

THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

Journal of the
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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

As is to be expected, Eurothema reports take pride of place in this issue, with a detailed and enthusiastic report from Simon Moorcroft (page 7); a triumphant “first” for the BTA in hosting such an important event. There is only room for a few photos here; for a large selection see the Eurothema website at:

<http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/europhotos.htm> Our thanks to our Webmaster Jim Wigmore for his work here and throughout the BTA website.

I was approached recently by our Ex-President Margaret Morris and asked to include an article by Philippe Durand from 1948. As it was to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Glasgow Thematic Society, for which Margaret will be President during its Diamond Jubilee year, I was pleased to do so. It was not until I read the article myself (page 20) that I realised just how relevant the article is today. There are still country collectors who regard thematic collectors as outcasts, and some dealers still dislike breaking up sets, but I’m pleased to say most people’s attitudes have changed. Had they not, Eurothema would never have taken place. I suspect Capt. Durand would have been staggered to see the role of thematics in international philately today.

For the first time with this issue the index to the previous volume is included as part of the text, rather than a loose-leaf insert. This is to keep the cost of postage down, since 40 pages teeters close to the edge of a weight limit – over that and we incur more unnecessary cost. It has been compiled, as ever, by Alan Sabey.



In closing this Editorial, it’s time to move on. Now we look forward to the 8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition at Harrogate from 2nd – 3rd May, with around 40 dealers already booked, and featuring the National Philatelic Competitions. Full details of the event are available at <http://www.harrogate2008.org.uk/>

I’m looking forward to a few days in this historic town, and would welcome meeting and talking to *Themescene* readers there. From Harrogate, it’s on to Essen, where the European Championship for Thematic Philately will be held from 8th to 10th May. UK exhibitors will be Sheila Foster *The Rose*, Lesley Marley *A Whale’s Tale*, David Hunter *Sugar* and Richard Wheeler *Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets*. We wish them all the best of luck. ☒



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

You can read about Eurothema 2007 elsewhere in this issue. It was a great success. From a personal point of view it was over too quickly. The first day was spent judging and the morning of the second was spent giving critiques. Our team of six provided an excellent range of themes and material and did well to finish 3rd out of the five teams. It was disappointing that so few visitors attended Thematica II on the second day. The hope that visitors to the Croydon 2007 event, held on Friday and Saturday, would visit Thematica II and Eurothema 2007 on Sunday, did not materialise. The clashing of the two events meant that I had to miss the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, also held during the Croydon event, for the first time for many years. It is pointless now to reiterate that the dates for Eurothema had been fixed before the dates of Croydon 2007 AND the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain events were announced. However, it would be helpful if ABPS could coordinate the dates of major exhibitions, to avoid such clashes. I am pleased that the original intention to hold this year's PCGB during the National Philatelic Exhibition at Harrogate on 2 - 3 May 2008 has been scrapped. The PCGB 2008 will now be take place on 25 - 27 July 2008 in Stratford on Avon.

In recent years, UK exhibitors have supported Eurothema events, open to collectors whose exhibits have not been awarded a vermeil medal or higher at an International FIP Exhibition. In 2006 the European Championship for Thematic Philately was held in Essen, Germany, for the first time. All exhibitors in this European Championship had to be qualified to enter FIP International Exhibitions in the thematic class and to have submitted a thematic exhibit in at least one FIP or FEPA Exhibition. An innovation was the breakdown of exhibits into eight separate classes e.g. Class 1, Arts and Culture, Class 2, History and Organisations etc. The Championship was held again in 2007 and in both years the UK provided entries and one juror, qualified to judge at European or International level. Christine Earle, our FIP Thematic co-ordinator, has received an invitation to take part in the 3rd European Championship in May 2008.

Competing in competitions is the best way to improve one's collection. Not only is it possible, in most cases, to receive a critique from the judges, but simply by exhibiting at even Federation level, other collectors will offer advice on items which could be added and in some cases, errors of fact, within your text! If you have only competed in Club and Federation competitions until now, do seriously consider entering a National competition. It does mean that you will need to spend time revising your Plan of the exhibit and also ensuring that there is a continuous thread running through the exhibit. This will involve some research, which will improve your thematic knowledge. There is always a thrill in seeing your exhibit displayed in frames at an Exhibition, whatever medal level is achieved!

The Glasgow Thematic Society, one of the oldest Thematic Societies in the UK, celebrates its 60th anniversary on, appropriately, 6 May 2008. The Society is opening a small Exhibition within the Mitchell Library, Glasgow on that day. There will also be a celebratory Dinner at the Ross Priory on the night before. I was very pleased to be invited by our Past-President Margaret Morris, to be a guest at the Dinner and I am looking forward to attending the Dinner and the Exhibition. ☒

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	228
Family members	20
Junior members	5
Society members	16
Overseas members	21
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	3
Total number of members (at 31 st January 2008)	294

Subscription Renewals

By this time you will have received your copy of the December '07 magazine containing the Subscription Renewal form. This year has been exceptional and I already have some 169 subscriptions for the coming year. This leaves 125 individuals and societies to pay so please heed our plea concerning escalating postage costs, which eat up a goodly proportion of each subscription, and return your renewal slip and cheque without the need for reminders.

With emails and web sites plus all the wizardry that goes with them, it is astonishing to see how widely the BTA is known. A few weeks before Christmas, I received an email from Sri Lanka from a Pastor in one of the local churches. Sadly, he was not seeking to join our association, but was looking for help with a fairly major project. In the wake of the Tsunami the Pastor has been working with the youth of his area and encouraging their rehabilitation by setting up stamp clubs. His request to me was 'could I provide stamps for the children to work with.' Fortunately, through various contacts at our local stamp club it has been possible to fill a shoe box with material and post it out to Sri Lanka; which was received with great delight. A second box is now being prepared to be sent shortly.

With so much pessimism surrounding the future of philately, it is heartening to know that it can be used for such a worthwhile cause. . ☒

New Members joining since the December 2007 issue

Mr. A. Spencer	Preston
Mr. C. Ryan	Doonfoot, Ayr
Mrs L. Rogers	Beckenham
Mrs L. Erskine	Bristol
Mr. P. Weir	Southampton



Peter with Anne Stammers at Eurothema

Deaths advised since the December 2007 issue

None

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

Echoing I am sure the words of my fellow Officers, it is a pleasure to report “mission accomplished” with regard to Eurothema 2007. As I have reported elsewhere the show went off superbly with every aspect being well organised and well supported. I myself enjoyed in particular the Palmares Banquet on Saturday 24th which I felt truly conveyed



the benefit which our hobby can bring to us. To be able to speak to philatelists and their spouses and other guests in a refined and yet social and relaxed atmosphere is something I would think would be hard to replicate in other pastimes, and further emphasises the benefits which one can derive from being part of organised philately. In particular Eurothema facilitates this enjoyment due to its pan-European nature and its emphasis of allowing people from a number of European countries to travel and experience the show at first hand. It was excellent to see so many from the Continent in London that weekend in November and I was pleased to see that they all enjoyed the British hospitality. I would urge you to read the article on the next page and to look at the Eurothema website where there is a full report along with a huge selection of photographs – www.brit-thematic-assoc.com.eurothem07.htm

I meant to acknowledge in my Page in the December issue the efforts many societies, but in particular the Civil Service Philatelic Society, made in promoting Eurothema. Prior to the show I had sent out press releases to all UK Philatelic Federations as well as a whole host of other societies. Many of them I am sure assisted in the promotion of Eurothema but The Civil Service P.S. I know published a notice of it in their bulletin. For this, and any efforts made by other individuals, societies or federations, I and the whole of the BTA Committee are extremely grateful.

We now look forward to a new year and new events. We have the usual BTA AGM and meeting as part of Thematica on Sunday 29th June and all the highlights that that brings, as well as a thematic workshop and meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 26th July. This promises to be a very informative day and will mirror slightly the format used at a similar meeting held in April 2005. Please look out for more information in *Themescene*. I do hope that you will choose to support these events this year.

The publicity for Eurothema demonstrated to me the need for societies and events to be well publicised. Although we live in a technologically advanced age, trying to find out about events and their location, date, etc can still prove difficult. I wonder how many thematic philatelists there are in the UK or worldwide who do not know about the BTA or the benefits that membership brings? As I have mentioned here before I have publicity material available, both philatelic and non-philatelic, some of which I have been using myself. However there is only a limited amount that I can do. If you are interested in promoting the BTA at your society or in your area and wish to have more information or resources to help facilitate this then please contact me. The more publicity we get the better!

