

THEMESCENE

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CONTENTS

THEMESCENE

Journal of the
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REGULAR COLUMNS

Committee members	38
Editorial <i>Wendy Buckle</i>	39
President's Page <i>Brian Sole</i>	40
Chairman's Page <i>Christine A. Earle</i>	41
Membership Secretary <i>Peter Denly</i>	42
Publicity Officer's Page <i>Simon Moorcroft</i>	43
Letters to the Editor	44
New Issues	61
BTA News	68
Here and There	68
Handstamp Special	72
Group News	73
Themescene Juniors <i>Lise Whittle</i>	74
ATA Checklists	76
Library Listing <i>Ron Backhouse</i>	77

SPECIAL FEATURES

What does circus mean to you? <i>Richard Wheeler</i>	46
Who was Opa Dorus Rijkers? <i>Denis Horgan</i>	49
Origins of the Carmelites, part 2 <i>Stephen Toynebee</i>	54
Using a spreadsheet to write up <i>Sheila Foster</i>	57
Thematica and BTA AGM papers	65
Variety, colour and enjoyment <i>Simon Moorcroft</i>	69
Spring Stampex	71

ADVERTISERS

Bonhams	IBC
Crown Agents	OBC
Harmers	IFC
The Stamp Centre	53
Thames Themes	45
Thematica 2006	64

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

As stated elsewhere in this issue, this is the last edition to be distributed by Betty Miller. Without Betty and her husband John's hard work none of us would be able to enjoy the magazine. It's not a light matter: over 300 magazines to pack up, add stamps and then transport to the Post Office. All our thanks are due to John and Betty for many years service. I am delighted to say that at our AGM they will be welcomed as life members.

Our regular contributors have come up with material for this issue; a couple of them continuing from the March edition. Give yourselves a pat on the back, all those of you who provided material. Stephen Toynbee tells us more about the Carmelites (p.54); this series will be completed in the September issue. Denis Horgan has supplied some interesting background to the 'Dorus Rijkers' postal stationery featured in the last issue (p.49). Richard Wheeler has provided a well illustrated article on the Circus (p.46). This is his second article; I am delighted to say his previous article on Magic has been voted the winner of the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl for the best article in *Themescene* in 2005. He will be presented with this at our AGM. And I'm even more pleased to say that Richard has kindly volunteered to take over as *Themescene* distributor.

'Junior Themescene' has its second entry (p.74). No letters to the Editor yet; but if you know someone with a youngster who might just be interested, do pass it on.

We have an unusual article from Sheila Foster on using a spreadsheet to design pages for your collection (p.57); unusual in the sense that is very technical and will probably only prove useful to a minority of the readership. Nevertheless I asked Sheila for permission to publish it as I felt a step-by-step guide may just encourage some who are not familiar with Excel to explore its possibilities. At the least it is an application most of us have on our PC, unlike Desk Top Publisher programmes which have to be purchased separately (and probably then found to be too complicated). And of course we could not let this issue go without a report on the BTA display at Spring Stampex (p.69). I make no apology for publishing references to this in most of the Officer's pages; it really made me very proud to walk round the display knowing that it was due to the BTA that such a stunning array could be shown. Our thanks and congratulations to John Hayward for making it happen.

Agenda and Accounts for the BTA AGM can be found on pages 66 – 67. Peter Wood will be nominated as Treasurer; he has been handling our accounts on a co-opted basis since before Christmas. Our thanks go to retiring Treasurer Tony Farmer who for some years kept meticulous accounts and a strict eye on our expenditure. It is a responsible job and we are grateful to Tony for his hard work.



The next BTA event, due before *Themescene* goes to press, will be WORPEX. I hope I can meet up with some of you there, or at the AGM. ☒

A lot of photos were taken at the BTA exhibition at Stampex; some have been reproduced in this issue.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

Most of us put aside stamps and other material which one day might form a collection. Very often these items remain in a stock book and are never used. Over the years I have accumulated some items produced for National Stamp Day, 6 May. This is the anniversary of the first day that Great Britain introduced the penny black, the very first adhesive stamp in the world and an anniversary of which Britain should be proud. I had written an article for the now defunct *Stamp Mail* in the May 1988 issue. The Editor at the time was Graham Phillips who is now the Editor of *Philatelic Exporter*, the stamp dealers' monthly trade magazine. Subsequently I had updated the information in my Society Journal and had sent a copy to Graham Phillips. To my surprise I received a telephone call a month or so ago from Graham asking if I could provide an article on National Stamp Day for his magazine. It took quite a while to locate the various bits and pieces that had become scattered around my stock books. I even had to refer to the Library of the Royal Philatelic Society London to locate a copy of my original article in 1988.

The Stamp Collecting Promotion Council (SCPC) had started the ball rolling in 1974, thanks to a promotion programme sponsored by dealers, led by the late Mick Michael of Stanley Gibbons. A series of annual "Festival of Stamps", inspired by Sidney V Leverton, was held at the Royal Festival Hall, London. A number of very attractive items were produced to promote stamps, including a special booklet, a Souvenir Letter Card, perfin stamps and, in 1982, a Covent Garden Festival Pack, which included the Europa British Theatre set of stamps, SG 1183-1186. Special handstamps were sponsored by the National Postal Museum, after the SCPC ceased operations. However, following the closure of the National Postal Museum in King Edward Building London on 24 December 1998, no further commemorations of National Stamp Day had appeared. The title of my recent article published in the May 2006 *Philatelic Exporter* was "Whatever happened to National Stamp Day?". When I received the *British Postmark Bulletin*, dated 28 April 2006, I found that the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) was sponsoring a special handstamp for National Stamp Day on 6 May 2006 [see front cover]. I am pleased that the anniversary has not been forgotten but disappointed that I had seen no publicity in advance.

During Spring Stampex this year a Press Launch was held to announce outline plans for "LONDON 2010 – Festival of Stamps". An International Stamp Exhibition will be held from Saturday 8th May to Saturday 15th May 2010 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1. The Chairman of the Exhibition is Brian Trotter, recently appointed Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust. The Main Hall used for Stampex will be allocated to stamp dealers and Postal Administrations. The Gallery Hall and Gallery Atrium, almost as large as the Main Hall, will be used to display the exhibits. It is estimated that the Gallery Hall will hold about 1,200 frames, which is less than at most International Exhibitions. However by proposing to put up half the exhibits in the first 4 days and then taking down and putting up a second set of exhibits in the last 4 days, the organisers are pioneering a novel approach. Funding remains an issue. ABPS and Royal Mail have promised limited financial support but additional sponsors will have to be found for the Exhibition to go ahead. In addition, a series of events linked to the Exhibition will be held around the country, during 2010, in an effort to attract more people into the hobby.

Continued on page 45

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Christine A. Earle

Congratulations...The BTA display at Stampex was a resounding success! I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who took part either by supplying and mounting the displays, manning the BTA stand during the exhibition, or just turning up to support the show. Give yourselves a big pat on the back; it was one of the best displays I have ever seen at our National Exhibition. Every time I looked around (I was there most of the time) the displays were being perused by very interested, and often entranced visitors; not often do we get the opportunity to see such a variety of themes from every collecting level i.e. basic 'subject' collections to 'Gold Medal' exhibits, including many fine research collections, displayed together in one place. It was so colourful, fun and exciting! An inspiration to many who were lucky enough to have been there, and who wrote some very complimentary comments in our 'Visitors & Exhibition Book' (which the Vice-Chairman is collating, and which should be on display at Thematica in June).



Chris with Margaret Morris at the BTA Stand

As I write this on another cold and wet Bank Holiday Monday, it is hard to imagine that summer is just around the corner! Traditionally summertime is a time when stamp collectors exchange their tweezers for garden hoes, deserting their albums for their gardens. However, this year seems to be shaping up as a bumper year for Thematics and the BTA membership.

In a couple of days (May 4th) a small party of BTA members are off to the 1st European Championship for Thematic Philately being held in Essen, Germany.

Then, almost as soon as we get back from Essen it's repacking the suitcase and off to the World FIP exhibition being held in Washington, where five of our members have had their exhibits accepted for this prestigious exhibition. Although the exhibitions will be over by the time you read this I would like to wish all of our members who are exhibiting in Essen and Washington "Good Luck". Hopefully the results and reports will be in the next issue of *Themescene*.

Back home again, June 24/25 will be time when I can look forward to meeting up with many of you again at Thematica. By the way, I included the wrong date for this event in my Chairman's Message in March, Thematica including the BTA AGM 2.30pm on the Sunday, is in **June** not July; apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

With Thematic philately included in the FIP exhibitions in Spain (October) and Belgium (November), and not forgetting the ABPS exhibition in Torquay at the end of November, we have exciting times ahead of us... just spare a thought for my poor neglected garden! ☒



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	202
Family members	23
Junior members	2
Society members	17
Overseas members	25
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	2
Total number of members (at 4 th May 2006)	272

I am sure that Stampex of Spring 2006 will remain a landmark event for the BTA for some considerable time. To be able to see 200 frames full of thematic displays on every conceivable subject was truly amazing. Walking down the rows one could not help but admire the high



On display at Stampex

standard of presentation and quality of material on show. Although generally it was not a competition and there were no prizes, apart from the trophy awarded to the best society display, it seems to me that our organisers must be awarded our grateful thanks for bringing together such a glorious display for our enjoyment.

As you will see from the list below, Stampex provided the Association with a good opportunity to recruit new members, and of the 16 recently enrolled 10 signed up as a result of the BTA table over the 5 days of the event. Our thanks go to the Members who manned the table to such good effect.

