

THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

Journal of the
British Thematic Association
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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

In October my local society, following its practice of organising a short philatelic break somewhere overseas every two years, this year arranged a few days in Dublin for *Stampa*. It was quite a small exhibition, and as you would expect, perfect for the Ireland collector.

I'm delighted to say I saw excellent displays there by two of our Committee members. Treasurer Peter Wood won a vermeil in the Traditional class, and *Themescene* distributor Richard Wheeler won gold, and the C. O'Neill Memorial Trophy, in the Thematic class.



*Presentation to Richard Wheeler by Chairman of *Stampa* John Lennon*

Stampa did not yield any philatelic finds for me (although I bought a few fantastic postcards with a social philately display in mind), but it was very enjoyable, and had a nice special issue available from the exhibition of the Ryder Cup miniature sheet specially overprinted. An Post was there doing a good trade, similar to the presence of Royal Mail at Stampex. The difference perhaps is in the overall approach. The President's Page (124) draws attention to concerns about the stamp-issuing policy of Royal Mail; not only a plethora of issues each year, but more importantly a complete disregard for the interests of collectors at post offices. Compare that with the Republic of Ireland. During a few days sightseeing I took the opportunity to visit the Central Post Office in O'Connell Street. Few post offices can have had such a central role in the independence of a country, but leaving aside the historical references and exhibits the post office also had an excellent philatelic bureau, with friendly and helpful staff who welcomed collectors.

As you can imagine, as I write this the Committee's thoughts are very much on Eurothema. I'm sure it will be a huge success (will have been a huge success by the time you read this) and will be fully reported in March 2008 *Themescene*. Mailed out with your December *Themescene* is the programme, which I hope in itself gives those of you unable to attend at least a flavour of the event. The Organising Committee have put in eighteen months of solid hard work to make it all happen, and all thematic collectors in this country should be very pleased that the UK's thematic standing is now high enough to host this. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed we win!

Christmas is almost here, so I would just like to wish everyone a happy and relaxing holiday, and a few nice collectables among your presents. ☒

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

By the time that you read this page, Christmas will be approaching fast and the efforts of the BTA, in staging Eurothema 2007, a fading memory. I wish to thank John Hayward, Chris Earle and Lesley Marley for all the hard work that they put in, over 18 months, to organise Eurothema 2007. I am sure that the event was the success which it deserved to be.

It is very disappointing that Royal Mail is trying hard to discourage the purchase of both definitive and special issues of stamps at Post Offices. Whenever anybody takes a letter or package to the Post Office to request the cost of postage, instead of providing postage stamps, the postal clerk prints a boring sticky label, to attach to the item to be posted. It is still possible to purchase stamps at a Post Office, and whenever there is a set of special issues, which includes a second-class stamp, I try to buy a reasonable number, but it has to be within about two weeks of the stamps being issued. However, a Special issue with a 2nd class stamp is now rare, and as I weigh my letters at home, I buy lower values in quarter sheets of 50 stamps at a time, to ensure that I can apply the correct postage when sending letters above the minimum weight. I try to explain to the postal clerk that I require a quarter sheet with the cylinder number in the bottom left hand corner. This means that I can remove the corner block of six stamps for my GB collection. On the last two occasions I have done this I have been shown quarter sheets with no edging at all – it has been removed and thrown away. I thought this was just a new practice at my Post Office but I now understand the Royal Mail is issuing new stock books for use by counter staff, which are narrower than existing books. You have guessed: the clerks have to remove the selvedge to fit the sheets of stamps into the new stock books. Yet another dirty trick!

In order to obtain new issues of current stamps, the only reliable source is Royal Mail's Tallents House, Edinburgh. A handling charge of 45p is now made if you have a standing order, but a one-off order incurs a charge of £1.45, however many stamps are ordered. It is difficult to understand why customers should pay a handling charge at all. The number of stamps, and the value of the stamps included in each special issue, steadily increases, augmented by more and more miniature sheets. At Christmas this year, there will be a set of six self-adhesive stamps featuring Angels, with a top value of £1.24; a gummed miniature sheet containing the same six stamps, plus a 1st and a 2nd class stamp, each featuring Madonna and Child, apparently to cater for members of the public who want stamps with a religious theme at Christmas. To obtain the stamps and a miniature sheet a collector will have to pay £7.54.

Some years ago Royal Mail introduced Year Packs, so that collectors could obtain conveniently all the stamps issued during the year. This year's pack will cost £57.45, but I understand from a dealer who receives orders from Royal Mail in advance that the Pack does not contain three of the miniature sheets issued – Christmas, Wembley and Inventors. I assume therefore that it will contain the Beatles, Celebrating England, 40th Anniversary of the Machin, Harry Potter and the Diamond Wedding Anniversary miniature sheets. Collectors can however obtain ALL the Miniature sheets in a separate pack, which will cost £24.45, but will result in duplication for collectors purchasing the 2007 Year Pack.

Continued on next page

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Lesley Marley

As I write this Chairman's page your Committee is in the last throws of organising Eurothema 2007. It has meant a lot of hard work for us all and I hope as you read this page that the event has been a success. If you were able to come you will know that there were a great many topics covered by the participating countries. Unfortunately Germany and Luxembourg were unable to form a team, but France, Belgium, Netherlands and of course our own team, using from one to five frames for their entries, put together a good show.

The BTA was able to use money donated from the Philatelic Music Circle to fund the brochure, exhibition frames and also a special music prize. This was given, as there were at least five entries with musical connotations. I hope some of our new ex-music members were able to attend and see them. The results will be in the next *Themescene*, and you have all received a Eurothema Brochure with this *Themescene* issue.

Our Publicity Officer Simon Moorcroft has worked hard this year to spread the word about thematics, and was able to get *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* to publish articles in the November edition on Eurothema 2007 and two articles by members; I hope you saw them.

In December the Royal Philatelic Society London has invited Ian Paton, Brian Sole, Steve Boorn, Sheila Foster and Christine A. Earle to display at 1pm for a 'Thematic Afternoon'. I wish them well.

In the future your Committee hope to arrange some meetings in different parts of the country, where we can get together and discuss our hobby, to see what and how we collect our chosen theme, and how we like to write up our collections. I know we all do it in different styles. If you can help in any way or know your area would be suitable and has a reasonably priced room to accommodate a small gathering, please let me know.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and I hope that 2008 will not be as watery as 2007. ☒

Continued from previous page

Having complained about the issuing policy of Royal Mail, I have to admit that I find many of the GB issues very attractive. I just wish that Royal Mail would see sense and reduce the number of issues to a more realistic level and make the special issues more widely available.

Finally, I wish all our members, especially Committee members, a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. ☒

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	222
Family members	20
Junior members	6
Society members	17
Overseas members	21
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	3
Total number of members	290

(at 1st November 2007)

Here we are again in the fall of the year with a plethora of stamp fairs, auctions and various other philatelic activities to attend. I have long been a member of the Exhibition Study Group, and as President this year, was delighted to host the Autumn Convention at the Crystal Palace Sports Stadium. The location is quite nostalgic as the foundations and approach steps to Paxton's famous building still remain, despite the ravages of fire in 1936 and the attention of the military during the war. Exhibitions are mainly remembered through the collectables, post cards and the postal history of which we were treated to several first class displays. Exhibitions lend themselves to Thematic collecting, a notable example being the various Olympic Games, which are also subject of a separate study group.