I hope that you all find 2008 philatelically rewarding! ☒

EUROTHEMA EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS!

Simon Moorcroft reports on a hugely successful show

From 24th to 25th November 2007 the much publicised and eagerly awaited international thematic exhibition Eurothema was staged by the BTA at the Victory Services Club (VSC) in London. As predicted, the show was a fantastic success with superior organisation in all areas from start to finish.

The show had taken months of planning and preparation in order to stage. A small sub-committee, consisting of John Hayward, Lesley Marley, Christine Earle and Brian Sole, met regularly to plan every aspect of the event. They, along with members of the main BTA Committee and others, worked alongside to ensure that everything was dealt with and sorted



out. On Friday 23rd a large number of helpers began to erect the exhibition frames in El Alamein room of the VSC. Under the watchful eye of John Hayward this was done efficiently and quickly so that by late Friday afternoon all was ready. That evening a welcome buffet for overseas visitors and guests was held in the Trafalgar Room of the VSC. More than thirty people attended the event during which the Patron of the show, Margaret Morris, cut a cake prepared especially for the event. Philatelists and spouses had travelled from the continent to be at the show, many of them judges and exhibitors.

The next day was one of great anticipation. At 10:00am the doors opened. Throughout the day visitors, numbering well into the hundreds came through. All received a free Eurothema brochure as well as a miniature sheet specially designed for the event by Jeffery Matthews MBE. In the El Alamein Room visitors could view a total of twenty five thematic exhibits in the Eurothema Competition. Six countries participated in the show: The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, France and Denmark. Sadly neither Germany nor Luxembourg entered this time around. All the entries were of high quality and varied greatly in terms of theme and concept. It was unusual this time in that there were three entries related to the theme of music: Music - When Man addresses his God, entered by Mark Bottu; Song – A World of Music, Koenraade Bracke and Whistling, Isn't that Playing? It depends..., Henri Seurre. Each country is allocated a set number of frames and can fill those frames using as many exhibits as they wish, as long as they submit a minimum of three. Great Britain fielded a team of six exhibitors consisting of Jim Etherington, Richard Wheeler, Sheila Foster, Peter Wood, Peter Denly and Stuart Henderson. Jim's entry, entitled 1940, A Desperate Year, told the story of that crucial year which saw the fall of France, and Britain fighting for its very existence and survival during the Battle of Britain. In the introduction Jim recounted that in early 1940 there was very little action in the West and certainly none which affected the mainland of Britain, and hence this was why the phrase "Phoney War" was adopted. However this ceased in April when the Germans unleashed the devastating military strategy of Blitzkrieg or "Lightning War" against Western Europe, which crushed and overwhelmed the armies in France and the Low Countries as well as Norway and Denmark. On one of the sheets the effect this had is demonstrated by the detailing of the mass

retreat of civilians as well as military personnel across northern France. The appointment of the New Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, is illustrated, as is the Battle of Britain: exploring how it began and developed, from looking at the Luftwaffe to detailing how the Germans switched from the concentrated daylight bombing of airfields to the area bombardment of cities at night during the “blitz”.

Richard Wheeler’s exhibit, “Masks, Myths, Mimes & Evolution of Puppets” detailed the



close relationship between puppets and the theatre. The exhibit traced the history of puppetry back 2,500 years ago, and the use of theatrical masks in ancient civilisations. One fascinating sheet described how two masks had become the symbol of theatre across the world: comedy and tragedy. The exhibit explained that this came about due to the actors of Greece and Rome using masks to portray the characters they were playing and how they felt by changing the masks to indicate if their character was happy or sad. The exhibit illustrated the

development of puppets during the Middle Ages and how famous and favourite clown characters evolved. The story was brought right up to date with the section “Puppets in Performance” which showed how puppets have been used in performances which have appeared through the broadcast media.

Peter Denly’s exhibit “Man’s Marine Adventure” was another which illustrated evolution and development but this time with regard to shipping. The exhibit looked at ships themselves; the uses they have been put to and the various aids and equipment which have been developed to increase safety and navigation at sea. The exhibit began with small country craft and small primitive transporting vessels used to carry small quantities of goods on rivers and around the coast. The development of these into great sailing ships and the technological advances which made this possible was mentioned, as was possibly the most important development in shipping: the change from sail power, which relied on wind, to motive power with steam, diesel and in some cases nuclear propulsion. Peter’s second section of the exhibit was named “Safeguarding the Marine Adventure” and told the story of how the safety of ships and sailors was improved so that by the second half of the twentieth century shipwrecks and



deaths at sea were very rare occurrences, unlike in the eighteenth century when sailors had a life expectancy of only thirty two years! Much of this improvement, the exhibit explained, was due to the introduction of accurate charts and measurement tools and sophisticated navigation equipment, something greatly facilitated by the work of Captain James Cook.

It is not possible to mention all the exhibits here other than to say that all of them were varied and interesting, with many containing rare and high quality material. All exhibits were judged by a team of five judges, one from each participating country. The jury consisted of Jef Ghys of Belgium, Jorgen Jorgensen of Denmark, Jean-Francois Durenceau of France, Brian Sole of Great Britain and Anto van Deutekom of the Netherlands, all of whom have had vast experience in thematic philately and its

competitive element. In addition to the competitive Eurothema entries, visitors were also able to see Christine Earle's new social philatelic story entitled "Extracts from a War Diary 1939 – 1945" as well as the three exhibits in the National Thematic Class – the other classes were displayed at Croydon 2007.



Saturday evening saw the Palmares Banquet take place, the social highlight of the show. The evening began with a Patron's Reception hosted by Margaret Morris. During this John Hayward presented specially cast Eurothema medals to all members of the jury as well as to Margaret to commemorate their efforts in making the show a success. Once this was over all forty six guests took their places, and after a welcome in English, French and German from the Master of Ceremonies, Simon Moorcroft, they sat down to

an excellent dinner. All who attended felt the food was of a high standard. The formal part of the evening started. Eurothema 2007 was toasted, proposed by Koenraad Bracke and responded to by BTA President Brian Sole. The toast to Our Guests was proposed by BTA Chairman Lesley Marley and responded to by Professor Dr Damien Lage. Many spoke of the vital need of shows such as Eurothema to be staged for the benefit of thematic philately and to allow fellow philatelists to meet and socialise in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

After this came the announcement and presentation of the awards. Firstly there were the special prizes which were donated by participating countries or societies:

Eurothema Trophy (Best Individual Entry): Danny Jimmink - Netherlands – "Step by Step"
 Best Music Exhibit (Donated by Philatelic Music Circle): Koenraad Bracke - Belgium - "Bird Song' A World of Music"

Other Special Prizes

- Diamond Wedding Mug
- Signed Captain Cook Book
- Signed Timeless [Machin] Classic Book
- Glass Bowl
- Porcelain Lamp
- Delft Plate
- Micro Blacklight
- Publibels Handbook
- 1997 Belgian Philatelic Book

Winner

- Jim Etherington
- Jacques Breyne
- Gert Syane Jensen
- Richard Wheeler
- Nico Helling
- Jacques Pottie
- Geraldine Forestier
- Leif Rasmussen
- Henri Seurre

Donation by country

- Great Britain
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Great Britain
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- France
- Denmark
- France

Then came the announcement which everyone in the room had been waiting all evening: to hear which team had won the Eurothema Team Trophy (decided by taking the three highest marked entries of each country). The results were:

- Third Place: Great Britain: 224 Points
- Second Place: Belgian: 232 Points
- First Place: Netherlands: 252 Points

Margaret Morris presented the Eurothema Team Trophy to Beatrix Waltmann-Steunberg from the Netherlands. After this the evening wound up. It had shown how much fun and excitement the friendly competition of Eurothema brings.



The next day the show once again saw good numbers of visitors pass through. Many of those who attended over the two days looked at the exhibits and commented on their quality and the superb conditions in which they were presented, with good amounts of room between the rows of frames and good lighting. Many were also able to peruse the stock of the dealers who were also present as part of the annual Thematica II event. At just after 12:00 the BTA Committee, the Jurors and their spouses went off to lunch at a local

Italian restaurant. It was a pleasant precursor to the activities of having to dismantle the show which met those upon returning to the VSC. This was carried out just as efficiently and as smoothly as when the show was erected and within two hours the exhibition was dismantled and everything was finished.