This edition of *Themescene* is the last to be distributed by Betty Miller, after the best part of twenty years. I must record my personal thanks to Betty for all the help I have received from her in my role as Membership Secretary. I am now looking forward with equal pleasure

to working with Richard Wheeler, who has come forward as her successor.

New Members joining since the March issue

Mr. V. Brown	Sutton Coalfield	Mr J. Aitcheson	Bishop's Stortford
Mr. D. Franklin	Kensal Green	Mr. G. Sainsbury	Harrow
Mr. D. Stubbings	Poole	Dr. P. Svanberg	Newcastle-on-Tyne
Mr. G. Winters	Walton, Yorks	Mr. R. Tavriger	Manchester
Dr. G. Cook	Stockport	Dr. & Mrs. W. Sammons	Littlehampton
Mr. M. Chambers	London	Mrs. M. Nipper	Loughborough
Mr. E. Dunn	Bury	Mr. D. McClements	Belfast
Mr. M. Routh	Southend	Mr. T. Fowler	Basingstoke

Deaths advised since the March issue

None

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

Unlike my other committee colleagues I did not mention in my last page the display at Spring Stampex, preferring to wait until after the event. As expected it was a splendid occasion which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. I make frequent references in my article on the displays (page 68) about how the frames struck you with the bright colours when you first



walked in. This is perfectly true, as when I walked in for the first time on the Saturday morning I was struck by the brightness of the display which came as quite a shock. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend and was pleased to see so many people looking at the displays. This proved what I already believe, which is that people do like to have displays to look at when at fairs and shows. It is therefore amazing that our display will be the last to feature on the Village Green at Stampex as there will be no more society displays or competition entries displayed there in the future. I know from personal experience that I

always enjoy a show *Simon and Chris at the BTA Stand* or event more if there are displays to look at.

It breaks up the day and gives a reason to go as normally the same dealers can be found at different events.

A fierce debate has been going on with regard to the future of current annual competitions now that they will no longer be displayed at Autumn Stampex. An open meeting of the ABPS Council on the Saturday of Stampex discussed this along with other issues. The plan for the future looks likely to be that the competitions will continue to be held on an annual basis, with the entries being displayed at the ABPS biannual shows (such as Torquay 2006) every two years and being displayed at a new event in the Greater London area on the alternate years. I said at the meeting that a separate event in the alternate years would dilute further an already stretched philatelic market. Shows and fairs are experiencing a lower number of visitors directly because there are already too many of them. I suggested that national competitions be held once every two years to coincide with the biannual shows. If there were large numbers of people wanting to enter then the situation would be different but sadly the number of people entering competitions is falling. However if you could make competitions prestigious and special then this trend could be reversed. Shows such as Washington 2006, which is likely to be the largest international exhibition of the decade, where the number of applications far exceeded the frames available, is a good example of the popularity of exhibiting when the show is seen as prestigious and important.

The other two main issues which were also raised at the meeting were the problems of volunteers and the age of many of those involved in the running of societies. Both of these are major issues, as a number of high profile societies have wound up because nobody will take over posts which had previously been filled by the same person for two or three decades, even though the societies have a large number of members. Linked to this problem is the fact that many of those currently in positions are getting older and want to step aside and let the next generation take over.

Continued on page 52

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

From Joyce Boyer, South Lincolnshire. By email.

Dear Wendy,

I am writing to you because I am not sure who to address this letter to and also because you may be able to print both this and the answer in *Themescene*.

As a collector of Austrian stamps I have acquired a number of their 'Meine Marke' or 'Personal stamps' to include in my thematic collections. I understand that any individual can order these stamps to their own designs, subject to certain conditions, through the Austrian Postal Authority, and the stamps are printed by the State Printing Works. The stamps are valid for postage throughout the country but they are not generally available other than through the person ordering them. I know that some are listed in the Austrian Netto catalogue but understand that it is only those with a print run of 1,000 or more. I do not know if Stanley Gibbons will list them when they next up-date the Austria catalogue.

My question is;-

How are these likely to be regarded by judges in a thematic competition?

As they are valid for postage are they acceptable material or does the fact that there is limited availability affect this? Are local/national judges likely to be aware of these stamps?

At present I only exhibit Thematics at local level but would like to know if I am likely to be penalised for including Personal stamps in an exhibit. Any information you can obtain to solve this question would be much appreciated.

This letter was passed to our President and International Judge Brian Sole:

Dear Wendy

Thanks for passing a copy of the letter from Joyce Boyer, by e-mail.

Personalised stamps have become popular as money-spinners for many postal administrators. The Royal Mail has adopted the trademark "Smilers" for these stamps in the UK.

The stamps are printed by authorised administrations and are therefore valid in thematic philately and other classes of competition. However, the personalised "stamp" is always attached to a current definitive or commemorative stamp, which should be relevant to the title of the exhibit; the personalised "stamp" is really only a label, which would not be acceptable on its own. It would be possible to create a unique exhibit using a large number of these types of stamps for a Club display and, possibly, a Club competition. However, they should be used with care at Federation or National level. I would not expect to see more than one or two personalised stamps in a frame of 16 sheets, and I would prefer to see them used, correctly cancelled, rather than mint. Also, in a thematic competition, a varied selection of material from countries worldwide is expected. An entry containing several of these personalised stamps from the same country would probably reduce the marks under Philatelic Knowledge.

I am sure that local and national judges are aware of these stamps, although I cannot recall coming across any in competitions I have judged.

From: Peter Greening,

Dear Editor

With the loss of the United Nations Study Group due to the lack of volunteers to take on the running of the Group, I was saddened at Spring Stampex to learn that yet another group, the Philatelic Music Circle, has folded up; sadly once again due to lack of members willing to run it.

We in the Guild of St. Gabriel are lucky in that we have a number of members willing to stand in and take on the necessary responsibilities, i.e. Secretary, Treasurer etc. (not always easy jobs).

My main reason for writing is to remind collectors that the theme of Religion, collected by Guild members, also includes Church and Religious music, and if anyone has articles on these they are welcome to send them to me to include in the Guild Bulletin. They could even apply to join the Guild.

Editor's note: I would also be happy to publish articles in *Themescene*.

President's Page. Continued from page 40

This issue of *Themescene* will be the last issue despatched by John and Betty Miller. John printed the first issue of *Themescene* in 1984 and continued to do so for many years. They have both carried out a tremendous workload, quietly in the background, for over 20 years. I am very grateful for the courteous, helpful and prompt way that they have carried out their duties. Thank you Betty and John, on behalf of all our members. ☒

*Half page advertisement for
Thames Themes
(March advert)*

WHAT DOES CIRCUS MEAN TO YOU?

Ringmaster Richard Wheeler surveys a long tradition

A few years ago I saw a poster advertising ‘CIRCUS OF HORRORS’. I have to admit that I have always liked the circus, from the first time a small travelling show visited my home town before the second world war, and I began to think of all the types of circus that have existed, hence the collection of a small display.



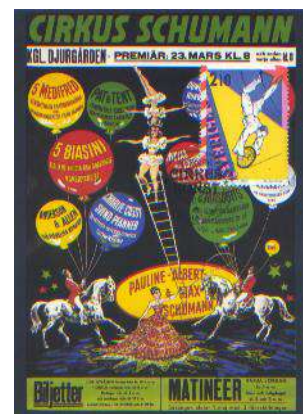
The term ‘circus’ is of Roman origin (circulus), meaning a ring or circle, and refers to an entertainment featuring performing animals, clowns, skills, daring and showmanship. In this context I am not referring to road junctions however much ‘skill’ might be required in entering them!

However Circus did not originate in ancient Rome, since several components which are part of a circus performance (tumbling, rope-dancing, juggling for instance) can trace their roots back to even earlier times.

The Roman Circus at the Coliseum, which in its day was known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, was not a place of fun to perform. Gladiatorial fights were to the death and Christians were eaten by wild animals. Over 5000 animals were also put to their death over the years. Chariot racing took place at the Circus Maximus, watched by over 200,000 people, in an arena 600m in length and 200m in width.



Through the centuries, travelling entertainers went from village to village displaying their skills. By the middle of the 18th century much of what is important to circus was already in place; but it took one man, a former Sergeant Major Philip Astley, to put it all together and invent the modern circus in 1768, starting with skilled riding displays. By 1770 he had opened his first show in London in a covered building. He also invented the circus ring whereby the audience could sit and surround the performance. He discovered that by riding in a circle with a diameter of 42 feet he could use centrifugal force. He also added to the entertainment by including a clown and other performers. Astley was also responsible for introducing circus into European countries, Russia and America by 1793. Over the years many great circus shows included “Ringling Bros - Barnum and Bailey”, “The Carl Hagenbeck Circus”, “Bertram Mills Circus”, “Circus Sarrasani” whose tent seated 10,000 spectators with 18,000 lamps illuminating the show at night, “Cirkus Schumann” who were internationally renowned for horsemanship, plus many other great names.



The circus performance for a major part of the 20th century comprised animal acts introduced by the Ringmaster who was originally the controller of horses in the ring.



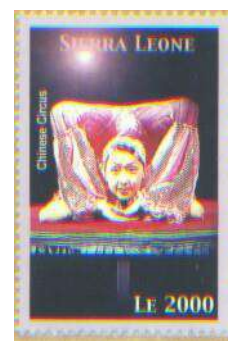
One of the backbones of the circus is the Clown, whose history goes back in time. The oldest has a white face, the second type has a face full of character known as the Auguste and acts in a zany manner and the third type is a character clown representing a hobo or sad faced tramp.

Other animal acts included elephants, who nearly always closed the show, lions, tigers, bears, sea-lions, dogs, camels, chimpanzees, mules and birds.