Members of the Royal Philatelic Society will no doubt have noted 13th December when Ian Paton, Brian Sole, Steve Boorn and Sheila foster are providing a Thematic afternoon at Devonshire Place. Sounds like something not to be missed.

Subscription Renewals.

Subscriptions run out at the end of January and we are taking the opportunity of the distribution of the December magazine to provide a timely reminder and send you the renewal form. You will note that the decision has been taken by your Committee to hold the subscription rates at the same levels as last year. Please heed our plea concerning postage cost, which are eating up a goodly proportion of your subscription, and return your renewal slip and cheque without the need for reminders. ☒

New Members joining since the September 2007 issue

Mr. T. Knight Hereford

Deaths advised since the September 2007 issue

None

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

By the time that this message is published Eurothema will have come and gone. I hope that many of you will have managed to support the event and will look forward to reading a report on the exhibition in the March edition. I also hope that some of you were also able to visit the combined National Exhibition and Congress at Croydon. Although the clash of dates was regrettable one should still try and support all major and minor philatelic events.

Amongst many philatelists it is often forgotten that we are all involved in organised philately for two reasons: for enjoyment and to further the hobby we treasure. I feel that too often discord and conflict get in the way of this. Although these negativities are a part of life, they often achieve nothing of a positive nature and can lead to damaging division. It is often said that by working together more can be achieved. I believe that this is true in philately. One of the best examples of this is the BTA's organisation of Eurothema. A huge amount of work and effort has been put into the show by many BTA members, and not just those on the Committee, and others outside of the Association. What this has achieved by coming together is evident. Now this sort of event as well as others could occur across the country on a much wider scale if people came together and assisted one another. Too often there is a lack of willing people, which leads to ideas for many events both at local, federation and national level being shelved, and this is to be regretted. We know that leaving two or three people to do all of the work is not a combined effort and not feasible. Many of the most successful events have had a large organising committee which can look after a specific aspect of the event. This not only ensures that each person's portfolio is not too great, but also allows fresh ideas and innovations to be brought forward. By co-operating and uniting much more can be achieved.

The 2010 Festival of Stamps programme is an example where unity and co-operation are needed. The British Postal Museum and Archive, in collaboration with the Association of British Philatelic Societies, want to see a number of regional events staged throughout the year across Great Britain. The idea is that different federations stage a large exhibition in their particular region. This could either be a special event or a larger version of an annual / bi-annual show. The BPMA will make resources available to help federations achieve this. This is an excellent idea and a real opportunity for a large exhibition to take place in an area which normally only sees small events being held. But again for anything of this nature to succeed a number of people have to come forward and take on the organisation. A large event needs many people to help plan and stage it. Some may say that it is too much effort. But this need not be the case, especially if a number of people take on different roles. Moreover a large event will usually succeed in attracting far higher numbers of visitors than the usual small stamp fair would. It is vital for the future of our hobby that more people are attracted into it. Exhibitions such as the ones just outlined are a perfect way to assist this.

I hope that all of you reading this have a restful and peaceful Christmas and hope that the New Year will be prosperous for you. Over the festive period please do consider what you could do as extra to help the hobby, however small that may be. I hope you continue to support the BTA in 2008.

Merry Christmas! ☒

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

From: Aubrey Sheena, 1 Greenacres, Bushey Heath, Bushey, WD23 1RF.

Reading the President's and other pages in September *Themescene* has persuaded me to try and put my thoughts on paper.

I have been a collector since the age of eight or nine. Like many kids of the late 1940's it was fun to collect and there were not so many stamps or countries. I was lucky in that the school I went to as an eleven year old had a stamp club. Luck continued in that after leaving school the accountant's office I joined was in St Martins Lane. In those days there were many stamp shops around Leicester Square. I have so far kept away from the word 'Philatelic'.

Starting with window shopping at lunch times, to plucking up courage to go in and start talking, my interest grew into philately. I began to collect three countries reasonably seriously and later increased to eight. That was fine into the 1960's, but with the proliferation of issues into what I called Jam Jar labels I stopped new issues and concentrated on auctions and older material.

In the 1990's, when none of our children showed any interest in taking over collecting and could use the money in setting up their own homes, most of my collections were sold. However I still had interest, and having been heavily involved in the sport of waterskiing in the early 1980's used it for a theme. Your records will show when I joined the BTA and my occasional contributions on waterskiing.

Where do I go from here? One of my 'intentions' for this winter is to prepare a display on waterskiing. Because of my involvement in the sport it would not satisfy me to prepare a display purely on a philatelic basis. I would also want to promote the sport, using post cards, cancellations, commemorative envelopes and air letters which might not suit the purists. I would also draw attention to waterskiing technicalities or in some cases 'impossibilities' depicted.

Waterskiing is not in the Olympics. Why not? That is a 'we was robbed' story. I am not looking at Thematica or other entry forms yet. I want to prepare what I want first and would be looking to 2008 or 2009, but I suspect what I would like to display might not qualify. Maybe it would be better as an article in *Themescene* or a display at the philatelic society of which I am a member.

Reference is made by our President to pleas to the Royal Mail to issue fewer stamps. Why? As a thematic collector I would like to see more stamps on my theme. In fact with the British Water Ski Federation having won the right to stage the 2010 European Water Ski Championships, their Diamond Jubilee and the British athletes who have become World Water Ski Champions, we have a proud record. I support the BWSF application for a 2010 Commemorative stamp.

Let me end with a question: can you name any British water skier who has become World Champion? The first was in 1965, the most recent only two weeks ago.

Editor's note

The possibilities of Aubrey's display sound to me to have huge potential for a competition entry. "Cancellations, commemorative envelopes and air letters" would be welcomed, together with meter marks, booklets, and all the other philatelic material that expands a collection of stamps on a theme. And while postcards would be less welcomed, is there a thematic collector, of any level, who does not have a few in their collection (but perhaps not in their exhibition entries)?

And Audrey – whether or not your display is entered for competitions it would still make an interesting article for *Themescene*.

HERR ADOLPH HITLER'S FAN MAIL

From: Barry Floyd, 30 Watch Bell Street, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7HB

A recently published book : H. Ebererle Letters to Hitler – A People Writes to its Leader describes how the future dictator received many thousands of letters from sympathizers at the start of his political career. The letters used for the basis of the book were kept in files in Hitler's Reich Chancellor's office in Berlin; they were acquired by the Red Army and taken to Moscow at the end of World War II.

Although the letters were written early in Hitler's career, shortly after his release from prison in 1923, they show that he was already being deluged with fan mail. It seems that Hitler seldom set eyes on any of the letters themselves but had his deputy, Rudolf Hess, read and reply to them.

As was to be expected, the contents of the letters were universally obsequious, pledging, for example, "unalterable allegiance and unshakeable faith in our leader, Adolph Hitler", and "We don't want anyone else in government, we want only ADOLPH HITLER... We National Socialists want the prohibition of all newspapers that have spread poison about our leader, and the expulsion of all Jews."

