousands watch
 But only one goes – Dorus Rykers.

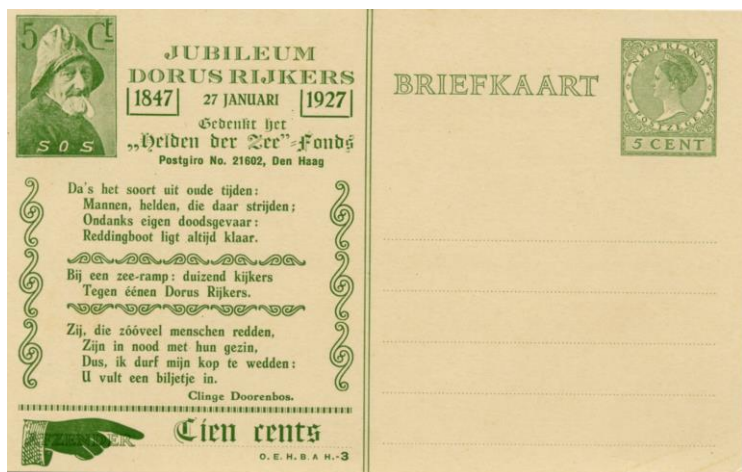
They who rescue so many people
 Live with their family in poverty,
 So I bet my life
 You will fill out a form (charity).



The game of golf (the waves) is
 Played more and more in our Country.
 However, nobody plays the waves
 Like Dorus plays them.

Many lifeboat men become
 Like Dorus Rykers [= richer] generally,
 But although they are Rykers
 Nobody gets any richer.

Everybody talks a lot
 About beautiful acts of life saving.
 The saved are safe,
 The lifeboatmen remain penniless.



NEW ISSUES

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

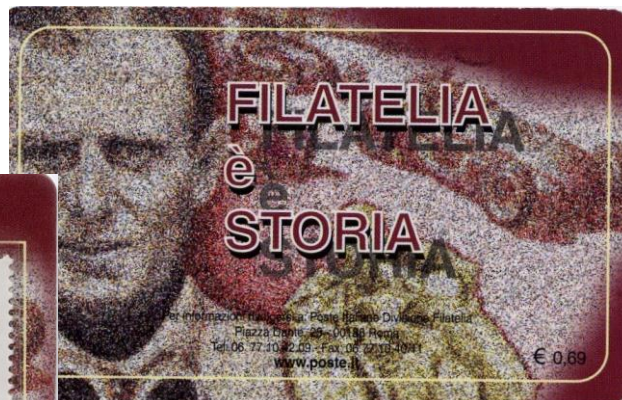
A VISIT TO THE POST OFFICE

John Hayward puts his overseas trips to philatelic use

How many of you take the opportunity to visit the Post Office when on holiday or on a business trip abroad, or in the UK for that matter? Not just to send that postcard, but to see what is available for your own or a fellow collector's collection. Do you in fact search out the Post Office or just visit it by chance? I always make a point of it on trips abroad. You never know what you may find for yourself or someone else; not just by purchasing at the counter, but from the wealth of other publications, leaflets etc freely available. The following examples, some of them amusing in retrospect, may show what you are missing.

Let me start with Leningrad in 1988, now (and historically) St Petersburg. I obtained the address before I went and found this huge palace of a building housing the main Post Office, and surprisingly, a philatelic bureau. Bingo, all the current USSR stamps were available plus boxes of Russian postal stationery going back some years. It took ages to go through them, but it was rewarding nonetheless. I just wonder if it is all still there.

A more recent trip to Venice, and its own main Post Office reminded me so much of Leningrad. It was also housed in a huge palace-like building close to the Rialto Bridge, and included a philatelic bureau, much to my surprise. On display in the covered courtyard were all the wares available from the bureau – stamps, FDCs, booklets, special handstamps, postal stationery etc. A wade through one of the boxes produced a special edition of the Achille Varzi issue of the



previous year which I bought for the princely sum of €0.60. These special editions are available for all Italian issues, but you never see them in the UK.