In the last twenty five years in the United Kingdom animal acts have been mainly phased out, due to pressure by Animal Rights activists becoming a political issue in many towns where the circus used to perform. Some Circus shows however with a few animals do still tour.

To-day, the circus concentrates principally on human skills. The famous Cirque du Soleil founded in Canada in the 1980's is a dramatic mix of circus skills and street entertainment. It has no animals. Extravagantly produced shows tour the world with large companies of artists. Acts include traditional aerial and flying trapeze, acrobats, stilt walkers, jugglers, uni-cyclists, roller skating, wire walking, contortionists, fire eating, etc., all woven into a production.



In Monaco, as a young child, H.S.H. Prince Rainier was fascinated by circus. In 1974 he created the Monte Carlo Circus Festival to showcase the world's greatest Big Top performers. Each year circus stars vie to be part of the week long ceremony in an attempt to win the coveted Gold or Silver Clown Awards. Since that time, Monaco has produced a stamp or stamps each year commemorating the festival.



Another type of circus particularly popular in the 1920's and 30's was The Flying Circus, featuring wing walking, parachuting, balloon bursting, flour bombing, limbo flying and streamer cutting.



In the early 1960's The Barnstormers Flying Circus was founded. It was based on the flying circuses of the inter-war years that travelled around the country delighting thousands with their dare devil displays.

The last type of circus I found was The Scout Circus which is a presentation of Scouts and Cubs achievements in a circus format. Badge awards are made for the accomplishment of skills.

Circus has come a long way from the bloodthirsty days of the Coliseum to the entertainment of today. Long may it continue as a form of entertainment using skills or accomplishments. ☒



WHO WAS OPA DORUS RIJKERS?

Denis Horgan tells the story of a Dutch hero

Theodorus Rijkers was born on the 27th January 1847, at Den Helder in the Netherlands. He was fifth in a family of ten children of a working class family and was not very happy at school. His working life commenced whilst still attending school. He was obliged to go out selling fish and doing other such menial tasks to help supplement the income of the family.

His favoured pastime was to go to the local dykes to listen to the old salts yarning about their seagoing activities, ranging from herring fishing to salvage and rescue work. The local boatmen in times of bad weather, to supplement their subsequent loss of earnings, would be stationed on the dykes looking for ships in distress so that they could possibly make money from saving life and salvage. They were looked down upon by the upper classes and known as 'Strandrovers' or 'Jutters'. Although carrying out a service to unfortunate members of the seafaring community, they were also making money out of it.

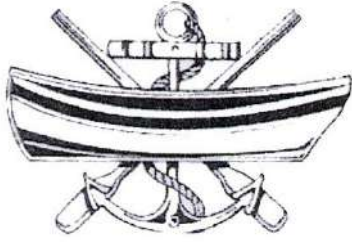


Theodorus was commonly known as Dorus. By time he reached his twentieth year he had often been out with local fishermen, not only for fishing but also engaged in the work of rescue and salvage. The adopted procedure for these activities by the coast dwelling fishermen of most maritime nations was first to attempt to take off all persons from a distressed vessel, thus making the vessel a derelict, leaving it and its cargo ripe for salvage. The Dutch lifeboat services (founded in 1824) would pay nominal 'reward money' for lives saved, but 'sjouw' (salvage money) was paid by the insurers, who based the sum paid on the value of property salvaged. At this age Dorus was already the owner of his own 'vlet' (otherwise known as a herring flat).

When Dorus was seventeen (1864) a lifeboat was stationed at Nieuwediep and a relative of the father of Dorus named Jacob Rijkers was appointed schipper (coxswain). In those days Den Helder was an outside suburb of Nieuwediep, although some years later the political roles were reversed with the whole district becoming known as Den Helder.

In 1867, at the age of twenty, Dorus married a widow with six children. Her eldest son, then aged eighteen years, did himself marry a couple of years later and soon had a child of his own. Being the step-son of Dorus, the latter had now become a 'grandfather'. The community of Den Helder promptly started to call Dorus 'Opa', this being Dutch for 'grandfather'.

As the years passed, Dorus remained a herring fisherman who also participated in the role of 'strandrover/jutter'; and it was not until 1872 that Dorus carried out a very difficult rescue service with his own vlet. Although his financial reward for the saving of lives was much less than the sums received by the salvagers of the vessel's cargo Dorus had got the taste of satisfaction of rescue work. In the winter of 1881/82 alone he went to the rescue of six vessels, saving 47 lives in the process. Such was his record of saving human lives he was eventually summoned before the local Harbour Board in 1886, and was persuaded by them to become coxswain of the local lifeboat. In this role he carried out many remarkable rescues until his retirement at the age of sixty five in 1913; his final lifesaving rescue service being three days before he retired. As a saver of lives, Dorus had commanded his own vessel and later the lifeboat, accounting for over five hundred lives.



On 7th August 1908, before his retirement from the lifeboat service (with a pension of 15 guilders), a small group of lifeboatmen had formed an organisation in an endeavour to be able to work as a group rather than individuals. The name of Group: Moed, Volharding en Zelfopoffering MVZ (translation 'Courage, Perseverance and self sacrifice) whose emblem appears on the left still exists. This organisation (later linked with the Heroes of the Sea Fund) became recognised by Statute on the 19th December

1922.

Following his obligatory retirement in 1913, as with most other ex lifeboatmen Dorus was unable to exist on his pension alone, and was obliged to take on any menial tasks on offer, and also having to resort to beachcombing to eke out an existence.

Quite by chance, whilst attending a maritime memorial service, Dorus met a newspaper owner who was intrigued by his many medals. Dorus answered the man's questions about his life and experiences as a lifeboatman, and this led to some published articles in the press about the work of lifeboatmen. Other publishing organisations having noted the rapid growth in circulation of the newspaper which had published the Dorus articles were quick to jump on the bandwagon. Another newspaper started waving the banner for financial assistance for Dorus and his fellow ex-lifeboatmen now living in poverty. Various fund raising schemes were advanced, with contributions beginning to flow into the now created 'Heroes of the Sea fund - Dorus Rijkers'. Various fund raising events commenced and several small booklets were published with all profits going to the fund.

Heroes of the Sea Fund Postcards

In a previous article which appeared under title Lifeboat Cinderellas in *Themescene* Vol.21 No.2



June 2004, I did make mention of these cards with imprinted stamps and available for normal postal use. These cards carried a surcharge for the fund. The first series of twelve cards were issued from 1924 -1926 and carried a series of commercial advertisements that no doubt yielded extra donations from the advertisers. Below the advertisements were code letters H.B.A.H followed by a number from 1-12. The legend 'Dorus Rijkers Briefkaart' also appeared.

With the 80th Jubilee of Dorus coming up on the 27th January 1927, the four further cards illustrated in the March 2006 edition of *Themescene* were issued with code letters D.E.H.B.A.H.' (the three with poems No. 1-3).

Unfortunately the existence of these postcards is unknown to the vast majority of British dealers, and also many Dutch dealers.

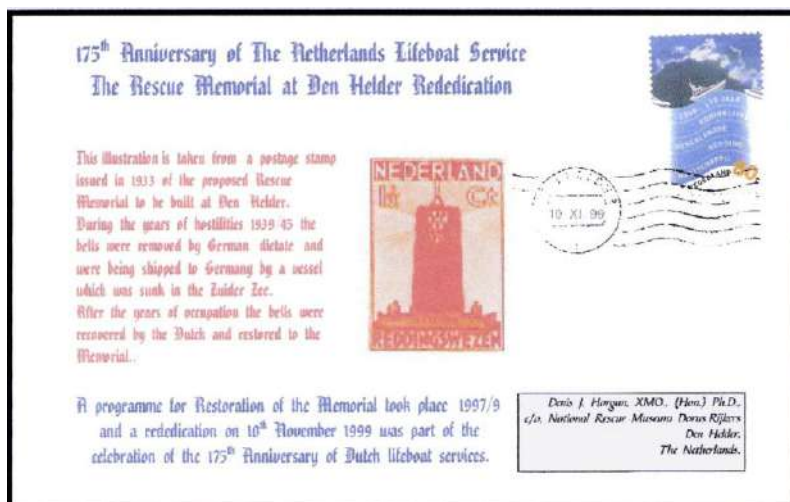
I have been unable to discover how many of these postcards were sold, but I am aware that a number of proof copies of the cards, plus other unissued designs (all without imprinted stamp) have passed into the hands of collectors.

A few months after the great civic 80th birthday party had been given for Dorus, he unfortunately developed cancer in his right eye. His health rapidly failed as the cancer spread, and he died on the 19th April 1928. His funeral had all the appearances of a 'state funeral' with numerous international representatives attending and a long line of mourner's cars. The procession included several bands, with thousands of people lining the route and hundreds following on foot. There was also a flying 'salute' by aircraft of the Dutch Air Force.

The organisation of the Heroes of the Sea Fund, backed by members of the MVZ still exists, and now as higher pensions are received by ex full time retained lifeboatmen (and also to other volunteers injured in the line of duty) funding appears to go to assist other lifeboat related schemes. For example the Dutch National Rescue Memorial at Den Helder which appears as 'The projected monument at Den Holder' SG No.413, unveiled by their Queen on 4th June 1935, was partially financed by the fund, as was a bronze bust of Dorus Rijkers that was erected on the adjacent dyke. A programme of restoration of the National Rescue Memorial from 1997/9 was aided by the fund; with the service of Rededication taking place on the 10th November 1999 as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Dutch Lifeboat Services. Originally there were two lifeboat organisations in the Netherlands, one in the north and one in the south. They merged in 1991.