An intriguing philatelic question arises; were the covers as well as the letters preserved? If so, are they still in the historical archives in Moscow? Does any collector of German stamps here in the U.K. have envelopes addressed to Hitler in their possession? And did Herr Hess continue answering the Fuhrer's fan mail right up to the time when he parachuted into Scotland on the night of May 10th 1941? Answers on an envelope please!

JUST4KIDS

From: Lise Whittle, 11 Netherauchendrane, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4EE

We often use computer graphics in the Just4Kids section of this magazine, but wondered if we had any artists amongst our members who would be willing to draw some cartoon-type illustrations? Please get in touch if you have an artistic streak.

Also, please remember to either cut out or photocopy the Just4Kids section and pass it on to a youngster you know - most young children love stamps but many don't know about them. Please share your enjoyment of collecting with the next generation.

SLAVERY IN THE USA BEFORE EMANCIPATION & ABOLITION.

PART 2: THE AMERICAN COLONISATION SOCIETY AND THE FOUNDING OF LIBERIA.

Ian Paton completes his look at "The Peculiar Institution"

In 1776 Thomas Jefferson had worked out a colonisation plan, but nothing came of it, nor of Washington's similar idea; and when Jefferson became President he tried unsuccessfully to persuade Britain to accept freed slaves in Sierra Leone. With this background in 1817 the American Colonisation Society was founded with the purpose of removing free Negroes from the USA to Africa, and there were many slave owners prepared to emancipate their slaves who lacked the funds to meet transportation costs.

Some slaves were still being imported illegally into the U.S.A and the Society was instrumental in Congress passing in 1819 the Anti-Slave Trade Act which proposed that recovered slaves should be transported back to Africa; a \$100,000 appropriation was made to support operations. The Society's repeated requests to Congress for funds to carry out its work



had been refused, but now President Monroe came to the rescue by applying a very liberal interpretation of the Act. He construed it as requiring the Government to provide both transportation and Government Agents to help organise the colony. The Society had assembled a group of 88 people willing to go to Africa, and chartered the 300 ton brig *Elizabeth* when funds ran out.

In 1820 Monroe stepped in by appointing a United States Agent under the 1819 Act, who was ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to take over the charter of the *Elizabeth* and place on board the stores and materials necessary to build a 'barracks' for 300 people. They sailed for



Africa and reached Freetown, Sierra Leone before sailing down the coast to Sherbro Island, where 29 people including the Government Agent died from disease. To cut a long story short, after a poor start in 1822 a second party landed and took possession of some land which had been purchased by negotiation from local chiefs. Subsequently, after another false start, the Secretary of the Society, Rev. Randolph Gurley paid a short visit to Liberia, which had become the name of the territory, and persuaded a young white man named Jehudi Ashmun to stay there, and between 1824 and 1828 (when



illness forced him to leave) he implemented a complete reorganisation. The main town was named Monrovia in honour of President Monroe. In 1838 the Society raised the status of its Agent to Governor and sent out Thomas Buchanan to fill this post, taking with him a new constitution which, when

accepted by a vote of the people, became their Constitution, and the Society became their servant not their master. On 1st January 1848 Liberia became an independent Republic.

Political steps on the road to Abolition in 1865

In line with the Constitution, in 1807 Congress passed a Law, effective from 1st January 1808, prohibiting the importation of slaves, and this termination of the supply of new labour caused the South to turn to the profitable business of breeding slaves; 700,000 counted in 1790 had

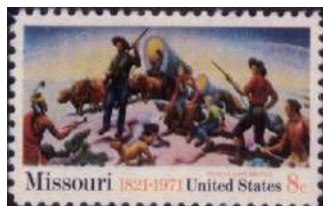


become 4 million by 1860. Slave revolts were always a possibility as had been demonstrated in Haiti, a French territory on the island of Hispaniola, when in 1791 the Slaves revolted under the leadership of a former slave Toussaint L'Ouverture. Some 60,000 people were slaughtered and the French were driven out. Disease contributed to the French decision to abandon reconquest and the Haitian government

became increasingly chaotic, which did not end after it became a Republic in 1820. There were a number of small revolts in the USA, of which the best known was led by Nat Turner (subsequently captured and hanged) in Virginia in 1832, but all were put down by the Planters and the State Militia.

The constitutions of the individual States laid down whether they were 'Slave' or 'Free', and as the nation expanded with the addition of new States, those in the South where Slavery was permitted became concerned that the balance between 'Slave' and 'Free' would swing in favour of the latter to the extent that they would propose an amendment to the Constitution abolishing Slavery.

In 1819 the balance of the Slave and Free States was eleven each, when the settlers in Missouri petitioned the House of Representatives to be allowed to draw up a constitution and enter the Union as a 'slave' State. In 1820 Maine wanted to separate from Massachusetts, so the Senate produced a bill which added Maine to the Missouri bill keeping the balance even,



and the combined bill was sweetened for the North by a proviso that outlawed slavery for ever in the rest of the Louisiana Purchase. This would never have been passed by the House but for the compromising action of Henry Clay

its Speaker, who split the Bill into three parts. Maine became a State in 1820 followed by Missouri in 1821, and the third bill was rejected and was possibly unconstitutional anyway. This Missouri Compromise postponed the Civil War.

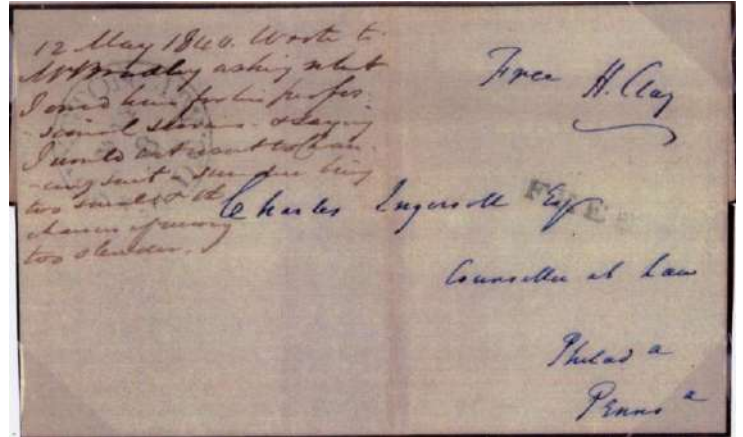
The next major sectional divide in the House arose in 1846 when a Pennsylvania Democrat, David Wilmot [Fig. 32], attached an Amendment to the \$2million Appropriations Bill, which President Polk had requested for the conduct of the conflict with Mexico. Known as the Wilmot Proviso the amendment prohibited slavery in any territory acquired from the Mexican War (1846-48). There was bitter debate on sectional lines and the proviso was never passed.