The event had been a huge success with high numbers of visitors and favourable comments cited by all. It demonstrated the fun, enjoyment and friendship which the hobby of philately, and in particular thematic philately, brings. Thanks and appreciation go out to all those attended or helped prior to or during the show, and in particular to the sub-committee and John Hayward. It was a collective effort and a collective success which will not be forgotten quickly. ☒



FULL EUROTHEMA RESULTS

Team	Frame	Name	Title	Pts	Total	Rank
Netherlands	52-56	Nico Helling	The Motorcycle, nostalgia and use	85*	252	1st
	57-61	Danny Jimmink	Step by step dancing	87*		
	62-66	D Speksnijder	First in the hearts of his countrymen	80*		
	67-69	H. ten Have	No work, no honey	73		
Belgium	19-23	Mark Bottu	Music, when Man addresses his God	78*	232	2nd
	24-27	Koenrade Bracke	Song - A world of music	79*		
	28-32	Jacques Breyne	6,000 years of sail ships on the sea	75*		
	33-36	Jacques Poittie	Pietro Paolo Rubens	73		
Great Britain	01-04	Jim Etherington	1940: A desperate year	76*	224	3rd
	05-08	Richard Wheeler	Masks, myths, mimes & evolution of puppets	75*		
	9	Sheila Foster	Aspects of still photography	62		
	10-13	Peter Wood	Irish life	73*		
	14-17	Peter Denly	Man's marine adventure	67		
	18	Stuart Henderson	Legacy of World War I	67		
France	37-41	Henri Seurre Geraldine	Whistling, isn't that playing? It depends....	76*	222	4th
	42-46	Forestier	About bees and men	75*		
	47-51	Jean Louis Blot	From cereal grain to bread	71*		
Denmark	70-74	Gert Svane Jensen	Denmark - The land and the community	73*	220	5th
	75	John Hansen	The kingfisher	60		
	76-78	Peter Michaelsen	World Jamboree Godollo 1933	70		
	79-83	Leif Rasmussen	From elephant to silkworm	76*		
	84	John Hansen	The owl - The Silent hunter of the twilight	66		
	85	Erik Kolmos	The Owls in Denmark	71*		
	86	Henrik Tranberg	Buddy Holly: his story around his songs	61		
	87	Henrik Tranberg	Seaplanes patrolling at wartime	68		

Jury Members

Belgium	Jef Ghys
Denmark	Jorgen Jorgensen
France	Jean-Francois Duranceau
Great Britain	Brian Sole
Netherlands	Anto van Deutekom

TONGAN ROYALTY ON STAMPS

Barry Floyd visits the Friendly Isles

The Tongan archipelago, comprising some 169 islands -- 36 of them inhabited, is located in the South Pacific Ocean, about a third of the way from New Zealand to Hawai'i. The islands are also known -- even today -- as the Friendly Islands, the name given to them by Captain Cook because of the friendly reception he received there during his second and third voyages of discovery in the Pacific in 1773 and 1777. (1)



It is thought that the inhabitants of Tonga migrated from South East Asia about 3000 years ago. The 'late Lapita' people sailed and traded, engaged in wars and intermarried with the inhabitants of the neighbouring groups of Fiji and Samoa. Later migrations from the three islands ventured eastwards and northwards,

eventually to settle the rest of the Pacific Ocean isles, in an extraordinary feat of maritime navigation. Tonga, Fiji and Samoa are now considered the cradle of Polynesian civilization and culture.

Over the centuries, a series of paramount chiefs, with lesser chiefs distant from the main Tongatapu group of islands - to the south of the archipelago - ruled over their people, but local conflicts leading to civil wars occurred with some frequency.

The whole of Tonga was finally united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845 through the efforts of a young warrior and persuasive orator, by name Tauf'ahau. He held the chiefly title of Tu'i Kanokupolu but, on conversion to Christianity by Wesleyan missionaries, he was baptized with the name King George. A semi-divine status was attached to the royal personage.

"In 1875 ... he declared Tonga a constitutional monarchy, formally adopted the Western royal style, emancipated the 'serfs', enshrined a code of law, land tenure, and freedom of the press, and limited the powers of the chiefs." (2)



Starting in 1886 several stamp issues featured King George Topou I, also the Arms of Tonga (Figs. 4-7). They were printed and surcharged in New Zealand. A much later image

of the first Tongan ruler appeared on stamps issued in 1979 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of a Treaty of Friendship with France (1855-1980). The 75s value self-adhesive stamp has vignettes of George I and L'Admiral Du Bouzet.



The first Tongan monarch died in 1893 and was succeeded by his son, George Tupou II, who ruled until 1918.

The established firm of De La Rue designed and printed the George II stamps. While an improvement over the earlier New Zealand issues, an intriguing error occurred when the 7½d stamp (SG 48) was misprinted to give an inverted vignette of the king.

This rarity (unmounted mint) was valued recently at £ 3,750.

It was during the reign of George II that an agreement was reached with Bismarck for Tonga to provide coaling stations for German ships. Compared to France and Great Britain, Germany had participated late in the European colonial expansion across Africa and into the South Pacific. However bases were successfully established in Samoa and New Guinea, only to be lost at the end of World War I.

European settlers in Tonga, with the support of rival Tongan chiefs, attempted to dethrone King George II some six years into his reign. Concerned at Germany's mounting influence over the islands, Great Britain responded in 1900 by undertaking a Treaty of Friendship with the king. Tonga thus became a British Protected State, part of the British Western Pacific Territories which in turn lay within the larger British Empire. Based in Fiji, a colonial High Commissioner was appointed to advise the king on Tongan developments. On the death of King George Tupou II, a remarkable woman took his place: Queen Salote Tupou III (1918-1965). She was barely 18 when she ascended to the throne, and, in less than ten months, had become a wife, queen and a mother (to King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV).



The Queen was determined to unify the country in the face of a powerful clique of chiefs who were perpetuating

dynastic quarrels and resisting centralized government. She set out to win the confidence and loyalty of significant people, and to profoundly influence the opinion and behaviour of her subjects by personal example. She attributed her eventual success as a ruler to hard work and a strong character.

”When Queen Salote of Tonga attended the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London in 1953, she was greeted as the “tallest queen of the smallest kingdom, and gained universal admiration by her natural dignity and the warmth of her personality.” (3)

Her generously endowed yet traditional figure in later life added considerably to her commanding presence.

The Queen's reign ended with her death at 65 in 1965. Her passing was commemorated five years later by four official airmail stamps, imperforate and overprinted. The highest value is shown (Fig. 15). After a long period of mourning, Queen Salote's firstborn son ascended the throne as King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. He was crowned with great ceremony on 4th July 1967, his birthday.

The Queen and her chiefly consort Tungi Mailefihi had determined that their son should receive a sound Western-style education. He was sent to Australia, first to Newington College in Sydney, then to the University of Sydney where he graduated in Arts and Law, the first Tongan to have had the opportunity to do so. The Prince was a fine athlete in his early years, a champion pole-vaulter, oarsman, rugby player and tennis player.

“He was also an accomplished musician, playing several instruments and equally at home with the classics and jazz. In short, he was a renaissance man, sometimes likened to Henry VIII in his ambition to put his country on the world map.”(4).

When the Prince returned home, leaving behind the freedoms of Australian life, Tongan custom and rank confined him. He preferred speaking in English; and he was impatient with the protracted ceremonial occasions over which he was obliged to preside in Tonga. . It was the Queen who carefully taught him patience while preparing him for the future duties of

leadership. In 1943, at the age of 25, she appointed him Minister of Education and a year later the Minister of Health.

In 1949 he became Premier. His 16 years as the Prime Minister were marked by policies of modernization, which were to continue after he became king. Yet he was not fully committed to the role of political leader. His attention span in cabinet could be short. He was enterprising but aloof, animated in conversation arousing his interest, dull and unresponsive when it did not.

“Taufu’ahau was at that time an intellectual dilettante, widely read in a variety of subjects, superficially knowledgeable about many, but disconcertingly erratic to those whose task it was to respond to and follow up his passionate but often passing enthusiasms.” (5)

The then Crown Prince married Halaevalu Mata’aho Ahome’e in 1947. They had three sons and a daughter, who in the early 1990s became the wife of the Tongan High Commissioner in London. As Princess and Queen [consort], Mata’aho devoted her life to the care and support of her husband as well as to many social causes. She acted as his eyes and ears in the community.

When he became King in 1965 it was feared that the era of stability and benign oversight of Tonga by his popular Mother might come to an end. The new king’s father and grandfather had both died early. The new monarch’s weight of over 350 lbs (127 kg) made it unlikely that he would achieve the biblical lifespan. According to the Guinness Book of Records he attained the even greater weight of 462 pounds (209 kg) some years later. Yet survive and prosper he did, even into his late 80’s, and slowly grew closer to his subjects, and they to him.