I must say that a visit to the GPO in O'Connell Street, Dublin, was a disappointment. The usual current stamps and postal stationery were on sale, but this place is supposed to be a National Monument, the birthplace of the Irish Republic. There is no outward manifestation of this at all, just a small commemorative tablet tucked away in a corner, commemorating the Easter Uprising.

There are of course Post Offices situated in many places of great interest: the tops of tall buildings, famous locations etc. I wrote about my visit to Father Christmas's Post Office on the Arctic Circle in Finland a few years ago, so I will mention another Post Office in this category at the North Cape in Norway. This is situated at latitude 71 degrees 11 minutes North, and is the most northerly permanent Post Office in Europe and probably in the world.

Postcards posted here all receive the special postmark for the North Cape which indicates the latitude. It is a magnet for tourists of course, but all the Norwegian current issues are on sale here including FDCs and postal stationery.

Another tourists' Post Office is to be found in Legoland in Denmark. This one is not just for children! There is of course a special postmark for postcards, but there is also a range of postal stationery for Legoland itself and I remember buying an imprinted envelope showing a bicycle for our President.

The Post Office in Sion in Switzerland is a regular stopover whenever I go skiing. It has a wealth of other material besides the current Swiss stamps. I have acquired several Post Office leaflets there advertising various postal services and depicting several themes. On one occasion I spotted a poster on the wall depicting a sidecar in the livery of the Swiss Postal Service from the 1930s. Enquiries at the counter in my best French elicited that it was not for sale, but eventually the manager took it down and photocopied it for me!

Oslo main Post Office was rewarding for its various items of postal service forms – all free. Some of them carry symbols that suit thematic collections. Stockholm Postal Museum has not got a Post Office, but it does have a shop where it sells all the latest issues, year packs, books and special publicity items issued with Swedish stamps that never see the light of day outside Sweden. A visit to Lulea Post Office at the top of the Gulf of Bothnia last summer proved to be bonus for two of our members. There on display were all the current issues and a whole range of postal stationery including illustrated airgrammes and telegrammes. So I bought a rose for Sheila Foster and a pig for Colin Mount.

I related in a previous article my experiences in Tenerife searching for the Spanish private post stamps in supermarkets. My experiences in Post Offices in Tenerife have also



been illuminating. Amongst the free publicity material available I found a leaflet for the Express Delivery Service showing a Post Office Scooter which was very welcome. Attempts to obtain Frama labels from the ATM machines have been fraught with problems, but are relatively cheap. Readers probably know that for the last decade or so Spain has been issuing self-

adhesive stamp labels which are available both over the counter and from machines situated in the Post Office or just outside. Numerous themes have



been depicted on these labels including the long-running Historic Transport series in which I am interested. Post Offices in Tenerife do not display these labels so it is pot luck if you get the one you want over the counter and from a machine. However, buying from a machine is cheaper because to find out what is on the label you need only insert a 1 cent coin! What fun that can be!

So, next time you are off abroad try and ascertain where the Post Offices are beforehand and don't just go in to send a postcard. You never know what may be on offer. ☒

...THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO THE ROYAL

Simon A. Moorcroft learns a lot about a favourite farmyard animal

On 15th December 2005 Colin Mount presented his paper, entitled Pig in the Post, to a five o'clock meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. A large number of members and guests were present including a pleasing number from the BTA. Prior to the commencement of the talk Damien Läge, President of the FIP Thematic Commission, was presented with the Royal Philatelic Society's Lee Medal (for the best five o'clock paper) for his display "Australasian Birdlife" given before the society on 20th April 2004.

Colin began by saying that his interest in pigs stemmed from the fact for most of his working life he was a pig farmer and thus to put a display together requiring knowledge of the pig, such as its eating requirements, was relatively easy. Colin stressed that the display shown is not intended for entry into competition but rather to tell a social philatelic story of the pig with all material which is available. This meant that a huge variety of colourful material was shown. Items such as stamps, postal stationery, illustrated envelopes, slogan and meter marks, proofs and essays were supplemented with postcards, pictures and other material which meant that Colin was able to illustrate a great deal more.