The eventual temporary settlement of the complex problems arising out of the War with Mexico is known as the Compromise of 1850. Henry Clay [Fig. 33] (Senator 183-42 and 1849-52) tried to produce an omnibus bill covering all aspects, and when this failed he left Washington for several weeks. Senator Stephen A. Douglas [Fig. 34] took over and shepherded the measures through the Senate one at a time, and his lieutenants did the same in the House. In summary the bills addressed each of five points. First the admission of California as a 'free' State in 1850 [Fig. 35]. Next the formation of Territorial Governments

for New Mexico (which included Arizona) and Utah (which included Nevada) on the basis of 'Popular Sovereignty' which left the slavery issue to be decided by popular vote when they



David Wilmot



Henry Clay



Stephen Douglas



California



Nevada



Taney

became States; only Nevada [Fig. 36], in 1864, became a State (Free) before slavery was abolished throughout the USA in 1865. The third bill revised the boundaries of Texas (a 'slave' state since 1845) and the USA took over responsibilities for the debts inherited from the former Texas Republic. Deeply unpopular in the North, the fourth Bill enacted a harsh Fugitive Slave Act replacing the 1793 statute; it required the State authorities in all States to detain and return runaway slaves. Finally the slave trade, but not slavery itself, was abolished in the District of Columbia. Overall it could be said that it was a victory for the North and a consolidated nation.

In 1834 a slave named Dred Scott had been taken from Missouri into an area where slavery was prohibited and lived there for four years which allegedly gave him freedom. In 1846 he sued for his liberty in a Missouri Court and the case was appealed up the legal ladder until in 1852 the Supreme Court found against him and Chief Justice Taney [Fig. 37] handed down a ruling that as a slave he was not a citizen and could not sue in court. He went on to expand the ruling by declaring that only individual States and not Congress had the power to declare slavery illegal and the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was Unconstitutional.

Next came a disaster brought on by the passage in 1856 of the Kansas-Nebraska Act which repealed the Missouri Compromise (of 1820) allowing the people in the Kansas and Nebraska Territories, both organised in 1854, to apply 'popular sovereignty' and vote for or

against slavery when they became States. Free-soilers came in from the mid-west and the East and slavers moved up from the South leading to border warfare with arson, pillage, lynching and pitched battles as people tried to settle and so gain the right to vote. 'Bleeding Kansas' was the name given to the border warfare lasting from 1854-1859, and fervid abolitionists like Rev. Henry Ward Beecher sent in rifles which became known as Beecher's Bibles. As already mentioned John Brown joined the struggle in 1855.



Though Kansas became a 'free' State (34th) in 1861, Nebraska (36th) had to wait until 1867.

In 1858 Abraham Lincoln (Republican), a comparatively little known politician, challenged Stephen A. Douglas (Democrat) for one of the two Illinois Senate seats, and overnight became nationally known following a series of seven debates. After the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Douglas retained his seat but Lincoln had obtained enough national publicity to defeat him in the 1860 Presidential Election.

The 1860 Presidential Election was a momentous one for the nation and saw major restructuring of the political parties. Each of the four main parties contesting the election is represented by a Presidential Campaign Cover. The Republican Party, formed in 1854, was anti-slavery and pro the preservation of the Union and prosperity increasing activities like building a transcontinental railroad. Its candidate John C. Frémont came second in the 1856



Elections. This time it nominated Abraham Lincoln as its candidate. The Democratic Party split at its Convention in April, unable to nominate a candidate when the



Southern States walked out. The majority of the party reconvened from 18th – 23rd June 1860 and nominated Stephen A. Douglas as its candidate, and an endorsement of 'popular sovereignty' as its policy on slavery in new territories; and for this election adopted the name 'Northern Democratic Party'.

The dissenting Southern States held a separate Convention and adopted John C. Breckinridge [Fig. 42] (the incumbent Vice-President) as its Candidate; changed its name to the Southern Democratic Party and adopted a strongly pro-slavery platform. The Constitutional Union Party was formed for this election and drawn mainly from the border states, with a policy of being



No

The election was held on 6th November. Lincoln won 18 States with 180 out of 303 Electoral Votes and 1,866,000 popular votes. Next came Breckinridge with 11 States, 72 Electoral Votes and 848,000 popular votes. Bell won 3 States with 39 Electoral votes and only 591,000 popular votes. Last came Douglas winning 2 States with only 12 Electoral Votes but a huge popular vote of 1,375,000.

Before a State could leave the Union it had to hold a State Convention to gain a vote for secession. The Southern States took fright and began to secede from the Union with South Carolina being the first to hold its Convention followed by secession on 20th December 1860. The Confederacy was formed on 4th February 1861 in Montgomery, Alabama after seven States had seceded. Tennessee was the last to secede on 8th June 1861. No arrangements had been made for a postal service so this continued to be provided by the Union until 31st May 1861. Any State seceding before 4th February 1861 immediately became an Independent State



since it was no longer part of the Union. For example Alabama (4th State) became Independent from 11th January 1861 and this cover from Montgomery dated 17th January was carried by the Union Postal Service. The Confederate Capital was moved from Montgomery, Al. to Richmond, Va. on 21st May 1861.

Lincoln was unable to take any action until the 'lame duck' period ended and he was inaugurated on 4th March 1861. In his address he said "I have no purpose to interfere with the institution of slavery... No State on its own mere action can go out of the Union". This made it clear that the war would be over secession not slavery. The war began on 12th April 1861 when South Carolina Forces fired on Fort Sumter which surrendered on 13th. Abraham Lincoln declared a state of insurrection, not war, on 15th April and on 2nd July 1861 authorised the suspension of Habeas Corpus in exceptional cases; he took no notice of a ruling by Chief

Justice Taney that this was unconstitutional.



As the war went on it became clear that slavery had to be abolished. Lincoln waited for the Union victory at Antietam on 17th

September 1862 which, 5 days later, enabled him to make his Emancipation Proclamation which became effective on 1st January 1863. Arming Negroes was a controversial subject, even in the North, but at the time of the Emancipation Proclamation Lincoln called for four Negro Regiments to be formed and recruiting began.

This cover used by the Office Superintendent Recruiting/ U.S. TROOPS (COLORED)/

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF has a CDS NEW YORK SEP.16 with docketed year 1862 on the reverse, and is addressed to M.L. Stevens, Lt. 20th Rgt V.A.C, Wheeling, West Virginia. By the end of the war there were 300,000 negroes in 166 Regiments.

The war ended on 12th April 1865 when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. Lincoln was assassinated in Washington, DC on 15th April 1865 and this story ends with the ratification on



18th December 1865 of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery.

Editor's Note

For additional information see Ian's article in *Topical Time* March 1994 (Issue 264) entitled "Creation of the Liberian Republic 1816-1848".

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THE T.T. RACES 1907-2007 FINAL LAP

John Hayward concludes his series of four articles on the Isle of Man T.T. Races.

In the first three articles I concentrated on the Races themselves over the last 100 years. In this final article I will look at the distinctive features and landmarks of the TT, the riders and the machinery.

Most people arrive in the Isle of Man via the Isle of Man Steam Packet ferry. The Manx Post Office celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the ferry company in 2005 with a set of stamps which included in the selvedge at the bottom of the stamps scenes of TT fans waiting to board the ferry (figure 1). Once you get to the Island pre-TT entertainment awaits you in the shape of the Purple Helmets (figure 2). During TT week there is traditionally a display by the Red Arrows above Douglas Promenade (figure 3).