“His engaging eccentricities - like his laborious bicycle rides round a sport stadium, and solo rowing, both for exercise - may in part explain this.”(6)

Some novel glossy stamps (self adhesive, imperf.) were issued to mark the King’s anniversary to the Tongan throne.

Under the stout king’s rule, the treaty under which Tonga was a British Protectorate was terminated in 1970. The kingdom became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth, and in 1999 joined the United Nations. However the country remained essentially feudal, falling short of a parliamentary democracy. Some saw it as a benevolent oligarchy, with a tradition of liberalism. The monarch named and appointed his ministers of the Privy Council and Cabinet, also the 33 nobles. No ballot boxes were involved.

“I like to think of myself as the head of a monarchical democracy. And the government does not go out of office if it suffers a parliamentary defeat. It goes home to sleep and starts again just the same on the next day.”(8)

The country remains the only Polynesian kingdom in the Pacific. The King had a tendency towards gimmickry and this led him to support the issuing of numerous peel-off



sticker-type postage ‘stamps, in unusual shapes. These had commenced as early as 1964, with a map of the island of Tongatapu. Later issues were shaped like crosses, wristwatches, medals, sailing ships and stars. Some were in the shape of fruits: bananas (the country’s main cash crop),

coconuts and water melons. As a result,

“the philatelic reputation of Tonga plummeted and it was easy to understand why it began to be described as a ‘banana monarchy.’ (7)

Only more recently have Tongan stamps assumed a more conventional style, although colourful sets have continued to commemorate the King's life and times. In the 1980's the country with its 108,000 inhabitants began a surge of development. But there was a price to pay. There were hints of cheque-book diplomacy at the palace. The king was said to be closely involved in grandiose development plans, such as the selling of Tongan air space for satellite operations and a potential oil refinery. Elsewhere commercial adventurism was revealed with the selling of Tongan passports to selected applicants for substantial payments. It appears that the King amassed a vast fortune, while the majority of the country's inhabitants continued to scrape a bare living from farming and fishing.

The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana was celebrated with an issue of four stamps in 1981, one of which is featured. The stamps also commemorated the centenary of the Treaty of Friendship between Tonga and Great Britain.



The British Queen's 60th birthday was celebrated in 1986. Three stamps bore the images of both monarchs, shown in friendly mode.

Some years earlier, in 1993, the King had led

“his entire population on a compulsory diet and exercise regime, and set a fine example by personally shedding 154 pounds.”(9)

A stamp issued the following year did indeed provide the facial image of a leaner monarch.



However, the sheer bulk of King Taufa'ahau Tupou was soon to reassert itself, as revealed in later stamp issues. Further commemorative issues focusing on highlights in the Tongan royalty reign appeared in 1997 and 1998. The King's great size was eventually to lead to his demise. Towards the end of his life, he spent much of his time in New Zealand seeking medical care. He died in Auckland, on September 10th 2006, in his 88th year.

The royal obsequies were extensive and conducted in highly customary ceremonies. The palace, government offices and public buildings were swathed in black, and the people of Tonga in black vestments. Gifts of fine *tapa* (bark cloth) mats and vast quantities of food arrived in the capital Nuku'alofa from the 36 inhabited islands of the kingdom. Fires burned day and night around the palace throughout the lying-in-state of the deceased monarch. As a tragic sequel to the funeral formalities, and just three months later, fires of another kind torched buildings in the centre of the capital Nuku'alofa. Widespread looting of shops occurred and lives were lost in the rioting. Pent-up resentment at the semi-feudal political system came violently into the open, with royally-appointed nobles outnumbering elected representatives. The riots began after Parliament went into recess without voting on democratic reforms.

New Zealand and Australian troops and police were flown in to restore order. The government bowed to the protesters and agreed to new elections in 2008 or, at the latest, 2011. Meanwhile the government continues to enact emergency powers and the new monarch of Tonga, King Siaosi Tupou V, eldest son of the deceased monarch, faces profound challenges to the future of his Pacific realm.

Endnotes

(1) Barry Floyd, *Captain James Cook the Explorer: An Historical & Philatelic Review* (Kuala Lumpur, 2006) pp. 110, 188.

(2) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonga>

(3) http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/aup/booklqueen_salute-of-tonga.cfm

Readers wishing to learn more of Queen Salote of Tonga may read an authoritative account by Elizabeth Wood-Ellem, *Queen Salote of Tonga: The Story of an Era 1900-1965*. Her study was researched over more than 20 years and written with the approval of the Tongan royal family. The book draws on the author's deep knowledge of Tonga society, especially the role of rank status and the complex marriage and kinship relations among the leading families.

(5) James Mackay, "Larger than life. The King of Tonga," *Stamp Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Jan. 2007), p. 57.

(6)

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(7) Ibid.

(8) Ibid.

(9) Ibid.

(10) Mackay, op. cit., p. 58.

Half page advertisement for Thames Themes

WHEN “MY” NAVIGATORS JOINED THOSE WHO KEPT THE NATION POSTED

With the October 2007 postal strike now fading into memory, Tony Smith looks back to the 1971 mail shutdown and the private issues which ensued.

In the days when electronic communication was still in its infancy and two-deliveries-a-day-through-the-letter-box was part of life to business and the general public, the government knew that it had to work fast to find an answer to the postal strike set for January 20th 1971. The Minister of Posts, Chris Chataway, knew all about the importance of being quick off the mark and hours before the dispute began the Tory government suspended the Post Office’s monopoly on delivering mail.

More than 400 companies and individuals from all over the UK applied for the licenses to deliver mail, and by the time the strike ended in March 1971 it is estimated that five million letters, parcels and postcards etc had carried the post. ‘Cinderella’ collectors were astonished by the quantity, and often quality, of the material which is now available for their albums.



Strike mail from the West Country gave me my theme “The Story of Exploration” a boost. An Exeter businessman’s ‘Emergency Delivery Service’ produced six stamps featuring the Southwest’s great navigators -- Sir Martin Frobisher, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir John Hawkins, Sir Richard Grenville, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and, of course, the greatest: Sir Francis Drake. Although I knew I couldn’t use these West Country ‘greats’ in a regular competition they were there in pride of place when I won a John Fosbery Trophy

a few years later - judged by the public.

The stamps were superbly designed, and the same man even jumped the gun with a January 20th issue showing the Drake’s *Golden Hind*, including a Hospital Free Post overprint. Some argue the stamps were prepared so carefully to tempt stamp collectors, but during the weeks of the strike, thousands were bought and used by businesses in the region. It was the same story around the country. Whatever your theme is, then somewhere you can find some strike mail to take a place in your album.



A Europa Service included Mahatma Gandhi, Konrad Adenauer, Charles de Gaulle, our own Winston Churchill, the U.S. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. The same issue included the man who made that “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”: Neil Armstrong. A Public Mail system showed Armstrong planting the stars and stripes on the moon and his Apollo 14 featured on the four stamp issue. Space exploits were featured on much strike mail.



Rowland Hill, the man who launched the postal system over 100 years earlier, had his place on a stamp from the City of London Exporters Service. He had to wait another 24 years for official GB recognition.

With mail essential for London-based businesses, around a dozen took up the challenge, delivering letters within the City itself, around the UK and abroad. Perhaps many of these firms settled for basic designs but even here there were items for thematic collectors. Whatever you collect you can find something for you. Take a slow look through dealers' boxes marked "Strike Mail .71".

Looking for paintings? *The Judgment of Paris* by Rubens is there. Modern architecture? West Berlin Congress Hall, English Heritage? Brighton Pavilion. Eastern Art? Hairdressing a Young Japanese Girl. British History? The Norman Conquest. Not the British Post Office version earlier but the Channel Islands, including their Europa Mail Service with lots of bows and arrows.

And finally, my Elizabethan adventurers were called royal pirates by the Spaniards - a 1971 West Country-to-London service carried the title "Pirate Post" on its stamps.