During the German occupation in 1940 most of old Den Holder was torn down for the purpose of catering for coastal defence emplacements. The set of bells housed in the Rescue Memorial were removed, and together with other confiscated materials was prepared to be shipped to Germany but the cargo vessel was sunk in the Zuider Zee. The bells were salvaged after the liberation of the Netherlands. They were refurbished and returned to the Memorial. The bust of Dorus Rijkers had been removed from the dyke, and is now located in the Dorus Rijkersstrasse nearby.

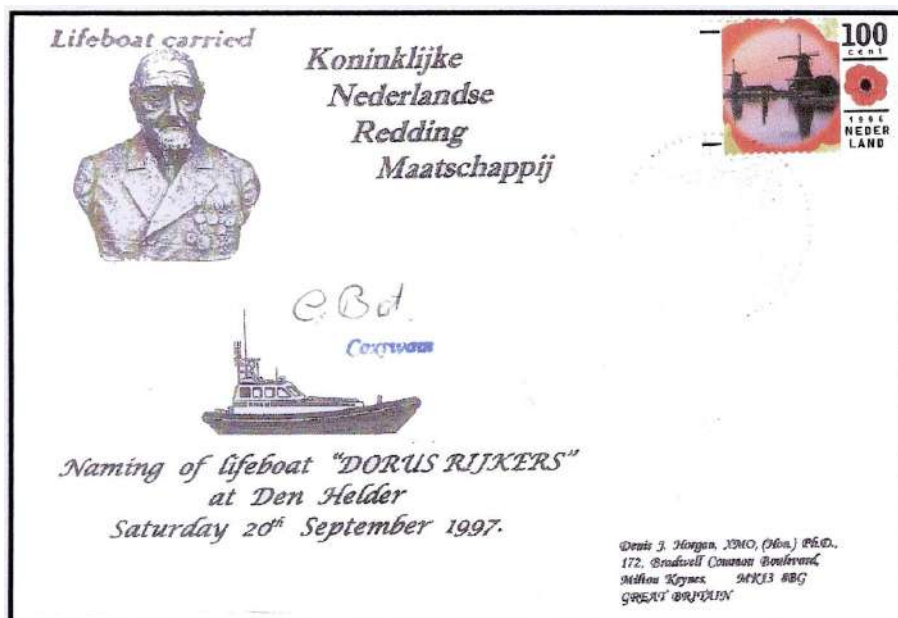
Stamp used on this cover is SG 1942, issued for the 175th anniversary of the Dutch Lifeboat Services.



For the interested, a motor lifeboat named in honour of Dorus Rijkers was on service in Den Holder from 1923 to 1952, then after serving in the relief fleet until 1965 was de-commissioned. It is hoped that this vessel will be restored and exhibited at the National Rescue Museum in Den Helder.

On the 20th September 1997 the then serving lifeboat at Den Helder was replaced by a new lifeboat also named *Dorus Rijkers*. The coxswain Coen Bot is the fourth generation of his family to serve on Den Holder lifeboats.

Artwork of cover includes the bust of Dorus Rijkers.



After the official naming of the new lifeboat *Dorus Rijkers* the cover was carried by me on board, and signed by the coxswain. The very faint postmark was due to the incompetence of the wielder of the handstamp, this being me.

For the naming ceremony a number of descendants of Dorus Rijkers attended, then, later at the Museum, together with his great granddaughter I was given a private showing of a film taken at the funeral of Dorus. ☒

Publicity Officer. Continued from page 43

But there seems alarmingly few of this “next generation” willing to take their place. People want societies to function and events and meetings to be held but assume that others are willing to do the work. But when “these others” have done their time who takes over? If collectors want these meetings and events to continue they are going to have to be prepared to become involved and not leave it to a few stalwarts.

I make no apology again for congratulating John Hayward and all those who helped in the organisation of the Stampex display. It is difficult to imagine how much work any event takes to organise. However, the forward looking committee are already making plans for our next big event which will be next year. We have been approached to host Eurothema in 2007 which is indeed an honour. Preliminary plans are only just being made but it is possible to say that it will be in London, due to the good transport links, in the Autumn of 2007, possibly coinciding with Thematica II. More details on this to follow.

Our next meeting will be held in conjunction with Thematica on Sunday 25th July, commencing at 14:30. It will include the AGM and the traditional display by last year’s winner of the BTA Cup, Carol Turner, who will provide her display “Man and Malaria”. In addition to this there will be the usual attractions as well as the BTA table. If you could spare some time to staff this please contact the BTA Secretary.

Please continue to support the BTA and best wishes for the coming summer months! ☒

*Full page advertisement for
The Stamp Centre*

“FROM SOUR FACED SAINTS AND SILLY DEVOTIONS DELIVER US OH LORD”

Stephen Toynebee continues the story of Saint Teresa and the Carmelites

The above quotation is taken from *the Book of her Life* by Saint Teresa of Avila, a Doctor of the Catholic Church, awarded the doctorate because of her many writings. She is referred to her by her religious name by the Carmelites - Saint Teresa of Jesus – which is given on some of the stamps which have been issued worldwide.

However for the purpose of this article I will call her Teresa of Avila.

Teresa de Ahumada was born on March 28th 1515 in the reign of the monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella. During the reign of Charles V, Castile was at its highest moment of prosperity. Under Philip II, she saw her king's struggles against Protestant and Morisco rebels, against the Netherlanders in the north and the Turks in the Mediterranean, not to mention Philip's many other activities in Europe, Asia, Africa and the New World. All of the above events have recently encouraged me into widening this thematic topic - only the stamps and covers will tell in the months to come!

The first stamp issued with Teresa and the Carmelite crest is from Italy (SG 129) and dates from 1923. Her biographers have given a detailed description of Teresa

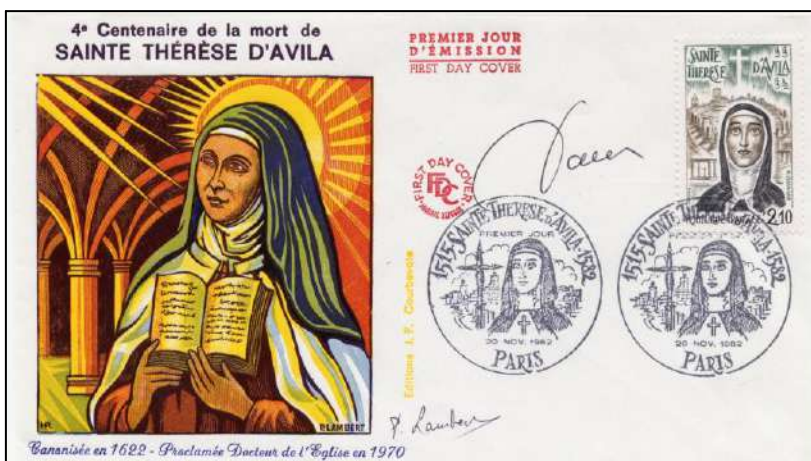
“... the skin was white and the cheeks flesh-coloured... her forehead was broad ... her eyes black, lively and round ... the nose was small ... Her hair was shining black and gently curled”.



(Wallis & Futuna SG 415, SG 417).

On November 2nd 1535, at the age of 20, Teresa entered the Carmelite monastery of the

Incarnation in Avila. The French issue SG 2551 shows Teresa with the city of Avila behind her. This first day cover has been signed by both designer and engraver. Religious life was austere, days of the week were set aside for fasting and abstinence; silence was carefully maintained; the Divine Office was celebrated in solemnity and splendour. As a novice she received instructions about the Carmelite order, its



eremitical origins and its devotion to the Blessed Virgin and to the prophets Elijah and Elisha. However there was much laxity in the monastery as well as severe overcrowding. Teresa was well aware of the harm this was causing the life of silence and contemplation for the nuns. Between 1542 and 1544 Teresa actually turned away from prayer and only returned after a conversion experience. She wrote in *The Book of Her Life*

“His Majesty began to give me the prayer of quiet very habitually - and often, of union - which lasted a long while”.
(Chapter23:2).

Teresa began the Reform of Carmel when she founded the new Carmelite monastery of Saint Joseph in Avila on August 24th 1562. Spain SG 1489-91 issued in 1962 celebrated the fourth centenary of the Teresian reform with the monastery appearing on SG 1489.



She wrote

“... I had a lot of trouble with persons at times and with others at other times that the monastery being accepted. I had trouble with my sick brother-in-law and with the workmen to get them to convert the house into a monastery.”

Teresa was a true contemplative and received the highest mystical graces - illustrated on Vatican SG 784-786. She was faithful in prayer; perhaps this is best illustrated by one of the more unusual issues I have found from the Turks & Caicos Islands (SG MS 1066 SG 1060-61-63-65). Here she is shown in prayer before Christ praying for the rescue of Bernardino de Mendoza from Purgatory - a painting by Peter Paul Rubens, commissioned by the Carmelite monastery of Saint Michael in Flanders.



She was a teacher and a prolific writer, which is illustrated on several of the stamps including Spain SG 2086; Peru SG 1552; Luxembourg SG 1088; Columbia SG 1669. Her writings include *The Book of Her Life*; and *The Way of Perfection*, which was written as a guide for her nuns, to teach them to pray.

One of these nuns was her nurse and close companion Anne of Saint Bartholomew - Ecuador SG 1436. Another of her writings, *The Meditation on The Song of Songs* was boldly written at a time when it was not considered proper for women to have free access to the Bible. A later confessor to Teresa actually ordered her to burn her commentary, which she promptly did, but fortunately other copies of it remained unharmed.