The display was divided into different sections which covered all aspects of the pig: a look at the humble pig; its life in the world; how it has been hunted and how the various links with man have been established.

The first section demonstrated how remarkable the pig is, with it being recognised as one of the most intelligent of all domestic animals. The section also explained that the pig has for many years been seen and still is seen as a symbol of good health, good luck and good wealth. An amusing item in the first frame was a picture postcard showing four cherubs walking along with one carrying a "piggy bank" as a sign of good wealth. This is true today with many people keeping loose change in "piggy banks". The section also demonstrated how useful a pig really is with Colin saying that it is only its squeak which cannot be utilised. The pig provides humans with pork, bacon, some of the finest leathers and brushes.

Of particular interest was the illustration of how the pig had developed from being a wild animal which was fat, short with very little ham or lean meat to the pig we know today. This was done mainly during the 19th century when wild and docile pigs, from South East Asia, were cross bred. The display illustrated that Britain is a world leader in pig genetics with many British rare breeds having an influence on the ordinary pig of today. The Pig Improvement Company was illustrated, formed by five farmers in 1962, which is now regarded as possibly the most important breeding company in the world. Wild pigs and boars have been hunted by man for centuries for both food and sport, with ferocious boar chases being chronicled in Celtic and Scandinavian tales. Colin stressed that the pig has always and still is a very shy animal which only becomes aggressive when protecting its young or territory. A common hunting method was to use dogs to flush out the boar where they would be chased on horse back and killed with a spear, later to become a gun. This method was clearly illustrated using a postcard. However, over-hunting in Britain during the 15th century caused the wild boar to become extinct, with the last wild boar being killed by King James I in 1617.

As well as being hunted, pigs have also been used to hunt. Truffle pigs are used to sniff out truffles, with some pigs in the Perigord region of France being able to detect a truffle from 20 feet away. Colin also pointed out that pigs are now being used extensively by the police and security forces to sniff out drugs.

Another distinctive feature of pigs is the ring placed in their nostrils. This process was begun in the Middle Ages when swineherds were given permission to graze their pigs on royal land. However, it soon became apparent the huge damage caused to young trees by pigs when they were digging to access roots. Pig ringing, later to become law, stopped this.

The Anti-Royalist League, an organisation with the specific intention of facilitating the removal of the British Monarchy, cut out small pigs from 1d red stamps. Material from the Perkins Bacon archives was also shown in the form of proof cheques showing a head of a wild boar (rather appropriate considering the name of the company).

Colin dispelled the view that many pigs, even today, are still given swill saying rather that pigs are now fed according to highly sophisticated and strict diets.

An interesting item was a Hungarian stamp issued to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic showing a worker holding a red flag whose shape depicted a red sow.

There are many diseases present in the world which are very dangerous to pigs. An envelope from the Board of Agriculture includes the cachet, "SWINE FEVER" which was very prevalent in the UK until the introduction of vaccination and licences controlling the movement of pigs. These measures meant that the disease has been eradicated in the UK.

Little piggy goes to market was also illustrated. Colin talked about how pigs used to be walked to market to be sold. Today most pigs are sold through contract schemes. However, markets are still the selling place for pigs in foreign countries. A bizarre item was included in this section which consisted of a postcard issued by the Union Stock Yards in Chicago showing pigs being despatched on a revolving hog wheel.

One of the largest bacon marketing companies is the Harris Bacon Company, established in 1850 and now operating under the Crown Bacon label. The company was started by John Harris when he opened a pork butchers in the village of Calne in Wiltshire. He went on to supply surrounding villages and parts of London. Harris bought Irish pigs at low prices, shipped them into Bristol and then transported them to Smithfield Market in London. The potato famine of 1847 meant all shipment of Irish pigs ceased and thus Harris's great grandson travelled to America to investigate the possibility of importing, which was subsequently found to be impractical. However, he did acquire the knowledge of how to construct an ice house. This allowed bacon to be cured all the year round and signalled the start of the Harris Bacon Company. A superb cover with an advertisement for Harris & Co. illustrated this company very well indeed.