Reference

Rosen, G. (1971) Catalogue of British Postal Strike Stamps

**FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT
FOR THEMATICA**

GLASGOW THEMATIC SOCIETY

A tribute to 60 successful years

An extract from the first Minutes Book of the Society reads:
 "On the sixth May, 1948, a meeting was held at the Gaumont Picture House Cafe at seven p.m. Seven members were present".

the
 Society.
 Harry
 The
 (Scot), a
 promoted



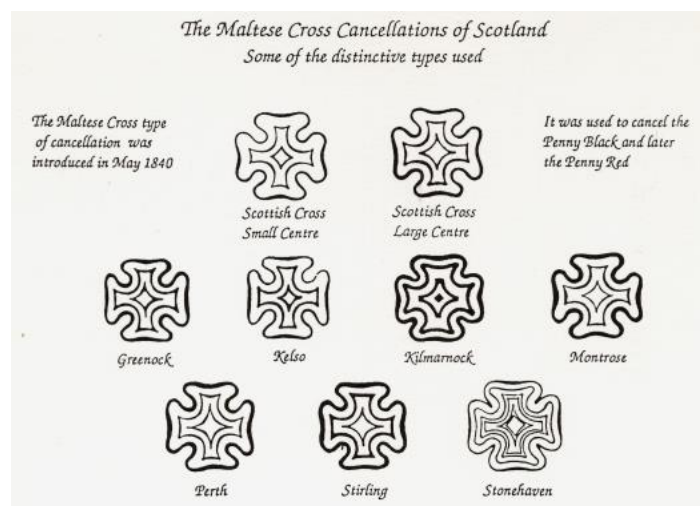
The original name was the Thematic Stamp Club, shortly afterwards changed to Thematic Stamp Group and then later to the Glasgow Thematic Society. To begin with, meetings were held at the home of the Treasurer, Brooke.

The founder and first President was Captain Philippe Durand, FSA, a well known figure at the Philatelic Congresses who consistently collected thematic stamps. From 1897 to 1920 he served in the British Army, firstly in the Royal Artillery and later in the Highland Light Infantry. Thereafter for twenty-five years he was Curator of the People's Palace, Glasgow (now known as the Old Glasgow Museum). A man of wide interests, it was not surprising that he would also collect many things. His first collection consisted of pen nibs. Another outstanding collection was formed of regimental badges, medals and uniforms. Then came stamps.

In the eyes of the traditional philatelist he was a nonconformist because from the beginning he collected on thematic lines. In those days such collections were frowned upon and considered childish. However, one only had to see his collection to realise its educational value and the amount of research which had been necessary to produce it. He collected a number of themes such as "The History of Canada", "Women and Children", "Royal Ladies", "Tobacco", "Sport and Recreation" and "Fire". His large collection on the Masonic theme was famous, and by way of light relief he also collected nudes, calling this collection "The Bare Facts".

Editor's Note

When this tribute to Capt. Durand was written in 1990 the Glasgow Thematic Society was still the only club of its kind in Britain. Although there were and are now an array of thematic



societies catering for collectors of individual themes there was no other localised general thematic group like this. This has now changed: the North East England Thematic Group and the West of England Thematic Society are welcome additions to regional groups. *Themescene* is delighted to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the first regional thematic society by reprinting the following article (with additional modern illustrations) by its first President.

From a postcard published by the Glasgow Thematic Society when hosting the A.S.P.S. Annual Congress, 1990

THEMATIC COLLECTING

Captain Philippe Durand, FSA Scot.

Given as a lecture to the Thematic Society at their meeting in Glasgow on 21 September 1948.

Collecting hobbies are largely a matter of temperament. What a person collects is generally governed by four main points –



1. The necessity to relax, to have something to occupy your thoughts and exercise your mind in different channels to that of your ordinary occupation. The modern term is, I believe, “escapism”.
2. Proclivity. No one will follow a hobby in which he can find no interest.
3. Amount of leisure available. It is no relaxation to take up some hobby that demands more spare time than you can afford.

4. Space for storage and display. It would be useless to collect something which you could not display in its proper setting, or for which you had not ample accommodation – antique furniture, china or pewter for instance. You will understand that I am speaking of a collection, not of odd items.

Stamp collecting adequately fills all these conditions. It allows one to relax and take their thoughts away from their occupational worries. It has an interest and fascination for young and old. Stamps do not demand constant and immediate attention; you can take them up and put them down as you will. Properly housed and arranged they take up comparatively little space.

It is not surprising therefore that this hobby which has been in existence for nearly a century shows no signs of falling off. But time brings changes and with the years the idea of what to collect has varied. The early collectors included postal stationery, postcards, embossed stamps on envelopes, telegraph stamps, etc., and there were a number who collected Revenue stamps used fiscally. In course of time all extraneous items were dropped and only adhesive stamps used for postal purposes were collected. The increasing number of new issues – not to mention new stamp issuing countries – has caused collectors to limit their scope and concentrate on one country or a group of countries, but always adhering more or less to catalogue arrangement. Individualism, however, has gone a step further and for some time now several collectors have adopted a system of collecting and arranging stamps by the subjects represented in their design. These have been termed Thematic collectors, from “theme” – that which constitutes a subject.

Anyone taking up Thematic collecting must first recognise that he will require only one specimen of each design of the stamps illustrating his subject. He is only concerned with the design of the stamp. He need have no regard to perforations, watermarks, paper, surcharges and overprints or changes of colour – the only exception being if he decided to form what is termed “A Philatelic Dictionary” illustrating the various terms used in philately – in which case he would require to include all the above to illustrate his theme.

Thematic collectors may be divided into two main classes:-

1. Those who collect stamps only for the subject they represent and arrange them accordingly.
2. Those who collect in the usual philatelic manner by countries, but who take up a subject collection as a sideline, a complete change from measuring perforations and examining watermarks.

The choice of subjects or themes must therefore to a large extent be governed by the class in which a collector falls.

The person who intends to drop collecting stamps by countries and devote his time and money to Thematic collecting has a wide choice. He can select any one large theme or any number of smaller. The other type of collector should remember the injunction that "No man can serve two masters" and would be advised to select a subject which does not include too large a number of specimens to complete, or he may find that divided loyalties result in one side competing with the other. If I were asked to advise, I would venture to suggest that Class 1 would find fairly extensive themes in such items as Literature (Authors, Dramatists, Poets, Books, Title Pages, etc.); Men at Work; Landscapes; Places of Worship (Cathedrals, Churches, Temples and Mosques); Famous Men and Women; Transport through the Ages; History of the Post (this would include pre-adhesive covers and stamps with Rowland Hill, Post carriers, etc.); Medicine (on which a book dealing with this subject on stamps has recently been published). Any one of these would provide anything over 1,500 different specimens.

Class 2 would be advised to take one of the smaller groups such as Battles on Land, Sea and Air; Rulers out of Business (Monarchs and Presidents who have either abdicated or been expelled); Castles; Snow Scenes; Far from Home (People depicted on stamps other than those of their own country, i.e. Byron on Greek stamps, Cochrane and Guise on stamps of Peru, Florence Nightingale on Belgian stamps, etc.); Inventors and Inventions; Education (Teachers, Schools, etc.); The Theatre (Actors, Actresses, Scenes from plays and operas). I could mention many others but have no desire to weary you; probably you would prefer to think out some subject which appeals to yourself. I avoid mentioning subjects already collected by some of you. Before showing you some examples from my own Thematic collections it might be advisable to consider the various points for and against this type of collecting.

Firstly, what can be adduced in its favour – and perhaps I should start on the financial aspect, not from the mercenary "What is it worth?" but regarding the cost to the individual. We philatelists, stamp collectors or whatever people call us, are not all blessed with the same amount of spare cash to spend on our hobbies. Commitments vary – some have to provide for the education and settlement of their children, others the upkeep and care of aged and infirm relatives, others again have to make provision against retirement and old age; the cost of living too varies with different grades. Consequently we find that while some can easily afford to spend an average of £10 a month on their collection, others can manage only a tenth of that sum. Thematic collecting makes it possible to get together a representative collection to suit the pocket of the individual. The man who is collecting countries is compelled, if he is striving to make his collection any way complete, to acquire every newly-issued stamp, with all the varieties of shade and perforation, of the country or countries he is interested in, whereas the thematic collector requires only one example of each design. Take for example the recent issue of twelve values of the Gold Coast ranging from ½d. to 10/-. Anyone collecting the Gold Coast would require the whole set with a face value of 19/8½d. The Thematic collector of "Maps on Stamps" would require only the 2½d., or if a collector of "Men in Uniform", the ½d. and 2/- values would be all he required. A person collecting "Saints" has, for St. Patrick, the choice of three values 2/6d., 5/- and 10/- in the 1937 issue of Eire and, in the words of the old

showman, "You pays yer money, you takes yer choice". If collecting with a view to making a valuable collection he can, and probably will, take the highest value, but his collection will be no more interesting from a Thematic standpoint than the collector who has selected the lowest value of the same design. They have both achieved their purpose of representing St. Patrick in their collection.

Secondly, I would place the human interest. Personally I find the names of places and persons of more interest than the names of the printers, the story of the design more important than the method of production; the historical association means much more to me than colour variations. Catalogue values take secondary place to the stories conveyed in the designs.