Teresa lived in the time of the Inquisition and the Index of prohibited books by the Roman Catholic Church, and all of her writings were suspect. Her autobiography fell into the hands of the Inquisition but was saved by Father Banez, one of Teresa's confessors, who was appointed censor. His judgment on the book contained a matter-of-fact statement of approval:

“Although this woman ...is mistaken in some matters, at least she does not intend to lead others into error ...”



The autobiography was kept secret until 1588, six years after Teresa's death. The writings of Teresa have been continuously popular throughout the world since the time of their first printing. The Jesuit William Malone in exile from Ireland printed the first English translation of *The Book of Her Life* in 1611 at Antwerp.

Teresa continued her reform of the Carmelite nuns and founded another 17 discalced (barefooted) monasteries throughout Spain during her lifetime. She died at the Carmelite monastery at Alba on October 4th 1582.

Teresa was canonised Saint Teresa of Avila by the Catholic Church in 1622 and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI on September 27th 1970, celebrated by Columbia SG 1266. ☒



USING A SPREADSHEET (EXCEL) TO WRITE UP YOUR COLLECTION ON A COMPUTER

Sheila Foster provides a step-by-step guide to setting up a template

Points to remember.

When contemplating buying a printer take your favourite album page along with you and try out the various printers. I have not yet found a printer that will accommodate linen hinged sheets. It is possible to cut down the Senator Standard sheet (or any suitable thin card) on the left hand side to fit ink-jet and some laser printers.

Most computers these days come with some software already installed and ready for use. These usually include a word processing program and a spreadsheet program.

A spreadsheet program allows you to work with words and numbers in a large grid of cells. Every EXCEL worksheet has 16,384 rows numbered 1 - 16384 and columns are shown with letters. Column 1 is A, column 26 is Z. column 27 is AA to column 52 AZ etc. Each little block is called a cell. The cell selected with the mouse is the active cell (working cell). A group of cells selected by dragging the mouse over the selected cells, becomes one active cell, and any commands you issue works on all the cells in the selected range.

Preparing The Master Grid

This will probably be the hardest part as margins have to be set to accommodate the size of the album sheet you are using. **BUT YOU ONLY HAVE TO DO THIS ONCE.**

These notes, although they give a step by step instruction, do not include all the 'OK's' needed to carry out an action.

Double click on the spreadsheet programme. In Excel this appears as BOOK 1. We now have to set up the specifications for the grid. Change the FONT (the printing character) and the size of the font. (On the formatting toolbar) It is advisable to do this first as the font size affects the grid and page breaks. Click on TOOLS - OPTIONS - GENERAL and select the font you like best by clicking on the little up and down arrow. The font I have selected for this grid is Times New Roman 10 (OK) (A message will appear 'You must close Excel & re-start for the font to take effect'). Close Excel, start Excel again, and the first screen should show your chosen font.

Adjust the column width by clicking on FORMAT - COLUMN - STANDARD WIDTH change this to 7.0 (OK).

We now have to set up the page, FILE - PAGE SETUP Here you have a number of choices.

PAGE PAPER SIZE choose 8½; x 11 or letter.

ORIENTATION. (Whether you want to print on Portrait (Upright) or Landscape paper). Make sure the little dot is on portrait.

MARGINS. For this exercise using a **Senator Standard sheet cut to 8½ inches wide.** TOP 1.0, BOTTOM 1.0, LEFT 1.5, RIGHT 1.5. CENTRE ON PAGE click on horizontal only. (A little cross should appear in the horizontal box.)

HEADERS. = (Show sheet 1) Footers = (Page 1). As we do not want these to appear on our album page I delete these. Click on CUSTOM HEADER - TAB (the left hand key with two arrows on) - DELETE - OK. Click on CUSTOM FOOTER - TAB - DELETE - OK. (Note on newer versions of Excel if no headers or footers ignore this).

SHEET. Has various options, all we are interested in is the checkbox which enables you to print, or not print the gridlines. Because we want to print our master grid we will leave this on for the moment, (i.e. a little cross in the gridline box) (OK). We are now ready to save our efforts on to the hard disk; go to FILE -SAVE AS. We use Save as, as we want the opportunity to name this file. Type in a name which conveys the meaning of the work you have just done. That is, we will (SAVE AS) Igrid, (OK). It is advisable to save your work frequently, just in case anything goes wrong. If using older versions of EXCEL you can use up to 8 letters or numbers to name the file, but cannot use spaces. EXCEL automatically inserts .xls after the file name.

Back to our saved grid. I use the first line for the heading of the page. As headings are usually of a much larger font select the whole of the first row (by pointing the mouse on 1A and keeping the mouse clicked on). Drag over the cells from IA to 1M (a black line appears) and change the size (on the formatting toolbar) to 16. (Click on the little arrow to the right of the font size). Select row 2A to 2M (by clicking and dragging) for a slightly smaller sub-heading to font size 12. The rest of the grid will be size 10.

Set the print area (page break) by previewing the spreadsheet. FILE - PRINT PREVIEW (or use the Print Preview button on the standard toolbar). Although there is nothing to print Excel will set the printing area of the page when you return to it by inserting page breaks; these appear as dotted lines on the edge of the page and at the bottom. Again save this file, because we have already saved the file as Igrid, we do not have to use SAVE AS, just SAVE (OK).

If you would like a border around the grid: select all the cells on the left side of the grid 2A-56A by dragging the cursor from 2A to 56A. Right click on the mouse; a box appears, select FORMAT – CELLS – BORDER. There are thick and thin borders to choose from. Choose which style you like (I have chosen the second one down), click on it, then click on the box Border Left, click on OK. Select cells 56A-56M for the bottom of the grid, right click mouse, box appears FORMAT CELLS, click on second border style then click on border bottom. (OK). Select cells right side 2M to 56M, right click, (format cells) select second style border, click on border right (OK). Select the top cells 1A-1D right click FORMAT CELLS, select second style border and click on border bottom. Select cells 1J to 1M right click, select second border style then bottom border. (OK). Our grid should now be complete. PRINT PREVIEW (on the standard toolbar). Close print preview, we will again SAVE this file (FILE - SAVE) We will now print our grid. FILE - PRINT, (or use the PRINT button on the standard toolbar) and print. I find it useful to number the top of the printed grid A -M as it appears on the screen and 1 - 56 down both sides of the grid, I also number down G 1 - 56 as this shows the centre of the sheet.

Now that we have our printed grid we can turn off the Print grid in the FILE-PAGE SETUP-SHEET- GRIDLINES Click on the little box with an x in and it disappears. We turn off the print grid to ensure that the gridlines are not printed on to our album pages, and again SAVE the file.

With our grid enclosed in a clear protector we are now ready to arrange our stamps etc. onto the grid and type in the information. Reading the horizontal and vertical grid references type the information in the relevant cells underneath the placed stamps, i.e. if the bottom of the stamp is placed on row 12 in cells BCDE the information will be typed on row 13 BCDE. We can centre this text exactly under the stamp by dragging the cursor through cells BCDE even if some of the cells i.e. DE are empty. Point the mouse arrow to the button on the toolbar Center across Columns (not the center button) and we have our text centred underneath the stamp. If the text is longer than the stamp on 13 BCDE, type the text in cells ABCDEF and centre them. To type a large block of text, select the text box button (on the standard toolbar) (or in newer Excel the text box should be dragged from the drawing toolbar onto Excel.). The cursor changes to a cross, place the cross where you want the text box to start, draw a box which you think will accommodate the amount of text you need. This is not

crucial as you can move, stretch or decrease the size of the box by clicking on any corner or line of the box. Once you have finished inserting all text, we now have to remove the text box lines and justify the text. Double click on the text box line, a FORMAT OBJECT window appears; in PATTERNS click on BORDER NONE, (removes the text box line) click on ALIGNMENT and click on JUSTIFY (Justifies text) Once all the information has been inserted on to the sheet FILE - SAVE AS, insert a name which covers the page you are doing, e.g. MODROSE1 in my instance this shows me it is modern roses page 1. We always use SAVE AS, as we want to retain our 1GRID for the next page of our collection. Have a look at the completed page before you print it, FILE - PRINT PREVIEW; if everything looks to be in order, spell check the sheet by clicking on the ABC button, then print it. You can either use the Print button on the Standard toolbar, or FILE - PRINT -OK. Files can be saved to your choice of drives: hard disk C, floppy disk A, zip disc, CD or memory key, depending on your PC. The choice can be made under the drives box in the save as window.

For drawing a series of small boxes to accommodate a set of uniform stamps: using the text box button on the format toolbar form ONE box, judging the size by the grid. Do a test PRINT of the box, then adjust the box until it is exactly the size you want. Now copy the box by holding down control (Ctrl) on the keyboard, place the cursor arrow on a line of the box, a small cross appears, still holding down control, keep the left mouse button depressed and move the mouse, a copy of the box appears as dotted lines, move the copy into any available space, Still keeping Ctrl pressed down copy as many boxes as you will need in any available space. Once you have the number of boxes that are required, then, by positioning the cursor on a solid line of the box, drag them into the required positions of the stamps on the paper grid. (Drag by holding down the left mouse button.) When everything looks to be correct FILE - SAVE, or SAVE AS (depending upon whether you will need another exact copy of this page or not).

EXCEL has some little anomalies. If you drag a cell from any border edge to another cell, the border goes with it! Select the relevant cell, right click, (format cells) and reverse previous instructions i.e. only click on the border you do not want i.e. the border box is blank (OK) then insert a new border in the one cell from which you dragged previously.

When inserting for instance a name e.g. 'Peace' as the first name in a cell, when you come out of the cell the ' disappears! To overcome this insert two '' (not the inverted comma under the 2, the one under the @ sign) and only one disappears, leaving the name as you want it. Numbers are another problem, if you want for instance 10. on its own, the full stop disappears; to overcome this type in '10. the ' disappears and you are left with 10. This applies to any numbers on their own, if numbers are in the middle of a sentence they are OK.