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

One of the best places to watch the TT is the Grandstand at the start and finish in Douglas, where a mobile post office has been established for many years with a special Grandstand handstamp (figure 4), though strangely enough no special handstamp was available this year of all years! There are many famous landmarks and viewing points round the course too. Perhaps the most famous are on the mountain section of the course where it reaches its highest point at the Bungalow (figure 5).



Fig 4



Fig 5

There is a nice scene too in a booklet commemorating the Centenary of the Isle of Man Mountain Railway in 1995 of a train crossing the TT course (figure 6). Governor's Bridge within sight of the finish is the slowest point on the course (figure 7).



Fig 6

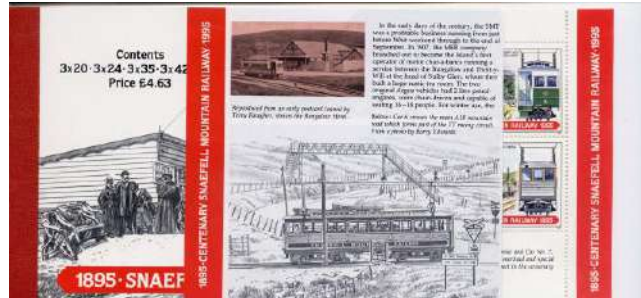


Fig 7

There are of course many winners of the TT Races over the years, and I cannot pick them all out, but plenty of them have been shown on the Island's stamps and you have a wide choice over lots of issues ever since 1973. Let me select a few of the more famous who have not appeared in the previous articles. From the early days there is Alec Bennett, the first Irish Winner of the TT, in 1922 (figure 8), and Bob McIntyre who in 1957 achieved the first lap at 100mph (figure 9).



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10

In the sidecar class Jock Taylor will be remembered for his three victories (figure 10). And we cannot forget dear old George Formby whose film "No Limit" in the 1930s epitomised the TT (figure 11).



called being the daddy of them all. (Fig 12) Today's machinery looks quite modest by comparison.

I do not think I will await the second Centenary of the TT before I go back again, but meanwhile I can enjoy some of the ambience of this classic event from the pages of my album.



The machines themselves have been nothing short of exotic at times. They were naturally very primitive in the early years with belt drive. Greater power meant sturdier machines and sprung frames (figure 12). Then along came streamlining in the 1950s with perhaps the Norton "Kneeler" of 1953 or "Fling Bomb" as it was



Fig 12

NEW ISSUES

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

SILK LIGATURES AND SUTURES

Tom Wilson looks at the early medical history of one of our finest fabrics

In the year 1271, Marco Polo, 1254 – 1324, a Venetian merchant, accompanied his father and his uncle on an expedition along The Great Silk Road to China. Why is it called “The Great Silk Road”? Because only the Chinese knew the secret of making silk. The Road that wound through Kangsu, Sinkiang and Tartary (modern Uzbekistan) was the only feasible route for the camel trains that carried silk fabrics to the markets of Europe, where they would fetch their weight in gold. Marco Polo entered the service of Kublai Khan until 1275. He returned to Europe by sea in 1292 - 95. He was captured while fighting for Venice against the Genoese and he passed the time during his imprisonment by writing the book of his travels by which he is remembered.



The 700th anniversary of Marco Polo’s birth was celebrated by a pair of stamps from Italy in 1954 (SG 869/70, Scott 655/6). Tashkent and Samarkand are cities on the Road, which are depicted on Russian stamps (1958 SG 2272, and 1963 SG2915/7, Scott 2808/2810). A stamp from Japan, 1988, (SG1943, Scott 1773) honoured something called the “Silk Road Exposition.”

Silk is a natural fibre used in the manufacture of textiles, and also in surgery. The fine soft thread is manufactured by the larva of the silkworm moth, (*Bombyx mori*) and some other insects. The caterpillar feeds on the leaves of the White Mulberry Tree. *Morus alba*, Moraceae: (North Vietnam 1974, 30x. SG N782; Maldives Islands 1975, 4-1. SG 560). When the caterpillar is ready to pupate, the larva prepares its protective cocoon by extruding a gummy liquid from its mouth, which quickly becomes 275 metres of a thin thread which the insect winds around itself. To keep the thread intact, the larva is killed by immersion in boiling water before it can emerge as a moth. Several threads are combined to form the commercial yarn which can be woven into fabric.



Silk originated around 5000BC from Japan, China and Thailand, whence it is still exported. None of these three countries has so far depicted silk or the silkworm on any stamp.



The principal European centres where silk has been manufactured for generations are Lyons, (France 1939, Scott 395, 1949 (Air), SG 1057, Scott C25; St. Etienne 1960, France SG1469; Scott 951); Milan (Italy 1980, 10L, SG1650); Turin (Italy 1951, 201. SG 785; Scott 577); Zurich (Switzerland 1983, SG1051 Scott 749); Basel (Switzerland 1944, SG440, Scott B136). Other related products include silkworm gut, which simply consists of strands drawn from the intestines of silkworms and comes mainly from Spain.

Ambroise Pare (1510-1590), a French military surgeon, was erroneously credited with the introduction of the ligature into surgery. He pointed out that Hippocrates in the 5th century BC recommended ‘the recovery of fistulas of the fundament by ligature, as much to absorb callosity as to avoid haemorrhage.’ But Pare may have been the first to employ ligatures following amputations.

The Greek physician Galen (130 – 200AD) wrote, ‘the ligature is most sure when tied to the root of the vessel.’ Ligature of arteries is mentioned in the works of Celsus (130- 200 AD), Vesalius (1514-1564), Guy de Chauliac (1300-1368) and others in the Middle Ages.

Best remembered for his book *The Office and Duty of the Surgeon’s Mate* John Woodall, 1556 - 1643, had a varied career. An army surgeon, he became Surgeon to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, London, then Surgeon General to the East India Company, before entering the Royal Navy in 1626.

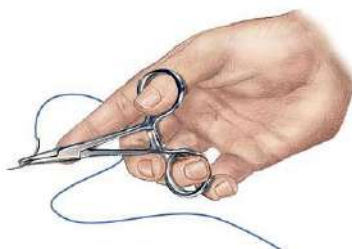
“In the plaister box forget not to have three ready needles well-armed and pointed of several sizes. I mean, threded (sic) with strong coloured silk, well waxed.”

John Lizars, author of *Practical Surgery*, Edinburgh 1838, also recommended fine silk, or dentist silk, among other threads for use as sutures. Before Joseph Lister advocated antiseptic surgery, the old-fashioned surgeon would operate in a filthy old frock coat stiff with bloodstains, with a bunch of silk ligatures threaded through one of the buttonholes. Joseph Lister, Professor of Surgery at Glasgow University, introduced carbolic silk for sutures, obtained by boiling the thread for 15 minutes in a 2.5% solution of carbolic acid (phenol).