Above all I would place the propaganda value of a Thematic collection. Not only does it give pleasure to its owner but also to friends with no philatelic knowledge. I have been a minor specialist in my time and can remember showing parts of my collection to friends who were not stamp collectors and recall (with humour today) the exasperation I felt as I saw bewilderment and boredom in their expression at the (to them) meaningless pages of shades, varieties and perforation changes. How different today when I let a friend run through one of my Thematic collections. Invariably it evokes the remark "I never knew stamp collecting could be so interesting".

There is a reverse side. Let us see what are the disadvantages.

Many philatelists look on the exclusively Thematic collector as one who has lost caste; In some circles he is regarded in much the same light as a high caste Brahmin would regard one of Gandhi's untouchables. As more and more collectors come to realise the interest Thematic collecting can arouse, we may expect a change in this lofty attitude.

Dealers too I find have little use for Thematic collectors. I recall a London dealer's remark to me, "Thematic! You might as well collect cigarette cards". I replied rather dryly "If I did I shouldn't be offering to spend money in your shop". Many of them are beginning to discover there is money in it, and one or two are making special mention of Thematic collectors in their advertisements. Now, some realise that many stamps of "unpopular" countries are sought by Thematic collectors. Dealers are reluctant – and you can readily understand why – to break up sets of new and recent issues to sell odd values to collectors, they rightly prefer to sell the set as a whole. Consequently a Thematic collector who requires only, say, three items out of a set of fifteen values, leaves the dealer with a dozen – to him – useless stamps on hand. With the establishment of our Thematic group it may be possible that there will be a readier outlet for these duplicates than through the ordinary Club Exchange Packet.

So much then for the pros and cons. You can decide for yourself. Personally, I am a confirmed Thematic collector.

A talk on Stamp Collecting from any angle is never complete if it does not include a display on the lines of the talk. Consequently I have brought along a few pages from some of my Thematic collections which will serve to show that I practise what I preach and help to emphasise the interest of thematic collecting.



SPORTS AND PASTIMES: A collection of this sort is always interesting to a sports-loving people like the British. I have brought along half-a-dozen sheets from my collection of these. Each of these sheets is devoted to a special type of sport and you will observe that I do not limit myself merely to stamps issued in connection with Olympic Games. So long as the design shows a sport or pastime it is included in its particular section.



THE ART GALLERY: This collection embraces reproductions of paintings and portraits of painters. I have extracted three of the pages to show you tonight. These show the artist and such of his pictures as are reproduced on stamps, but I must remind you that it does not follow that this procedure could be followed throughout this collection as not every artist whose pictures have been reproduced on stamps is himself the subject of a stamp design. Neither need I say that not every picture reproduced on a stamp is a masterpiece.



THE KINDLY FRUITS OF THE EARTH: This collection shows plants, fruits, etc., used in the service of man and includes such things as Rubber, Cotton, Grain, as well as the preparation of the land by Clearing, Ploughing, Sowing and the final Harvesting. The collection opens with the only two gods associated with agriculture which have appeared on stamps, Ceres and Triptolemus. The sheets I am displaying show items other than those I have mentioned.

ARTILLERY: This at best would make only a small collection, but anyone who served with this branch of the Armed Forces might care to form a collection if only from the point of sentiment and the saying "Once an Artilleryman, always a Gunner". The couple of sheets I have included in this display will serve as a guide of what to look for.



THESE MEN WERE MASONS: Not an easy collection to form as there is no guide as to what men appearing on stamps were Masons. So far I have managed to discover some ninety-five men and by collecting all the different portraits of them I will have over 200 stamps in the collection.



MISTAKES WILL HAPPEN: Here is a small but interesting theme showing five stamps with errors and another five with the error corrected. There are quite a lot of errors waiting to be collected (and corrected). I won't spoil your fun by mentioning them – try and sort them out for yourself. I will however give you a tip regarding a recent one, the name is "Shorthouse".



I am not showing any of my **WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST** because, as you know, I have been asked to display these next month. You won't see them all then, as somewhere between 2,500 and 2,600 would be much too exhaustive to tackle in one evening. ☒

NEW ISSUES

The stamps below are reproduced with the kind assistance of CASCO Philatelic Services

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

From information supplied by CASCO Philatelic Services

Over the past 125 years scientists from around the world have come together on three occasions (1882/1883, 1932/1933 and 1957/1958) to organise scientific and exploration programmes in the polar regions. Each of these significantly advanced understanding of many geophysical phenomena that influence global systems. The concept of the first International Polar Year was the inspiration of the Austrian explorer and naval officer Lt. Karl Weyprecht who was a scientist and co-commander on the Austro-Hungarian Polar Expedition of 1872-74.

The International Polar Year 2007-2008 is an international scientific research programme focused upon the unprecedented changes currently affecting our environment. Many of the best scientists in the world will focus their research on understanding the cause of these changes and their impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. As well as hosting the IPY Programme Office, UK scientists are involved in almost 50% of the 229 approved projects.

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is the UK'S national Antarctic operator, and has for the past 60 years been responsible for most of the UK's scientific research in Antarctica. Part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), BAS operates five research stations, two Royal Research Ships and five aircraft in and around Antarctica.

The Government of the British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is committed to education and outreach including the promotion of the BAT, both historically and currently, particularly as part of the IPY. It has part-funded an IPY Histories museum and virtual exhibition hosted by the Scott Polar Regions Institute, which examines the modern significance of the Arctic and Antarctic (and the research carried out in the BAT in particular) to global environmental change, including the projection of what is planned and then achieved in the current IPY.

Aspects of ice core gathering are depicted on the border of this special souvenir whilst the circular stamp in the centre of the souvenir sheet shows a satellite image of the Antarctic continent.

There has been a long tradition of international cooperation in polar science. UK research institutions such as BAS, the Scottish Association for Marine Science and the Scott Polar Research Institute are part of a global network. BAS is currently working with scientists from approximately 40 countries including China, India, the USA and Russia on IPY projects.

For more information go to the IPY website: <http://www.ipy.org/>

GROUP NEWS

ALBA STAMP GROUP



The Alba Stamp Group was formed in 1970 with the object of encouraging and promoting the study of stamps and other material associated with any aspect of Scotland. The Group, through the research of members and the use of the internet, has recently produced a new and up-dated edition of its reference book entitled '**Scots and Philately**'. Such was the volume of material found that the Group had to seek assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund – Awards for All Programme to enable the book to be published to a high standard and partly in colour. As part of our commitment for this help, the Group wishes to make complimentary copies of this edition available to schools in Scotland which have active Stamp Clubs, to encourage the pupils to increase their interest in stamp collecting.



They were aware from coverage in local newspapers and from reports in philatelic media that Doonfoot Primary School pupils had a successful Stamp Club and that they have been taking part in national stamp competitions for a number of years with considerable success. For this reason they were singled out as the first school to benefit from this scheme.

Ian Macpherson, from the Alba Stamp Group, attended a meeting of the school stamp club on 30th January to present the book to the

enthusiastic children.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this interesting and informative book should contact Ian by phone on 01292 474789 or by email at ian.emslie_mac@yahoo.co.uk. The book is available at £25.00 plus £5.00 p&p.

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB

At the AGM held at the Masonic Home, Oadby on 10th November 2007 members reflected on a good philatelic year for the Square and Compass emblem on stamps. There was a single from France, a single from Bulgaria, a pair from Ecuador and a joint se-tenant issue for Guiseppe Garibaldi from Uruguay and Brazil.

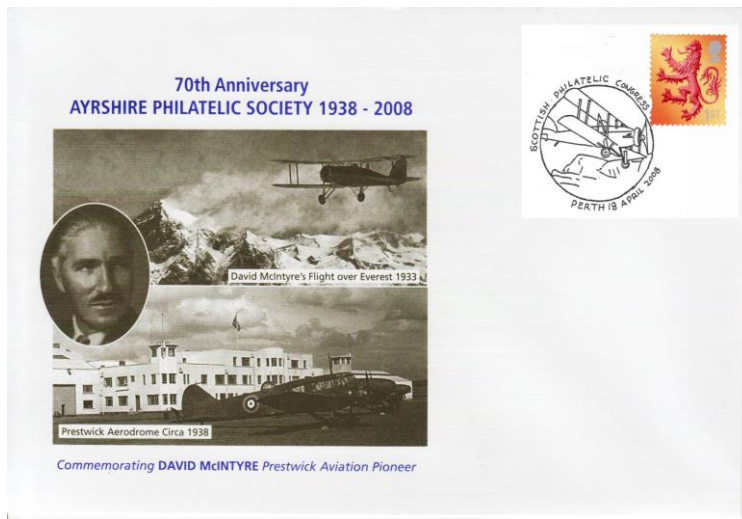
Finances and membership remain in a healthy condition.