In another section the popularity of pig meat was shown. It included two booklets, issued by the British Post Office, in 1953 and 1969 respectively promoting bacon and pig products. Colin also explained that the pig has featured frequently in paintings and artwork, with the earliest known drawing of a pig dating from 40,000 years ago.

One of the last sections of the display regarded how pigs had featured in wartime propaganda. There were many examples on show including an American Anti-German Propaganda card depicting Hitler as a pig. This caused a great deal of discussion.

Colin ended the display with the Looney Toons "That's all folks" screen which features Porky Pig.

Our Chairman Christine Earle proposed the vote of thanks which was seconded by Damien Läge. ✉

*Full page advertisement for
Thematica 2006*

BTA NEWS

WORPEX 13th May 2006

There will be a BTA members' meeting at 2pm: Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Rd, St. John's, Worcester, as part of the Worcester & District Philatelic and Postcard Society's "Worpex 2006". The programme will include a thematic display by Cyril Stapley entitled "The Man With 1,000 Faces", an iconographic study of Christopher Columbus, and a Thematic Workshop run by John Hayward which will include advice on forming checklists, use of catalogues, and where to obtain material. There is no charge for the meeting.

Worpex 2006 is promoting thematic philately this year with various thematic displays on view including 6 frames from the BTA. Do come along to the event and particularly to the afternoon meeting.

MEMBER'S MEETING AT HAMPEX 22nd OCTOBER 2005

There were 11 members present to enjoy displays on the letter "M". Steve Boorn produced Mulreadies, some photocopied, and explained how they fitted in with his thematic collecting interests. Then John Leathes displayed from his collection of big cats: Mongolia, the Margay, the Marbled Cat and the Manul. From her collection of whales, Lesley Marley showed Moby Dick from the book by Herman Melville. Next up was Sheila Foster with a display of Medical History from Greek and Roman times. John Hayward inevitably showed Motor-Cycles including the Marque Matchless and various other Machines. Finally, Christine Earle from her collection of Archery in the Olympics showed Munich, Montreal and Moscow.

HERE AND THERE

LONDON 2010 – FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

London will host a major international philatelic event in the year 2010 comprising a number of linked events focussed around the primary competitive exhibition, which will be held from Saturday, May 8 to Saturday, May 15, 2010.

Principal venue will be the Business Design Centre in Islington, utilising all the space available, which is almost double that normally used twice a year by Stampex. The BDC will be the centre for dealers, postal administrations, competitive exhibits and invited displays representing the world of philately.

A novel addition will be the link with the philatelic organisations based in London who are planning parallel events, at different locations, which will overlap with the main exhibition. These added attractions will extend over the year as part of the capital's preparations for the Olympic Games in 2012.

The overall event includes Royal Mail, the Royal Philatelic Collection, the British Postal Museum and Archive, the Royal Philatelic Society London, the British Library Philatelic Collections, the Philatelic Traders Society and the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

The name has been registered and a logo is being prepared. As planning progresses up-to-date information will be available on a website soon to be established.

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 MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

K.E. Norris, Tel: 01698 425120

Bicycle Stamps Club

Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 OQG, England.

Tel: 01372 467652. Web: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~bicyclestamps/>

Bird Stamp Society

Mrs Rosie Bradley, 31 Park View, Crossway Green, Chepstow NP16 5NA

Tel: 01291 625412. Web: <http://www.bird-stamps.org/bss.htm>

Captain Cook Society

Mr Alwyn Peel, 1 Cowdry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, WF12 0LW.

Tel: 01924 505724. Web: <http://www.captaincooksociety.com/ccsu1.htm>

Concorde Study Circle

Mr Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 4PQ.