Joseph Lister

Artificial silk, or rayon, a synthetic thread derived from plant cellulose, was first made from nitro-cellulose in 1883 by Hilaire de Chardonnet (or Chardonnay), France 1955, SG 1244, Scott 762, and manufacture commenced at Beşancon in 1890. The product caused demand for the natural textiles to fall off considerably. However, rising standards of living have restored the balance and the trade is flourishing once again. ☒



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THE SUPPORTIVE ROLE OF POSTAL SERVICES IN ARRIVING AT THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

Neil Pearce gives us a different perspective on one of man's greatest theoretical discoveries

The distinguished scientist Charles Darwin was a prolific letter writer. According to one of his biographers, he corresponded with

“civil servants, army officers, diplomats, fur-trappers, horse breeders, breeders, society ladies, Welsh farmers, zookeepers, pigeon-fanciers, fanciers, gardeners, asylum owners and kennel hands.”¹



From Darwin's home, Down House in Kent, letters were directed to all corners of the world; replies by mail were duly received from his numerous correspondents. By 1877 he had probably spent the equivalent of £2,000 on postage and stationery.

Through all the exchange of information and ideas, from numerous sources, Charles was able to gain incontrovertible supporting evidence for the remarkable processes of evolution. Yet he still hesitated to publicise his findings. It was only when he received a startling letter from Alfred Russell Wallace in the East Indies, containing that scientist's theory of natural selection and the development of new species, that Darwin was sufficiently motivated to publish his own seminal work *The Origin of Species*. To his credit he felt ashamed of his “trumpety” feelings of disappointment that his ‘priority’ of discovery was compromised.

Fortunately, Charles was to overcome his understandable emotions and to agree with colleagues that the revelation of the theory should appear in a review which credited both Darwin and Wallace. When they eventually met, the two men became friends and were fully able to respect each other's contributions to the theory of evolution.

Thus the exchange of letters, courtesy of 19th century postal services in many countries around the world, enabled a profoundly important scientific theory to be propounded. The paths of inquiry followed by both Darwin and Wallace are open to this day, supported by scholars such as Richard Hawkins, and still providing knowledge and ideas. ☒



¹ Browne, J. (2002) *Charles Darwin: the Power of Place*.

JERSEY STAMP PROGRAMME 2008

15th January

Signals

Selection of the meteorological and navigational signals used in Jersey; celebrating the 300th anniversary of the Fort Regent Signal Station. The Signal Station was built on Mont de la Ville, above St. Helier, in 1708. Fort Regent was built on the site in 1814, and the Signal Station relocated to it. It is no longer manned throughout the year, but from 2007 the States of Jersey have agreed pay the Jersey Heritage Trust to operate it; meaning that on all days that flags are flown on public buildings the Station will be Dressed Overall; and warning flags will be flown for high tides, strong winds and gale warnings; and visiting vessels will be acknowledged.



14th February Europa – The Letter

PostEurop's 2008 theme promoting "writing letters" depicts four different styles of hand written letters: 35p Thank-you letter, 39p Love letter, 43p Letter to Santa Claus, and 76p Family letter. This is the ultimate stamp-on-stamp design, with the stamp on the envelope depicted on each of the four stamps being the stamp itself. Or maybe it's the stamp-within-a-stamp.



JERSEY STAMP PROGRAMME 2008

The following sets all feature six stamps and one miniature sheet unless otherwise stated:

30th March **Jersey Eisteddfod Centenary**

5 stamps and miniature sheet featuring the creative arts: drama, speech, music, photography, dance, painting, needlecrafts and flower arranging.

8th April **Jersey Transport II**

Jersey buses from the 1920's to recent times.

18th May **World Jersey Cattle Bureau**

Miniature sheet only, showing a Jersey bull.

20th May **Jersey Orchids VI**

Hybrid orchids bred at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation in Jersey.

24th June **Jersey Naval Connections II**

British Royal Naval vessels which have visited Jersey. Also includes a Prestige Booklet.

26th August **Jersey Festival of Speed**

The classic car race. Miniature sheet only

26th August **Jersey Royal Agricultural and horticultural Society**

Five non-value indicator stamps for operational use within Jersey, featuring farm animals.

9th September **Jersey Nature: Insects II**

Stamps only.

19th October **Jersey Birdlife II: Migrating Birds**

Includes a souvenir sheetlet.

14th November 2008 **60th Birthday HRH The Prince of Wales**

One stamp and miniature sheet.



AS EASY AS ABC?

Wendy Buckle explains how we communicated without an alphabet.

“In the beginning was the word” and for thousands of years the spoken word was sufficient for communication; but from around 30,000 years ago man began to paint and carve images (see *Themescene* September 2007). While these were sufficient for a nomadic hunting society they did not work well when man settled, farmed and built towns and cities. For these it was necessary to record trade, laws, and inevitably, taxes. Thus around 3,500BC in Mesopotamia (what is now Iran and Iraq) stylized pictures called pictographs were first used. Over hundreds of years they developed into symbols, normally inscribed on clay, called cuneiform, meaning “wedge-shaped” after the shape of the reed stylus. Images began as having a literal meaning: for instance a disc with rays meant ‘sun’ but over time developed into associated concepts such as light, day or heat. A major development from this was the phonogram, where symbols represented sounds rather than images, thus making it possible to write syllables. This did not immediately cut down the number of signs needed, since a syllable represents a single sound, for instance in English la, th, ch, or mo; but cuneiform was eventually refined to around six hundred syllables, with complex words formed by a series of symbols. It came to be used across the whole of the Middle and Near East, including Sumeria, Assyria, Babylon and the Persian Empire.



Cuneiform clay tablets

Contemporary with cuneiform were hieroglyphs in Egypt. The Classical period before 600BC used around seven hundred symbols. Used in monumental inscriptions on tombs and palaces the symbols did not become simplified, but stayed as realistic pictures. (Hieroglyphics can be written in any direction, but if you want to impress someone looking at a block of hieroglyphs tell them which way they were written: animal symbols were always drawn facing the beginning of the line). But like cuneiform, hieroglyphs changed from literal meanings, to associated concepts, and finally syllabic sounds. While these symbols were perfect for chiselling into stone, or painting on plaster, they were totally unsuitable for writing on to papyrus. Two different scripts were developed for this: hieratic, meaning ‘sacred’ because it was used by priests for religious purposes; and demotic, used by



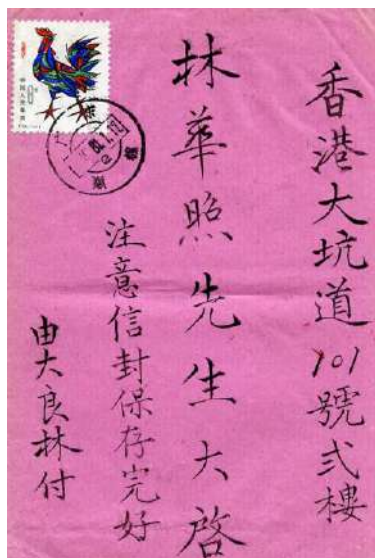
businessmen and civil servants, with simple rounded characters which could be swiftly written with a brush on to papyrus.