The next meeting will be held at Colchester on Sunday 20th April 2008, and the AGM at Oadby on Saturday 8th November 2008.

Prospective members (who must be Freemasons of a Constitution recognised by the UGL of England) should visit the website www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk or contact Maurice Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, North Yorks, TS10 4JS.

HERE AND THERE

ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



This illustrated commemorative cover will be issued for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) Congress to be held on 18-19 April 2008 at The Dewars Centre, Perth. The host society is the Ayrshire Philatelic Society, celebrating its 70th anniversary.

The design of the first day cover shows Prestwick Aerodrome as it was in 1938 when the Society was founded; a contemporary portrait of David McIntyre - the

first man to fly over Mt. Everest; and one of the classic photographs from the 1933 Everest flight. The postmark is based on a special medal presented to David McIntyre by the Duke of York in June 1933. An insert gives details of the Society and the background to the cover.

Covers can be purchased from Willie King, 40 Kinford Drive, Dundonald, Kilmarnock KA2 9ET. Cost:

Posted to UK £1.50; to Europe £1.75; Worldwide £2. Cheques should be made payable to Willie King. For payment by Paypal contact: willieking@btinternet.com.

WILDLIFE STAMP EVENT AT EDINBURGH ZOO



Edinburgh Zoo continues to attract visitors to its displays linking animals and stamps.

The latest event on 9th and 10th February consisted of an exhibition and some crafts and activities for children involving lots of wildlife stamps. A stamp trail took visitors to animals from different parts of the world and participants had to find out the word for 'stamp' in many different languages. The event was supported by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies that also supports and helps with the Wildlife Stamp Club. The organiser and senior

education officer, Sandie Robb, was pleased with the steady stream of people that came to the event. A quote from one young participant: "I've found the best stamp in the whole wide world" indicates the excitement and pleasure derived from the event.

The photograph shows one of the visitors meeting the Rainbow Lorikeets in the new walk-through enclosure and sharing some of their brilliant colouring!

The next session of the Wildlife Stamp Club will be in June 2008 on Friday afternoons for 7-10 year olds. Details will appear soon on the website - www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

HERE AND THERE

NORTH EAST PHILATELIC WEEKEND

The 32nd North East Philatelic Weekend will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, from 16th to 18th May. Total cost of the Weekend is £160, with a deposit of £25 per person. This includes Sunday lunch and all leisure facilities. A set dinner menu will be organised for Friday and Saturday, but special dietary needs will be catered for. A finger buffet will be held on the Saturday lunchtime.

Non-collectors may wish to visit the Millennium Bridge, the Baltic Gallery of Contemporary Art or the Metro Centre.

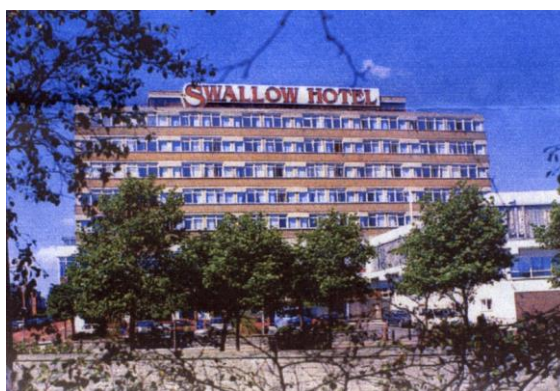
Programme

Friday 18th May

1845	Dinner	
2015	Alan Green	A Swiss medley

Saturday 19th May

0915	Colin Campbell	Oil Industry
	Coffee	
1100	Nick Wraith	British Indian
Ocean		Territory
	Afternoon	Auction
1600	Tea	
1630	Weekenders	Shotgun Philately – these interest me*
1845	Pre-banquet drinks	
1915	Banquet, with Mayor of Gateshead	
2200	Raffle	



Sunday 20th May

0915	Derek Lilley	Thirsk postal history
	Coffee	
1115	Max Melrose	Uses of GB high values 1883-1939

* Guests are invited to bring up to 10 pages from their own collection and say a few words about them.

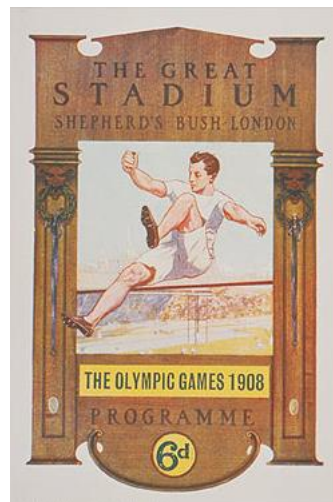
Further details about the weekend can be obtained from:

Miss Val Beeken, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham, DH1 5XT. Telephone 0191-3851931

90TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

24TH TO 27TH JULY 2008

Congress will be held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon, hosted by the Solihull and Stratford upon Avon societies. This year is of particular interest to members of the BTA since Congress will have a thematic emphasis. 2008 is the centenary of the London 1908 Olympics and there will be two displays associated with Olympic year: John Crowther will display “The Olympics 1896 to 1932” and Tony Bosworth will show “The 1936 Berlin Olympics”.



The principal Congress lecture will be a presentation on Social Philately and thematics by BTA President Brian Sole, followed by a presentation from a member of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The RDP ceremony, plus presentation of the Congress Medal, is scheduled to take place in Stratford Town Hall on 26th July; followed by a reception in the hotel and Congress Banquet.

Congress Hotel offers a splendid setting by the river. ☒



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*

Just4kIDS

(Themescene Juniors)

You Must Be Joking!

(Who's Joe King?!)



Do you know any good jokes? How about finding stamps to go with your favourite jokes? Here are some examples, but I expect you know lots of other jokes you could use.



What's the best way to count cows?
On a cow-culator!

Lumpy milk!

What do you get if you cross a camel with a cow?



What do you get if you cross a sheep
and a kangaroo?
A woolly jumper!



Why did the witches call the cricket match?



off

Because they couldn't find the bats!

How do you start a book about ducks?
With an intro-duck-tion!



Why don't bananas worry when people say bad things about them?

Bananas are noted for their thick skins!



What do you call a deer with no eyes?
No eye-deer!

NOW YOU HAVE A GO!

Thanks to Louix and Arlo from Warwickshire for all your jokes.

WRITE TO US!

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

Just4Kids,

The Editor, Themescene, 71 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1NW

A PRIZE WILL BE SENT TO EVERYONE WHO WRITES IN

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

NEW CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED

SAN is delighted to announce that Hugh Feldman will take over as Chairman in January 2008. Hugh will be well known to many, being an avid collector and exhibitor for many years. Currently he holds positions as Finance Team Leader with 'London 2010' and is a director of Stamp World Exhibitions, Editor of the ABPS News and the journal of the Postal History Society. He is a member of a number of societies, including the RPSL, the PHS and the Society of Postal Historians.

We welcome Hugh to SAN- his first official duty will be the announcement of the 'Anne Dummer Memorial Award for Young Collector of the Year' (the presentation will be at Spring Stampex).

SAN thanks Pat Grimwood-Taylor for her 2 years' stewardship of the committee. Pat will now be in charge of the sub-committee organising the young collectors area at 'London 2010'. John Davies and Richard West continue as Secretary and Competitions Organiser, with Dave Armitage in charge of Exhibitions/Stampex.

Hugh can be contacted at hugh@feldman.f9.co.uk or by phone on 01799 584579.

THANKS

to all the readers of our appeal for stamps for kids who went through their boxes of unwanted



material and made the effort to sent donations of stamps to help support our work. Those who made themselves known to us should already have had an acknowledgement and thank-you, but we would also send our appreciation for those gifts that were anonymous. Please remember, however, that there is a continuing need. The more children that we can contact and bring into the hobby, the more stamps we need, and as we try to tailor our packets to the interests of individual children, we need a wide variety of topics. If you are one of those who haven't got round to doing anything yet, there is no time limit.

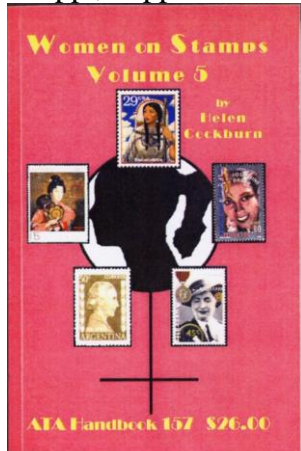
Material will always be welcome and put to good use. Just send whatever you can – preferably thematic stamps which will appeal to youngsters. Put it in an envelope and address it to :-
Kidstamps, 46 Moorfield Road, Rothwell, Nr. Kettering, Northants, NN14 6AT

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

COCKBURN, Helen

WOMEN ON STAMPS Vol. 5

312pp., 12pp col. ill.