Tel: 020 6643 3926

Glasgow Thematic Society

Miss Margaret M H Lyth, 26 Gardenside Street, Uddingston, Glasgow, G71 7BY,

Tel: 01698 812536

Guild of St. Gabriel

Rev. David Hague, 15 Northcote Road, Croydon, CR0 2HX.

Tel: 020.8664.9850. Web: <http://www.davidsemporium.co.uk/st.marys/gabriel.html>

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. M. H. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4JS.

Tel: 0642 472123. Web: <http://www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk/>

Medical Philately Study Group

Dr Stuart Menzies, 32 King Edward Road, Tynemouth, North Shields. Tyne & Wear. NE30 2RP.

North East England Thematic Group

Mr. D. Graham, 6 Autumn Close, Washington Village, Tyne & Wear, NE38 7JZ

Tel: 0191 417 5351

Philatelic Music Circle

Scout and Guide Stamp Club

Mr. Graham Osborne, 3 Camberry Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3AG.

Tel: 01256 328831. Web: <http://www.sgsc.org.uk/index.shtml>

Ship Stamp Society

Mr. Tommy Broadley, 10 Heyes Drive, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0PB.

Tel: 01925 75 8435. Web: http://www.chez.com/philateliemarine/phil_mar_e/SSS.htm

West of England Thematic Society

Ms. A. Burden, Knowles Barton, Bowden Hill, Ashburton, Devon. TQ13 7RP.

Tel: 01364 653595. Web: <http://www.geocities.com/westofenglandthematics/>

GROUP NEWS

THE BIRD STAMP SOCIETY



I am delighted to report that our President, David Cox has been successful again in competition. At the New Zealand 2005 National Stamp Show, he was awarded a Large Gold Medal and a special Prize for his 6 frame exhibit 'Birds of the World'. The Show was held in Auckland and celebrated 150 years of New Zealand stamps.

FLIGHT

Our own publication, *FLIGHT*, has been entered in the ABPS Society Journal of the Year Award. All the 2005 issues have been sent to the judges and the result is expected to be announced in the ABPS News in April 2006. Naturally we think it is an excellent journal, much enjoyed by our members and we hope the judges share our views!

BIRDPEX 5 takes place near Aalborg in Denmark on April 29th and 30th and the Society is delighted to present two special prizes at this event. There are a wide range of classes and we very much hope that it will be a great success. Aalborg is one of the oldest towns in Denmark and an excellent base for sight-seeing and shopping,

ANNIVERSARIES

As the Bird Stamp Society celebrates its 20th year this year, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust are celebrating 60 years of Conservation with many special events at the Reserves around the Country and also at other places, including Bristol Zoo and Westonbirt Arboretum. A new photographic book, featuring a year in the life of the Trust, called 'Angels from the North' has been produced. Visit www.wwt.org.uk for more details.

If you would like to join the 230 members of the Bird Stamp Society, please contact the Secretary: Mrs Rosie Bradley, 31 Park View, Crossway Green, CHEPSTOW, NP16 5NA or go to www.bird-stamps.org

GUILD OF ST. GABRIEL

The Guild will hold its Annual General Meeting at St. Wilfrid's Convent, Tite Street, Chelsea, on 18th March. The programme will be:

- 1200 Arrival and opening
- Competition entries displayed
- 1230 Lunch (own arrangements but tea and coffee available)
- 1400 Annual General Meeting
- 1500 Auction, followed by tea.

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB

At the AGM held at the Masonic Home, Oadby, Leicester on 12th November 2005, it was reported that membership was now 390 (an increase of 60 over 2004). However both the Editor and the Secretary expressed concern that the Magazine was in danger of losing its appeal if more articles were not forthcoming from members. Alas and alack, annual

subscriptions for 2006/7 will have to rise, due to increased running costs, to £8.00 (£10.00 overseas).

Meetings for 2006

Essex Masonic Offices, Barrack Street, Colchester, Sunday 23rd April, 1300 – 1600.