Please insert pdf “Excel example”

NEW ISSUES

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

NEW ISSUES FROM THE JERSEY POST OFFICE

ROYAL JUBILEE



Many countries celebrated the Queen's golden jubilee. Jersey Post collaborated with New Zealand Post Ltd. to produce a joint issue of £5.00 / NZ\$5.00 denomination portraying a photograph of Her Majesty taken by Julian Calder. Stamp and miniature sheet were printed by Cartor International Security Printing of France. Unusually, both Jersey and New Zealand post offices agreed to sell both individual stamps as well as the miniature sheet.

Jersey's £5.00 stamp had been issued in the first instance as a commemorative, but after a year it

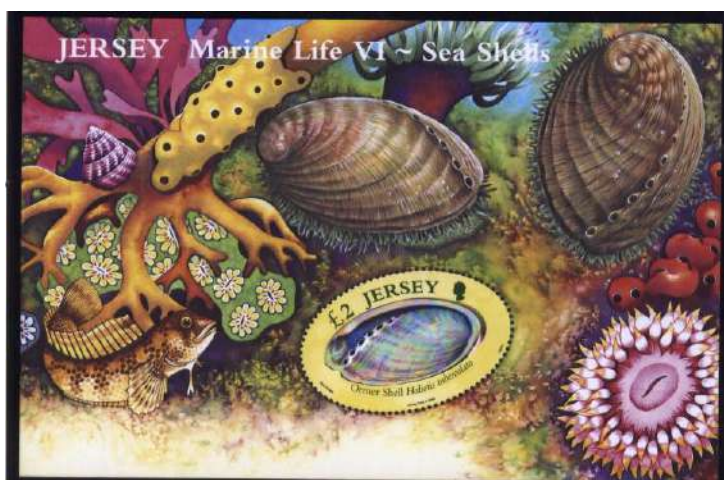
will become Jersey Post's new £5.00 definitive stamp to replace the current £5.00 definitive issued in 1996.

JERSEY MARINE LIFE



On 4th April Jersey Post issued the sixth set in the Jersey Marine Life series. The designs are based on paintings by wildlife artist Nick Parlett and feature the flat periwinkle (34p), painted top shell (37p), dog cockle (42p), variegated scallop (51p), blue-rayed limpet (57p) and European cowrie (74p). The miniature sheet features an oval stamp showing the ormer or abalone.

The stamps have been printed by thermography producing an almost 3D effect; while the inside of the ormer shell uses a hot stamped holographic foil to reproduce the mother of pearl effect of the shell itself.



Full page advertisement for Thematica 2006

THEMATICA

Dealers from around the world will provide thematic collectors with a wealth of material to browse through. Specialist societies and the BTA will be manning their tables. The usual competitions will be run, with all entries on show:

- John Fosbery Trophy 16 sheets; no rules; judged by the visitors;
- British Thematic Association Cup 32 sheets, judged to National standards.
- Healey & Wise Salver 16 sheet, Inter-Federation Competition
- Barclays Cup Youth

All visitors will be given a free souvenir sheet, the fifth in a series specially designed by Jeffery Matthews. This year's sheet marks the 80th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen by illustrating the stamps that Jeffery designed 20 years ago for her 60th birthday. The centrepiece of the design is an unadopted design by Jeffery Matthews for the issue, for which he used a calligraphic approach. The sheets have kindly been printed by Cartor of France, now part of Walsall Security Printers and printers for Royal Mail. Just 5,000 sheets have been printed.

Themata has free admission and a free programme. ☒



DRAFT AGENDA

**For the 15th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association
to be held during Thematica on Sunday June 25th 2006 at 2.15 for 2.30 p.m. in the
Allenby Room at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* September 2005
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2005
6. Election of Officers
The following Officers have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Christine A. Earle FRPSL	Chairman
Currently	Lesley Marley	Vice-Chairman
Currently	Anne Stammers	Secretary

Peter Wood has indicated that he is willing to stand for election as Treasurer
7. Election of Committee members
The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor <i>Themescene</i>
Currently	Peter Denly FRPSL	Membership Secretary
Currently	Simon Moorcroft	Publicity Officer
Currently	John Hayward	Displays Organiser
Currently	Mike Chapling	Committee member

The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for election:

Richard Wilson	Committee member / Distribution
Michael Blackman	Committee Member / Advertising
8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of

Ron Backhouse	Librarian
Ronald Hyams	Examiner
9. Motion to invite John and Betty Miller to become joint Honorary Life members of the BTA
10. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by June 19th by the Secretary or 'from the floor' at the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a display "Man and Malaria" by Carol Turner winner of the BTA Cup at Thematica 2005.

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2005

2004	INCOME	2005
£ 3,595.00	Subscriptions	£ 3,543.00
£ 117.00	Publications - net surplus on account	£ 52.00
£ 279.00	Miscellaneous sales	£ 154.00
£ 20.00	Donations	£ -
£ 223.00	Net Bank Interest	£ 244.00
£ 4,234.00	TOTAL INCOME	£ 3,993.00
EXPENDITURE		
£ 3,389.00	Themescene - printing, distribution and expenses	£3,312.00
-£ 1,100.00	less: Advertising income	-£ 860.00
£ 39.00	International activity	£ 118.00
£ -	Meetings (including AGM 2005)	£ 875.00
£ 303.00	Basildon	£ -
£ 162.00	BTA Cup expenses	£ 113.00
-£ 135.00	less: Entry fees	-£ 100.00
£ 377.00	Committee meetings and expenses (inc. AGM 04)	£ 252.00
£ 376.00	Publicity and Web Site	£ 494.00
£ 54.00	Insurance	£ 99.00
£ 395.00	Affiliations (ABPS, ATA, Friends of Thematica)	£ 393.00
£ 206.00	Officers' expenses (other than shown under relevant activity)	£ 383.00
£ 244.00	Other	£ 168.00
£ 4,310.00		£ 5,247.00
-£ 76.00	DEFICIT Expenditure over income	-£ 1,254.00

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2005

Accumulated fund

£12,742.00	Balance at 1.1.2005	£ 12,666.00
-£ 76.00	less: Deficit for the year	-£ 1,254.00
£12,666.00		£ 11,412.00
-£ 513.00	less: Stocks of publications	-£ 414.00
£12,153.00		£ 10,998.00
Represented by:		
£13,300.00	Cash at Bank: High Interest Account	£ 12,700.00
-£ 59.00	Current account	£ 58.00
£ 265.00	Amounts due to us and payments in advance (debtors)	£ 380.00
£13,506.00		£ 13,138.00
-£ 686.00	less: Subscriptions received in advance	-£ 431.00
-£ 667.00	less: Amounts due or received in advance	-£ 1,709.00
£12,153.00		£ 10,998.00

BTA NEWS

MEMBERS' MEETING AT TORQUAY 25th NOVEMBER 2006

There will be a Members' Meeting at Torquay 2006 at 1030am on Saturday 25th November 2006 at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, Devon, during the ABPS National Exhibition. At the meeting our former President and Honorary Life Member, Margaret Morris, will be giving a 64 sheet display entitled "Astronomical Communication in the 19th Century". In addition to Margaret's display members are asked to bring up to 10 pages from their own collection on any theme for an informal display. If you are attending the Torquay event do come along to our meeting with some pages for display.

HERE AND THERE

NEWS FROM ABPS

PLANS FOR CONGRESS WELL ADVANCED

2006 Congress is at Renfrew from 6th to 8th July. When so many philatelic events are south of the border, we hope many will support this regional event.

For more information, see ABPS News.

Future Congress events are being planned for:

- 2007 Venue to be confirmed
- 2008 Harrogate (including the National Stamp Competitions)
- 2009 Manchester (the 100th anniversary of Congress)

DEALER PATRON SCHEME

This has been re-launched in 2006 with funds generated being passed directly to support youth philately through the Stamp Active Network.

Dealer Patrons to date are:

Mary Weeks, Harmers, Richardson & Copp, Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions,
Bill Bird (retired), Rushstamps, Andrew Chappell, Corbitt Stamp Auctions.

PHILATELIC LECTURERS AND DISPLAYS

This would be a good time to notify Geoff Longbottom by e-mail (abps.phil@elics.co.uk) or by post (Mill Close, Hickling, Norwich, NR12 0YT) if you, or anyone you know who presents displays, is not already included in this publication. A questionnaire for completion for the new edition will then be forwarded in due course, at the same time as they go to those whose names are already included.

VARIETY, COLOUR & ENJOYMENT

The BTA's display on the Village Green was a thorough success.

Simon Moorcroft reports.

This year's Spring Stampex display on the Village Green had a touch of colour about it. It was of course the long awaited display by the British Thematic Association which this year took centre stage. A display, in this case totalling one hundred frames, cannot be organised overnight and requires long-term and careful planning. As long ago as two years before the event a sub-committee was established to plan the display. All of this hard work and planning came to a head on Tuesday 21st February, the day before the show opened, when the frames were erected and filled by a large contingent of volunteers. When dealing with over two hundred faces of material things can quite easily go wrong, but thanks to the efforts of all those present everything was mounted and ready for Wednesday when the show opened.

The five days that the show was open saw a large number of visitors entering through the doors, many of whom were surprised to see such a beam of colour protruding from the normally dark and colourless frames. What met visitors this time was a display consisting some of the most varied and diverse material ever likely to be included in a philatelic exhibit. Stamps and postal history were supplemented with cinderella material, advertising labels and coupons, pictures, postcards, maximum cards, proofs, essays, stamps, signed covers, postal stationery, publicity and promotional material both private and commercial and much more besides. All this contributed to a display with great visual impact.