This is the latest, and largest, volume in the series. It has a 31 page checklist followed by 248 pages of biographical thumbnail sketches of women from all walks of life who have appeared on postage stamps since 2004. Following the stamp section is one on booklets and one on postal stationery. Reasons for their appearance include sports, film or stage, sailor, slave, dancer, chess player, cosmonaut, weaver, artist, ballet, revolutionary, poet, hero, designer, beauty, farmer, flight attendance, wife, mistress, journalist, politics, queen, flyer, soldier, ambassador, religion, gardener, entrepreneur and more. For women who have been mentioned in earlier handbooks, additional stamps to those already listed are noted with the word ADD.

LIBRARY LISTING

Please send the librarian a stamped and self addressed envelope when requesting a list of articles on the topic(s) of your choice. N.B. Copies cost 10p each plus adequate return postage.

The Librarian recommends you phone him asking how best to proceed and say if you prefer to make your own copies.

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. Our 'musical' members might like to know that the library has 107 articles on music. There are 28 in the General section, 10 on Opera, 2 on Conductors, 56 on Composers, one on Country, three on Pop and seven on Instruments but none on Jazz!

If you are interested in borrowing any articles then give him a ring and he will advise how to proceed.

ARTICLES

No. Copies	Topic / Title	
	Explorers	
7	Jones, P. Christopher Columbus	Log Book 3,5,8,9/2005
2	The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06)	Masonic Philatelic Club 4/2005
	Fairy Tales	
2	Cartier, R. Pied Piper of Hamelin	Topical Times 6/2006
1	Pascual, A. Hans Christian Andersen Bicentenary	The Baton 2005
	Fiction	
2	Cartier, R. Robots among us: fiction to reality	Topical Times 10/1998
	Finland	
2	Paton, I. Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim: saviour of Finland	Topical Times 6/2001
	First Aid	
	Wilson, T. Service to mankind (St. John's Ambulance Brigade)	Stamps 6/1987
	Fish	
3	Van der Valk, L. Jaws (sharks)	Stamps 8/1983
	Flags	
3	Tarrant, R. Stars and Stripes	Stamps 2/1991
3	Verge, C. Creating the Canadian flag	Topical Times 11/2006
	Flowers	
3	Brown, N. Say it with Flowers	ThemNews 2/2005
10	Floyd, B. Flowers (on Malaysian stamps)	Malaysian Philatelist 1/2005
	Food & Drink	
3	Soper, B. Olive Oil in the Ancient World	Topical Times 8/2005
	Football	
3	Dane, H. The World Cup	Stamp Magazine 7/1974
	Forgeries	
5	Tyler, V. Fakes & forgeries of topical interest (5 articles)	Topical Times 6/1994
	Fossils	
2	Bantz, U. Minerals, fossils	ThemNews 8/2004
	France	
2	Dunlop, J. Was Napoleon Poisoned?	MediTheme 11/2005
	Freemasons	
3	Lincoln, N. Fantastic Masons	Masonic Philatelic Club 1/2004
	Geology	
2	Hoyt, M. Geological names (US posmarks with relevant names)	Topical Times 12/2005
	Germany and Germans	
2	Nutley, I. Political Propaganda: Germany 1933-1945	Stamp Magazine 4/1973
2	Walker, R. Famous Germans	Stamps 11/1986
	Grass	
2	Jones, D. Grass is not always green	Topical Times 2/2006

		Heraldry	
1	Witty, J.	The delineation of heraldic designs	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 12/1957
		History	
6	Bromberg, E.	Jewish history in America marks 350 years	Scott Stamp Monthly 6/2005
7	De Luca, V.	All hail the Roman emperors	Scott Stamp Monthly 4/2006
16	Fraser, R.	Scotland For Ever: a philatelic overview	American Philatelist 1/2005
5	Gruber, A.	The Isle of Man	American Philatelist 3/2005
3	Larney, D.	A Celebration of Irish Heritage	Scott Stamp Monthly 3/2005
5	Soper, B.	The Phoenicians: Bedouins of the sea	American Philatelist 1/2004
		Ireland	
3	Larney, D.	A Celebration of Irish Heritage	Scott Stamp Monthly 3/2005
		Isle of Man	
5	Gruber, A.	The Isle of Man	American Philatelist 3/2005
		Language	
8	Finlay, I.	Linguistic aspects of philately	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 10/1966 - 9/1967
		Lifeboats	
1	Bolton, P.	Lifeboat Sir William Hillary	Log Book 1/2005
1	Horgan, D.	150th Anniv. R. N. L. I. (Lundy)	Log Book 5/2005
1		Shore to Shore RNLI Brit Island Stamps	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 3/1999
		Lighthouses	
2	Dunlop, J.	Lighthouses and Grace Darling	MediTheme 11/2005
		Mail Coaches	
2	Wharton, F.	Horsepower and the last mailcoach	Stamp Magazine 10/1984
		Malaysia	
7	Floyd, B.	Mammals & Reptiles on Malaysian Stamps	Malaysian Naturalist 2004
11	Floyd, B.	Aquatic Life on Malaysian Stamps	Malaysian Naturalist 2004
		Marine Life	
11	Floyd, B.	Aquatic Life on Malaysian Stamps	Malaysian Naturalist 2004
		Mathematics	
3	Vegter, W.	Cyber Heroes of the Past: Pope Sylvester 11	ThemNews 12/2005
		Medicine and Nursing	
2	Cutajar, N.	The Sovereign Military Order of Malta	Stamp Magazine 11/1975
2	Dunlop, J.	Was Napoleon Poisoned?	MediTheme 11/2005
7	Epstein, G.	They Were Doctors	American Philatelist 10/2005
2	Termini, B.	The World's Heartiest Stamp	American Philatelist 2/2005
3	Wilson, T.	Human Anatomy and the Philatelist	MediTheme 5/2005
		Meteorology	
3	Peng, J.	Wind	Topical Times 12/2000
		Military	
4	Mackay, J.	Redcoats On Parade	Scott Stamp Monthly 7/2005
4	West, R.	The Royal Guernsey Militia	Stamp Magazine 43/1974
		Motor Racing	
3	Lovell, G.	50 years of Silverstone	Stamp Magazine 10/1998

		Mountains	
4	Frux, G.	North America's Highest Mountains	Scott Stamp Monthly 6/2005
4	Scott, A.	Restless mountains of Latin America	Stamp Magazine 12/1994
2	Shadbolt, G.	New Zealand's Mountain Scenery	Stamp Magazine 2/1974
		Navy	
12		Trafalgar Issue	Log Book 7,8/2005
2	Humphries, J.	Battle of the Falkland Isles	Log Book 3/2005
2	Da Silver, R.	The Portuguese Frigate in the Battle of St Vincent	Log Book 3/2005
3	Watson, J.	The memory of Nelson	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 10/1955
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		Orchids	
1	Australian Stamp Bureau	Australian Orchids (set of 4 issued 18/9/86)	Stamp Magazine 8/1986
		Parks	
5	Ohman, V.	Creating a philatelic pathway through our National Parks	American Philatelist 2/1997
		Pantomime	
4	Bruce-Bowling, B.	How it all began	Stamps 11/1985
		Phoenicians	
5	Soper, B.	The Phoenicians: Bedouins of the sea	American Philatelist 1/2004
		Poets	
1		Robert Burns at the National Postal Museum	Gibbons Stamp Monthly 7/1996
		Police	
4	Hobday, P.	The Activities of the Police	Stamp Magazine 3/1974
4	Jones, G.	The Police: A Philatelic Theme	Stamp Collecting 2/1982
		Postage Dues	
5	Buchan, J.	Postage Dues	Stamp Magazine 9/1998
		Postal Services	
1	Turnpenny, B.	Recent British Postal Disputes	Stamp Magazine 9/1975
4	Straight, D.	Pneumatic mail bag	American Philatelist 6/2005
		Postmarks	
4	Ellis, H.	Postmarks on stamps	Stamp Magazine 10/1984
		Prehistory / Prehistoric animals	
2	Anderson, H.	Palaeolithic art	Topical Times 10/1998
4	Lane, J.	Archaeopteryx: An Early Flyer	Flight 12/2005
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2	Nutley, I.	Political Propaganda: Germany 1933-1945	Stamp Magazine 4/1973

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Compiled by Alan Sabey

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