The translation of these three scripts was achieved with the discovery of the Rosetta Stone by Napoleon's troops in 1799. This is a slab of rock with three sets of writing: hieroglyphics, demotic and ancient Greek. Once it was realised that each block said the same thing the race was on to crack the code, led by an Englishman Thomas Young and a Frenchman Jean-Francois Champollion. Young, having deciphered nearly 80 words, published his findings in 1819; but in 1822 Champollion made a major breakthrough, correcting and enlarging Young's list. Champollion is credited as the man who deciphered the tablet. The Rosetta Stone was ceded to the British in 1801, and today it is one of the great treasures of the British Museum.



Champollion

It was not only the Middle East that used symbols. A pictographic system was known in China before 2,000BC. Unlike many scripts it has undergone only relatively minor changes over time, and to this day it retains the system of a simple word or concept being represented by a single or repeated symbol, resulting in a collection of around 50,000 symbols. Although a basic set of about 4,000 is enough for everyday purposes it did little in the past to encourage universal literacy. And while this may seem very cumbersome it has one great advantage: because the signs represent concepts they can be read by anyone who speaks any Chinese language or dialect. This is not unlike our use of Arabic numerals: a French, German or English speaker would refer to trois, drei or three, but all would know what 3 means, not because it spells anything but because it simply “is”. The result is that a Chinese reader alive today can understand classical texts, without having any idea how the words were pronounced when written. (In case you are wondering, Chinese dictionaries are arranged around 214 radicals, which are portions of a character. The number of strokes in the radical –which can be one or multiples - work for the Chinese as an aid for finding a character as does our dictionary ordering of ABC).



During the Han dynasty (206BC – 220AD) the system was exported to Japan, at that time culturally far less developed. To cope with the fundamental differences between Chinese and Japanese languages modern Japanese has adapted the signs by adding phonetic elements.



This pair of stamps were issued for Manchukuo (Japanese occupied China). They show Chinese characters on the top stamp, and their Japanese equivalents on the bottom one.



Vietnamese uses modified Chinese characters, but a second script, still in use today, was introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the 16th century for dictionaries and religious texts.



*Alexandre de Rhodes
Jesuit scholar who romanised Vietnamese*

Korean is not covered in this article, because despite its outward appearance it is not a symbolic system, it is a pure alphabet, and alphabets will be covered in the next article in this series.

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**FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT
FOR THEMATICA**

GROUP NEWS

THE OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AT CARNOUSTIE: ALBA MEMBERS TO THE RESCUE.



Stuart Mackenzie, editor of our *Scottish Stamp News* was disappointed to learn that the Royal & Ancient had decided not to sponsor the special handstamp for this year's Open at Carnoustie. So he phoned around for help. Royal Mail one day special postmarks cost £230 these days, so he needed 23 folk to give £10 each. Seventeen Alba members responded, as well as six members of the IPGS (International Philatelic Golf Society).*

Stuart reports that he was pleased to hear many of the sponsors say that they would support any future special cancellations when the Open is next held in Scotland. That will be Turnberry in 2009 and St Andrews in 2010.

* The IPGS was founded by Stuart Mackenzie in 1978, has 200 members and is now based in the United States.

GUILD OF ST GABRIEL



Programme for 2008

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 19 th January | 10 sheets or 10p – all members |
| 16 th February | Letter 'A' – all members |
| 15 th March | National AGM (1300 to 1700) |
| 19 th April | Religious festivals – 11 members |
| 17 th May | Church architecture – Len Yandell |
| 21 st June | “Religion on Stamps” – led by President and Secretary |

All meetings are held at St. Wilfred's Convent, 29 Tite Street, Chelsea, commencing at 1400 (except AGM).

HALF PAGE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THAMES THEMES

HERE AND THERE

YOUNG STAMP COLLECTORS ALIVE AND WELL IN SCOTLAND.

Stamp collecting by primary school children was well to the fore at South West Congress, the annual event organised by the philatelic societies in South West Scotland. This year's congress, held as usual at Queen Margaret's Academy, Ayr on Saturday 6th October, was organised by the Old Eastwood Society. As well as displays from members of the local societies, there were contributions from over 40 schoolchildren, including 19 entries in the one page open competition which is judged on the day by all those at the Congress.

This year's winner was Cameron Garroway of Burnside Primary School, Rutherglen with his entry on "The Build up to D Day", with Laura Estcourt of Doonfoot Primary School, Ayr a very close second with her "Willie Wonka's Golden Ticket".



© Planet Stamp

WANTED: HELP !!!

Stamp Active Network is a small group of collectors dedicated to introducing young schoolchildren to the joys of stamp collecting. However we can only do so much on our own and need the active help of all others in the hobby – fellow collectors and dealers – to give a hand. With schools back, and school stamp clubs restarting, we desperately need all those stamps and duplicates that you have been hoarding: especially bright, colourful thematic issues – animals, birds, flowers, transport – or whatever else you think will appeal especially to young new

collectors. These are particularly needed by Tim and Maureen to send to new members of the Kidstamps club. They can be contacted at kidstamps@hotmail.co.uk or check your local SAN contact on www.planetstamp.co.uk in the club leader section – Who are we.

All donations will be gratefully accepted - **don't wait - do it now !!!!!!!**

Anyone wishing to mail donations of stamps can send them to:

Kidstamps, 46 Moorfield Road, Rothwell, Nr. Kettering, Northants, NN14 6AT.

STANLEY GIBBONS

It may be that everyone already knows this, but here's a tip for searching thematic issues: Stanley Gibbons web pages have a feature under their New Issues section called "Topical Search" <http://www.stanleygibbons.com/newissues/> Unfortunately, you have to search via a subject menu rather than free text, but if you can find a relevant heading you are likely to get lots of hits. But another drawback is there is no description of the sets, so you may find yourself peering at the illustration on the screen.

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*

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

Solicitor Mike Roberts offers some advice.

The Editor has his contact details if you would like to know more.

What a miserable subject to think about! You have filled your last stock book, licked your last hinge (assuming you are not an unmounted mint fanatic) and gone to join the Great Philatelic Society in the Sky. Working on the basis that you can't take your collections with you, what will happen to them when you are gone?

Sadly, we probably all know of examples of former collectors who did not make proper arrangements for the ultimate disposal of their collections. In the worst cases, these have ended up in skips, rotting away in damp cupboards, or have been carted off to the local furniture auctioneers and sold for a pittance. Maybe a distressed widow has been persuaded by a friendly "dealer" to accept a derisory sum just to get rid of all the clutter. Usually it will not be as bad as that, but with a little forethought you should be able to ensure that all of your treasures find the best new homes after you have gone, with the maximum financial benefit to your family.

The key is to make plans as soon as possible and keep them under review. Of major importance is to identify perhaps a couple of trusted philatelic colleagues (likely to be members of an appropriate specialist society) who will be prepared either to act as executors of your will (possibly in addition to family members) or at least be happy to give expert guidance to the executors on your death. They will know which auctioneers are best for particular sections of your collection (some are better at postal history than stamps and vice versa: what about overseas auctioneers or dealers?) and may suggest that particular sections of your collection could best be dealt with within the specialist society itself to the benefit of the society, its members and your estate. They would ensure that your research notes and library were preserved for the benefit of future generations of specialists.