The full list of contributors was published in the booklet accompanying the display, sent out with the March issue of *Themescene*.

It was wonderful to see so many displays from so many members which added to the intense variety of the display. It is not possible to describe every display in great detail. Rather just a few items and displays have been described which were deemed to be outstanding or of great interest. One of the most fascinating stories was told by the display in the first two frames entitled Heart of Harefield. This illustrated the story of the Harefield Hospital which is now one of the world's most highly recognised and respected centres for the treatment of heart diseases. The land on which the hospital stands was originally the residence of Thomas Wakley who founded the *Lancet* journal which is still published today. A large number of correspondences to and from Wakley were included, with one interesting and rare item being an entire sent by Wakley while MP for Finsbury, with a free frank in superb condition denoting the privilege of free postage for MP's. The hospital came into existence during the First World War when it treated those seriously injured during the Gallipoli campaign.

On show for the first time was Christine Earle's display of one of Australia's most famous and recognisable landmarks, the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Included were some rare and interesting items including promotional philatelic material and a very rare 5s mint stamp picturing the bridge. It was issued for the souvenir market rather than for postal purposes. We all look forward to seeing this exhibit expand and develop. ☒

Pictures from the Exhibition:



Manning the table



Brian Sole, Richard Wheeler and Cup for best Specialist Society stand. Congratulations to WETS.



SPRING STAMPEX

Adapted from the official press release

For members of the BTA the major part of Stampex was of course the display on the Village Green, which has been reported elsewhere in this issue.

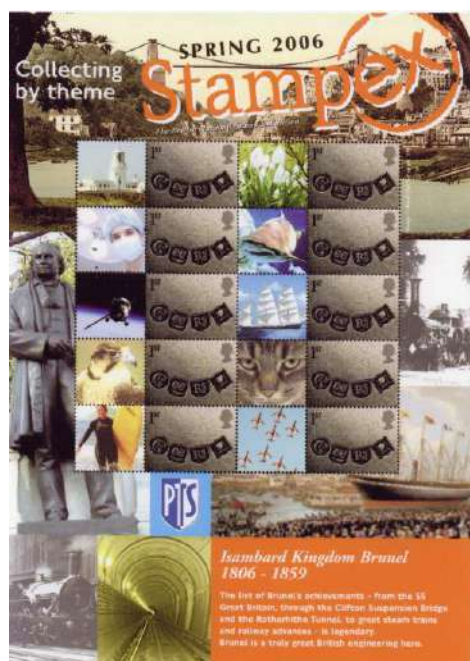
Around 6,000 visitors attended the event, and with 25% of the dealers being from overseas there was plenty of material to examine.

Royal Mail linked up with Stampex to provide a stand near the entrance and a First Day of Issue for the Brunel commemoratives, with special cancellation available only at the show. They also provided the equipment to allow people to have their photograph taken on a Smilers sheet.

In amongst the dealers were representatives of the Friends of the British Postal Archive & Museum, the Royal Naval Covers Group, and the Bletchley Park Post Office. Stamp Active was in full voice at the rear of the Mezzanine. Also in this area was the first showing of a special "Brunel" display mounted by the British Postal Museum % Archive, which is touring the South West during the spring and summer.

Souvenirs of Stampex were a special Stampex cancellation from the German Post Office, a free limited edition postcard showing unadopted stamp artwork by David Gentleman for the 1969 British stamps issue featuring the Great Western paddle steamer, and the seventh Stampex business customised sheet.

Various meetings were held during the weekend: the Great Britain Philatelic Society, the Concorde Study Circle, the Ceylon study Circle, the Scout and Guide Stamp Club, the Aden, Yemen and Somaliland Study Circle, the Egypt Study Circle, the British Postmark Society, the Malta Study Circle and an open meeting of the ABPS. ☒



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*

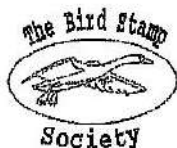
GROUP NEWS

THE BIRD STAMP SOCIETY

Village Green

We were delighted to participate in the Village Green event, and contributions from several of our members were on display, courtesy of Harry Wright and Ian MacPherson, who kindly coordinated the Scottish contingent. We recruited one new member as a result of the Village Green so thank you to the BTA for organizing the event.

THEMATICA



Mike Gurr, our Packet Secretary and Richard Page will be representing our Society on the Sunday at Thematica, with some of Richard's collection of Buzzards on display. Please go and see them! We have just had a new leaflet printed which will make its English debut there after being available at BIRDPEX in Denmark.

Our Anniversary

The Bird Stamp Society celebrates its 20th year this year and we are sponsoring a special hand stamp on 1st August to mark this milestone. There will also be a commemorative cover and both are being produced for us by Cotswold Covers in York (Tel: 08707 423962) using a design prepared by a graphic artist friend of one of our members. An unstamped copy of the cover will be sent free to each of our members and additional covers may be purchased either from me or from Liz Martin at Cotswold Covers.

The Hand Stamp will feature the town of Swansea (to match our logo) and will therefore come under the auspices of the Wales and The West Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 220 – 228 Penarth Road, CARDIFF, CF11 8TA.

Join Us?

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

CAPTAIN COOK SOCIETY



Prior notice of the annual meeting at Marton, from 20th – 22nd October 2006 (Friday to Sunday). The Saturday programme will take place at the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum.

Further details are available from Alwyn Peel, 13 Cowdry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, WF12 0LW. Tel: 01924 505724.

THEMESCENE JUNIORS

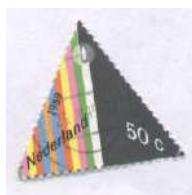
(the next two pages are definitely not for oldies!)

AMAZING STAMPS

All stamps are amazing, because they have a story behind them. Even dreary dull old stamps will have something interesting about them. Do you think your stamps are amazing? Lauren age 11 from Ayrshire in Scotland thinks hers are:



“I have a collection of amazing stamps. I have different shaped stamps – hearts, circles, semi-circles, the shape of someone’s head, a bottle, a jigsaw piece and a star. I have some very small stamps and some very BIG stamps. Some of my stamps have little bumpy things around the edge, and some that don’t have them. Some of my stamps are smelly – I have stamps smelling of cinnamon, roses, chocolate and hospital eucalyptus smell. I have metal stamps and a wooden stamp and holographic stamps. I have label stamps with a plain bit at the bottom that you can pull off if you want but you’re not supposed to. And with barcodes. My stamps are AMAZING!!!”



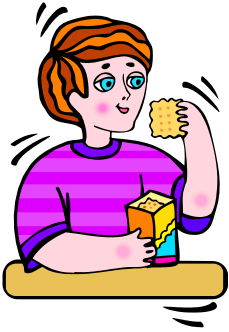
HOW AMAZING ARE YOUR STAMPS?

Write and tell us about your amazing stamps?

Which is your favourite stamp or your favourite theme?

(our address is on the next page)

Here are some stamps that are amazing because you can eat them! They are really easy to make.



Stamp Biscuits

If you want to make these biscuits, the first thing to do is a job for your Mum like washing up or tidying up. This will put her in a good mood!



Then in your politest voice and with your sweetest angelic look on your face, ask her if she could buy you a packet of Morning Coffee biscuits and some icing tube pens next time she goes shopping. When you've got the things you need, wash your hands and open the packet of biscuits and lay some of them out on a clean surface. You will see that they have frilly edges, just like stamps. Ice a line border near the edge of the biscuits and then ice the centres with your own designs. Maybe you could ice:

a queen's head, a boat, a lighthouse, a bird or a flower



– be adventurous!

You could design one for each member of your family. If you find the icing tubes a bit tricky at first, just keep practising and remember to gently squeeze as you draw. If possible, take a photo of your biscuits and send it to us.

Then tuck in and enjoy eating your stamps.

Send all your letters to

*Junior Page, c/o The Editor, Themescene,
71 Churchward Avenue, Swindon. SN2 1NW*



ATA CHECKLISTS

Listed by Karen Cartier and available from Chris Earle, address page 38

All were updated in October 2005, except those marked ** which were done in November.

AIDS	7p	Hands	23p
Airplanes I	17p	Horses and Carriages	10p
Airports	19p	Inventors	12p
Airships **	17p	Judo	8p
Anti-Alcohol	2p	Lizards	14p
Automotive I	34p	Minerals	19p
Badges	3p	Monroe. Marilyn **	3p
Ballet	7p	Mother Teresa	2p
Basketball	14p	Motorcycles	17p
Bicycles	14p	Mountain Climbing	21p
Birds of Prey	36p	Mountains	18p
Boxing	1p	Mushrooms	50p
Bridges	70p	Mythology	3p
Butterflies	97p	National Parks	14p
Carnivals	24p	N. American Indians	25p
Castles and Palaces	69p	Nudes	53p
Cats, Domestic	19p	Octopus & Squid	2p
Chess	10p	Owls	20p
Christmas	55p	Pope John Paul II	5p
Churchill, Winston	11p	Red Cross Societies	33p
Coffee and Tea Service	5p	Running	
Costume	39p	Sailing	19p
Crabs	10p	Shooting	8p
Diana. Princess	11p	Snakes	22p
Dinosaurs	10p	Spiders	5p
Disabilities	14p	Swimming	20p
Diving	10p	Tennis	13p
Dogs	61p	Turtles	26p
Dolphins	10p	Vegetables	7p
Donkeys	42p	Violin Family	5p
Elvis Presley	7p	Volleyball	11p
Fire Fighting	16p	Waterfalls	23p
Fish/Fishing	52p	Weightlifting	10p
Frogs and Toads	12p	World Wildlife Fund	33p
Fruit and Berries	23p	Writers	60p
Girl Guides	7p	Zodiac	11p
Handball, Team	3p		

Please remember that these lists are not totally complete because I do not know every subject and have to depend on others to supply the information. Besides, if they were totally complete you wouldn't have any fun looking up additional issues.