AGM: Masonic House, Oadby, Saturday 26th November, 1100 – 1500.

30TH NORTH EAST PHILATELIC WEEKEND

To be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Programme:

Friday 19th May

2015 Introduction to weekend

These interest me – shotgun philately – displays by participants

Saturday 20th May

0915 Mike Lewis Dartington Postal History

Coffee

1100 Ken Clark Japan

Saturday afternoon Auction

1600 Afternoon tea

1630 Gerald Lovell Thematic Display - from Benz to Bernie

1845 Pre-Banquet drinks sponsored by Bonhams of London

1915 Banquet Mayor of Gateshead will be attending

2200 Raffle

Sunday 21st May

0915 Chris Harman Revenues

President RPSL

Coffee

1115 Peter Pugh At the going down of the sun

(Hong Kong 1840 – 1997)

Further details are available from: Val Beeken, Organising Secretary, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham, DH1 5XT. Tel: 0191 3861931

SHIP STAMP SOCIETY



A World Wide Thematic Society formed in 1970. Its objectives are for the general study and advancement of Ship Stamps in all their classifications, and it provides a medium for collectors to discuss their various interests and to exchange and acquire stamps.

The Society has a world-wide-membership and prides itself on being the foremost society of its kind catering specially for collectors of Ships on Stamps.

Each member receives a monthly copy of the Society magazine *Log Book*, an 18 page A4 size illustrated publication full of detailed information about Ships on Stamps and subjects relevant to this theme, a MUST for all collectors of Ships on Stamps. An Exchange Packet is available for U.K. members.

For full information about the society membership write to the Hon Secretary who will be pleased to send you by return post an Information Pack including a copy of *Log Book*.

T. Broadley, 10 Heyes Drive, Lymm, Cheshire. WA130PB. Tel: 01925 75 8435.

Email: bradb666sss@freenetname.co.uk

PHILATELIC MUSIC CIRCLE



Winners of the *Yehudi Menuhin Trophy* were announced in December. This international competition is for the most popular music stamps issued the previous year, as chosen by members of the PMC.

Winner: Franco Filanci for the MS commemorating the re-opening of La Scala, Milan, issued by the Republic of San Marino.

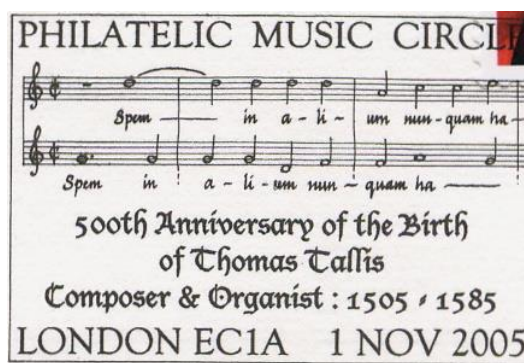
Second: Tapani Aartomaa for the three second-class stamps commemorating Sibelius, issued by Finland.

Third: Renate Gruber, designer of the stamp depicting the conductor Riccardo Muti and the New Year's Day concert in Vienna, issued by Austria.

Two new PMC handstamps were commissioned late last year, both designed by Jennifer Toombs. She writes:

Thomas Tallis

The original idea I had for this was to show Tallis's signature flanked by organ pipes, but since his own spelling was 'Tallys', I felt that this might not register too easily. Instead I decided to go for a few bars of his best-known music, such as the theme on which Vaughan Williams based his *Tallis Fantasia*, or one of his Masses. In the end I decided on the opening bars of his fantastic 40-part motet *Spem in Alium*, as it is easily recognizable. I found a very nice font which would be ideal for the period, and the captions top and bottom would not be too intrusive.



I would like to thank the Britten-Pears Library in Aldeburgh for making this research possible.