So here is a suggested strategy:

1. Consider the things a non-collector would need to think about before making a will. Who should inherit the bulk of the estate? What happens if they die before you? Are there any individuals or charities that should be left a legacy?
2. Who should act as executor? Should a special philatelic executor be appointed? Ask the people concerned whether they would be willing to take on the job.
3. Talk to your executors about your collection. Give the lay executors details of who to contact for help. Be honest about the value of your collection. If you have spent far more on your collection than your family thinks, now is perhaps the time to come clean with them!
4. Contact a solicitor who specialises in will drafting. Not only will he be able to set out your wishes in a way which is legally binding, but will be able to help with any tax planning or other relevant issues. There are ways of arranging your affairs, particularly if you are married, to ensure the maximum tax benefit to you rather than the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There are also a number of traps into which the unwary can easily fall. A solicitor who is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (Contact details: Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), 26 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W OGT, Telephone: 020 7838 4890) will have the specialist knowledge to advise you on these points.

It must be admitted, this is a fairly dour subject to contemplate. All collectors, however, surely have a duty to themselves, their collection, future generations of students and their family to ensure that the proper arrangements are made when the album is finally closed. ☒

AUTUMN STAMPEX

From the Stampex Press Release

This was the first time Stampex had not been open on a Sunday, and not surprisingly there was a drop in the total attendance. But for those who did go there was plenty on offer: each visitor received a free limited edition postcard, showing an unadopted design of song thrushes for the 1998 Endangered Species issue. The tenth Stampex Business Customised sheet, entitled “British Garden Birds” was a popular purchase for collectors. As usual the Village Green had a stand by the Royal Mail, this time offering a cancellation for the first day of issue of the British Army Uniforms issue on the Thursday of Stampex. Complementing this was a display on the Village Green by the British Forces Post Office of a couple of real Field Post Offices and the ability to send an E-Bluey. A number of special cacheted covers were signed by Brigadier Mike Hickson and Royal Mail Stamps Director David Walker.

Among meetings of seven specialist societies were those of the Concorde Study Circle and the Bird Stamp Society. ☒



SPRING STAMPEX 2008

27th February – 3rd March

Wednesday 27th February 1130 – 1900

Thursday, Friday 28th – 29th February 1030 – 1800

Saturday 1st March 0930 – 1700

Featuring: Austrian Philatelic Society on the Village Green
And all the usual features such as Royal Mail, society meetings,
National Youth Stamp Group, and a free postcard for all visitors.

Just4kIDS

(Themescene Juniors)

The Right Royal Family

*Did you know the Queen owns one of the best stamp collections in the world?
Do you fancy having a Right Royal Stamp Collection of your own?
Well, how about trying to find a stamp from the reign of each King or Queen
since stamps were invented? Give it a try.*



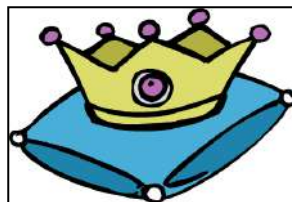
QUEEN VICTORIA. Good old Queen Vic fancied seeing herself every time she received a letter, so she had her portrait on the first ever stamp, way back in 1840. The stamp was known as The Penny Black because, er, it cost one old Penny (1d), and it was Black! So it would be a good idea to start your Right Royal



Collection with a stamp showing Queen Victoria. (By the way, most Penny Black Stamps are quite expensive to buy now, but there are lots of other far less expensive Victorian stamps you could collect.)



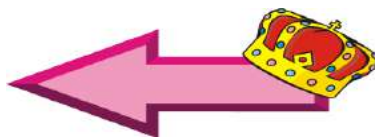
EDWARD VII (7TH). When Queen Vic died in 1901 she was aged 82, and she'd been Queen for 64 years! Her eldest son, Edward, was already 60 when he became king next. Edward and young brother Alfred were the first royal stamp collectors.



GEORGE V (5th). When Edward snuffed it , his son George became king, and he was given his father's stamp collection. Now this George was totally potty about stamps. Yes, he loved them, spent hours looking at his albums and arranging his stamps. And because he was so rich, he could afford to buy lots of very expensive stamps, and he had one of the best collections in the world. In fact, in 1904 he set a new world record when he bought a Two Penny Blue stamp from Mauritius for £1,450. No one had ever spent that much on one stamp before!



EDWARD VIII (8th). When George died, his eldest son Edward was supposed to become King Edward VIII (8th). But when he announced that he wanted to marry a divorced woman, parliament told him that he would have to abdicate - that means, give up becoming king. He had to choose, the woman he loved or the throne? No problem, he chose the woman! However, stamps had already been made with Edward's head on them, so you can include him in your Right Royal Collection as 'The King Who Never Was!'



GEORGE VI (6th). When Edward abdicated, his brother George became king instead. He hadn't expected to become king, and was a bit unsure at first, but he became a good and popular king. During his reign the Second World War broke out, and he was popular because he stayed living in London during the bombing raids rather than moving away to somewhere safer, and the people thought he was brave. The palace even got partly bombed in one raid!



ELIZABETH II (2nd). George also collected stamps, and when he popped his clogs and died in 1952, he left all his stamps to his daughter, our Queen Elizabeth, and she still has them. In fact, she has a very valuable letter with a block of 10 Penny Blacks from the first day stamps were used (6th May 1840), the largest number of Penny Blacks on one letter on that first day anywhere in the world!



So now your Right Royal Collection is up to date, but you can add to it further by finding stamps of Queen Elizabeth's children - Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.



*If you would like to win a set of Royal stamps, answer this -
Who will be the next King or Queen after Queen Elizabeth?*

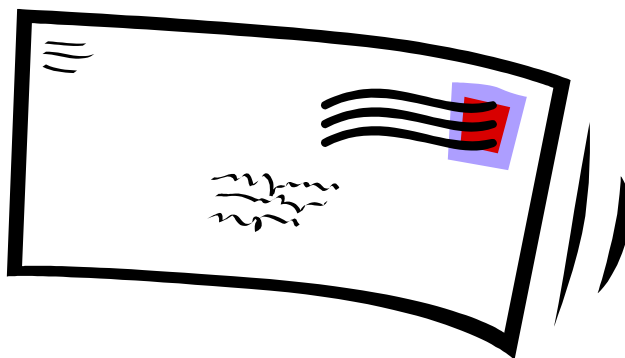
WRITE TO US!

*Send all your jokes, poems, drawings and letters to;
Just4Kids,*

c/o The Editor, Themescene, 71 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1NW



A PRIZE WILL BE SENT TO EVERYONE WHO WRITES IN



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Kirk, Catherine A.

Watercraft on stamps II

ATA Handbook no. 156

315pp, 92 b&w illus., 52 colour illus.



This second volume (vol.1 was published in 1991) lists stamps found in the 1999 Scott catalogue, listed by country. As well as stamp listings there are write-ups of specific types of watercraft including dugouts, Viking boats, clipper ships and the Panama Canal. There are also short articles on topics including the first stamp showing ships, earliest stories of ship-building, navigation, maritime tall tales, St. Brendan and other Irish sailors, Columbus, *The Mayflower*, *The USS Constellation*, Cape Horners, modern tall ships, famous liners and submarines. ☒

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