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.

ARTICLES

No.	Copies	Topic / Title	
		Aircraft	
6	Davis, A.	60 Years of Aeroplanes, parts 1 & 2	Stamp Magazine 1963
2		200th Anniversary of Manned Flight	Stamp Monthly 11/1983
		Americas	
1	Floyd, B. Greenwood,	Is Another Canal On The Way? (Central America)	Topical Times 4/2005
1	G. McKeown,	The Battle of the River Plate Tales of Yankee Power [history of the Panama Canal]	Log Book 5/2004
2	L.		Stamps 2/1969
2	Paton, I.	New Sweden 1638-1655	Topical Times 10/1994
2	Piggott, W.	Famous Women On American Stamps	Stamp Magazine 2/1962
2	Riboulet, J.	The Romantic History of Pocahontas	Topical Times 6/1993 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 7/1959
2	Robinson, J.	The Mayas	
		Animals	
2	Comas, D.	The Other Newfoundland (Dogs)	Topical Times 4/1997
2	Leather, S.	Panda-monium	Stamps 7/1988
1	Leonard, A.	"I taut I saw a Puddy Tat"	Stamp Magazine 7/1961
2	Oliver, R.	Gentle Giants of Forest and Savannah	S. A. Stamp News 6/2005
2	Tompkins, T.	Hunters and Hunted of the Serengeti	Stamp Magazine 5/1986
1	West, L.	A Prickly Subject	Stamps 3/1988
		Architecture	
2	Lawrence, T.	Moslem Architecture	Stamp Magazine 10/1965 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 9/1984
6	Stidson, R.	Architecture On Stamps	
		Army	
2	Bennett, L.	Swiss Soldier Stamps	Topical Times 8/1995
3	Last, B.	Garrisons of Norfolk Island	Stamp Magazine 12/1982

3	Lewis, B.	Uniforms of the Napoleonic War: part 2 Attrition	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 8/1984
5	Spafford, R.	Falkland Islands: the RE Connection (Royal Engineers)	Stamp Magazine 2/1987 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 12/1980
2	Stern, M.	Military and Naval Uniforms on Stamps Art	
2	Anderson, H.	Palaeolithic Art	Topical Times 10/1998
2	Arnold, J.	The Face of the Painter	Stamp Magazine 2/1987
1	De Luca, V.	Leonardo's Grotesque Drawings	Topical Times 4/2005 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 5/1960
2	Harris, L.	Canova: The Commemorative Issue of 1957	5/1960
1	Kendall, J.	Durer: The Renaissance Graphic Artist	Stamps 8/1982 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 3/1991
2	Rollin, A.	The Rock Art of North Africa	3/1991
2	Wilson, T.	Lucas Cranach The Elder 1472-1533 Astrology	Medi Theme 2/2004
2	Chan, C.	The Zodiac Animals: Happy Chinese New Year	Topical Times 8/1995 Stamps and Foreign Stamps 9/1984
3	Clark, J.	Appointment With Venus Balloons	
4	Mackay, J.	200 Years of Flight	Stamp Magazine 9/1983
2	Palke, K.	Zeppelins, Blimps & Hot-air Balloons Battles	Topical Times 8/1994
	Greenwood, 1 G.	The Battle of the River Plate	Log Book 5/2004
2	Pulham, G.	The Armada	Stamp Magazine 7/1988 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 12/1964
3	Watson, J.	The Battle of the Falkland Islands Bicycles and Cycling	
12	Roy, P.	Bicyclette et Cyclisme	Philatelie (Canada) 620/05
2	Tierney, J.	Bicycle Helmets on Stamps Birds	Topical Times 10/1995
3	Lanspeary, P.	Extinct Birds on Stamps	Stamp Magazine 9/1983 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 1/1987
2	Lanspeary, P.	Christmas Birds	1/1987
3	Lanspeary, P.	A History of Birds	Stamps 3/1982
3	Lanspeary, P.	Birds from the Past on Stamps	Stamp Monthly 2/1978
5	Lanspeary, P.	A History of Bird Illustration on Stamps part 3	Stamps 5/1982
2	Oliver, R.	The Life of Penguins	ThemNews 2/2004
2		Food for the Birds Butterflies	Stamps 9/1991
2	Turner, J.	Butterfly Stamps from Mongolia and Albania	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 4/1963
2		Butterflies of Kenya Cacti	Stamp Magazine 7/1988
2	Daamen, H.	Why Cacti?	Topical Times 4/1993 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 6/1963
2	Robinson, J.	More Cacti and Succulents	6/1963

		Canals	
3	D'Humierses, J.	Cancellations of Suez Canal Stamps	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 5/1960
2	Downing, K.	Railways and Canals	Railway Philatelist 3/2004
1	Floyd, B.	Is Another Canal On The Way? (Central America)	Topical Times 4/2005
2	McKeown, L.	Tales of Yankee Power [history of the Panama Canal]	Stamps 2/1969
		Cinema	
2	Chesham, P.	A Thematic Approach	Stamps 4/1990
2	Williams, D.	Hurrah For Hollywood	Stamp Monthly 5/1984
		Civil Engineering	
2	Chan, C.	Great Wall	Topical Times 8/1999
1	Floyd, B.	Is Another Canal On The Way? (Central America)	Topical Times 4/2005
		Coach Mail	
2	Blake, R.	Mail Coaches	Stamp Magazine 7/1988
4	Blake, R.	John Palmer Mail Coach Pioneer (cards)	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 8/1984
4	Blake, R.	A Coaching Quest	Stamps & Foreign Stamps 8/1984
2	Griffith, H.	Bloods On The Box	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 3/1961
		Coins	
1	Mackay, J.	Israel Coin Stamps	Stamp Magazine 1964
2	Mackay, J.	Portuguese India Coin Stamps	Stamp Magazine 7/1964
2	Mackay, J.	American and African Coin Stamps	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 2/1965
		Decorations	
2	Mackay, J.	Medals on Stamps	Stamp Magazine 7/1965
1		Malta: The George Cross	Stamp Magazine 4/1967
3		Salute to Valour	Stamps 9/1990
		Ecology	
2	Castle, W.	When the Sea-Bed Rose Into the Sky	Stamps 4/1992
2	Harvey, R.	The Trouble With Air	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 3/1994
3	Last, B.	Preservation of Life On Earth	Stamps 6/1990
4	Tierney, J.	Preventing the Greenhouse Effect	Topical Times 6/1997
		Europa	
2	Walker, R.	Europa: The Early Years 1956-59	Stamps 4/1982
3	Walker, R.	Europa: the Years of Free Expression 1974-1981	Stamps 8/1982
3	Walker, R.	Europa: The Years of Uniformity 1960-73	Stamps 6/1982
		Fairy Tales	
2	Delvaux, C.	Fabulous Fable Philately	Topical Times 6/1996
2	Delvaux, C.	Peter Pan Turns 100	Topical Times 6/2005

		Exploration	
2	Duhaut, J.	Voyages and Discoveries Sir Earnest Shackleton: His Life Through	Log Book 5/2004
1	Paddock, A.	Stamps	Stamp Monthly 1/1971
6	Stapley, C.	The Voyages of Columbus	Stamp Magazine 5/1992
6	Stapley, C.	Columbus Remembered	Stamp Magazine 9/1992
5	Stapley, C.	Christopher Columbus: portrait	Stamp Magazine 4/1992
2	P. Van Gelder,	Exploring the Artic	Stamp Magazine 6/1983
2	P.	Explorers of Antarctica 1773-1899	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 7/1986
		Flowers	
8	Foster, S.	Roses	Stamp Magazine 7/1993
4	Kuppen, J.	Roses	ThemNews 10/2004
2	Seaward, J.	Orchids	ThemNews 12/2004
1	Rubin, D.	The Guppy	Topical Times 2/1999
		Folklore	
2	Osborn, J.	Robin Hood	Stamp Magazine 4/1987
2	Townsend, R.	Legend of King Arthur: Quest for the Holy Grail	Topical Times 6/1999
		Heraldry	
6	Blackman, N. Kendall, J. & S.	Red men, bears & virgins Heraldry on Stamps	Stamp Magazine 7/1997 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 4/1984
		Lifeboats	
1	Horgan, Denis	A Lifeboat Story	Log Book 6/2004
3	Horgan, Denis	The Salvation Army Norwegian Lifeboat <i>Catherine Booth</i>	Log Book 2/2004
		Medical	
2	Cundey, B.	Medicine (postmarks)	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 8/1986 Gibbons Stamp Monthly 3/1970
4	Finlay, I.	Ambulances on Stamps	Medi Theme 11/2004
1	Dunlop, G.	Blue Blood (heart)	Stamp Magazine 3/1966
2	Leonard, A.	Dr. Finlay's Casebook	ThemNews 2/2004
3	Wilson, T.	Medicine: A Prescription for Philatelists Material Medica on Stamps of the British Isles	
3	Wilson, T.	part 1	Medi Theme 5/2004
		Medicinal plants	
3	Wilson, T.	Plant Drugs of South-East Asia	Medi Theme 2/2004
1		Indigenous Medical Plants of Cerrado	Filatelico 6/2003
		Minerals	
2	Bantz, U.	Minerals, Fossils	ThemNews 8/2004
3	Harvey, R.	Spotlight on Copper	Topical Times 12/1995