Sir Michael Tippett

It was shortly before I saw the opening night of the 2005 Proms that I had already decided the theme for this: *A Child of our Time*, which would be appropriate for the 60th Anniversary of the ending of WW11. Then seeing the superb performance on TV, this clinched it for me. I wanted somehow to depict the *hope* engendered by the closing bars and final, *Spiritual Deep River* with the figure of the young man - who had been executed for his part in the assassination of the German general - symbolically walking from darkness to light, beyond the confines of hatred and fear (symbolised by barbed wire).

I chose a stark, blocky style of lettering for top and bottom, which would also contain the design.



Regrettably this will be the final report from the Philatelic Music Circle.

JUNIOR PAGE

New!!!

New!!!

DEFINITELY NOT FOR ADULTS!

HELLO TO ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS OF THE BTA!

This is a new page in the magazine, and it's JUST FOR YOU (although I bet some of the oldies will be having a sneaky look as well!)

This is *your* page and we want to know WHAT YOU WANT on *your* page. Do you want brain-boggling facts, awesome information, prize-winning competitions, imaginative ideas about what to collect, incredible interviews, terrible jokes, quizzes and puzzles, - write in and let us know, and we'll send you a free bag of 30 stamps (our address is at the bottom of the page, remember to include your name, address and age.)

Did you know that you are a *philatelist*? A philatawot? It's pronounced *Fill-A-Tell-List*. Try saying that with an iced bun in your mouth! A philatelist is a posh word for someone who collects stamps. And that's you. So if you want to amaze your friends and stun your parents, tell them you are a *philatelist*.



IT'S COMPETITION TIME



How many other words can you find in

PHILATELIST

Write your words on a piece of paper and send it in – don't forget to include your name, address and age. (The address is at the bottom of the page.) There will be a bag of 30 stamps for everyone who enters, and a special prize for the most words.



FUN PHILATELIST WEBSITES

Try the Internet – but check with your parent/guardian first

www.royalmail.com/stampsforkids

and

www.planetstamp.co.uk

AAARGH! TERRIBLE JOKES

What goes up and down, but never moves? *Stairs.*

Where do elves go to get fit? *Elf farms.*

Shall I tell you the joke about the pencil? *No, there's no point in it.*

Shall I tell you the joke about the bed? *No, it hasn't been made yet.*

What kind of bow can't you tie? *A rainbow.*

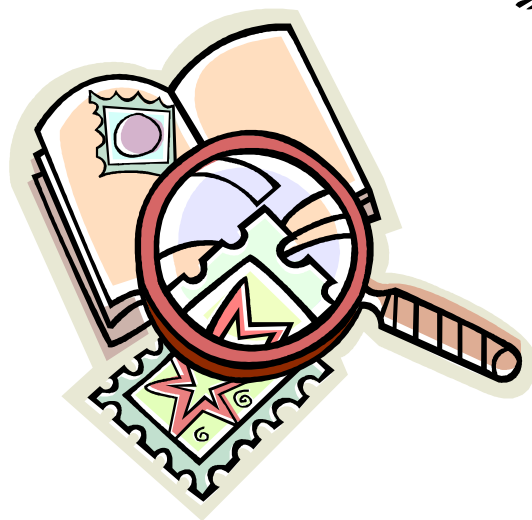
Do you know any more terrible jokes that are worse than these?

Send all your letters to

Junior Page, c/o The Editor, Themescene

71 Churchward Avene, Swindon,

Wiltshire, SN1 2NW.



LIBRARY LISTING

Ron Backhouse

Members asking to borrow books and catalogues are not 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, as shown in the listing, are charged at 10p each; to which must be added the calculated cost of posting. One copy weighs nine grams. At present, minimum second class allows 60 grams including the envelope. 100 grams costs 34p. To assist, I will quote 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.

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4	Scott, A. Minerals	Stamp Magazine 12/1992
4	Scott, A. Diamonds	Stamp Magazine 12/1992
5	Scott, A. Gemstones	Stamp Magazine 12/1992
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3	Paton, I. The Forgotten War: Korea 1950-1953	Topical Times 10/1999
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3	Schmacher, P. U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justices	Topical Times 8/1994
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