

THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

If it's June it must be Thematica, something for all of us to look forward to. I do so enjoy talking to dealers who want to sell me stamps by the subject not the set; and who show some interest in my theme rather than a faint "I don't think we'd have anything on that" response. The BTA will have its usual table there of course, and I hope to meet up with a few readers during the weekend. Our AGM will be held on the Sunday, full details appear on page 62. The new Committee will be up for election, and it is with regret we will lose our President Brian Sole. Brian, as he explains in his President's Page (44) has led us for five years, and before that in various guises since the BTA was formed. I have had plenty of occasions to thank him for the support he shows me as collector or Committee member, and I know many other people have benefited from his kindness and support. At the AGM Brian will be invited to become Patron and Life Member of the BTA. No one deserves it more. The position of President will be more than ably filled by John Hayward, our current Vice-Chairman. Lots of people made Eurothema a success last year, none more so than John Hayward and Lesley Marley. Lesley unfortunately will not be standing for re-election as Chair, but we wish them both every success. Also at the AGM will be the presentation of the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl to Ian Paton, whose article "The Peculiar Institution: slavery in the USA before emancipation and abolition" was voted the best article in *Themescene* in 2007. Ian is the first contributor to win the trophy for a second time, and deservedly so, all his writings exhibit both erudition and enthusiasm.

We also have a report from Harrogate (page 66). I have just returned from there, where I staffed the BTA table on and off during the exhibition, and put a few faces to names of our members. Then comes a report on the European Championship of Philately held in Essen in 2007 (page 70). This may seem a little out of date but it has only just been published in *TC News: Bulletin of the FIP Thematic Commission*. It is published now as a prelude to the article to be published in September *Themescene* on the 2008 competition. I'm writing this at the same time as the competition is taking place, let's hope UK competitors do well.

Lise Whittle works hard in *Themescene* to attract the interest of younger members with her column Just4Kids (page 75). I am delighted to report on the Award of Merit she received from the Association of Scottish Philatelists (page 69). A very worthy recipient, and congratulations from the BTA.

It is with great regret that our Membership page features the death of Dr. David Jones of Aberdeen. David was a regular contributor to *Themescene*, and in recognition of that the last piece he wrote, published in June 2005, is republished here (p.59).

And now it's time to look ahead. WIPA08 – the Vienna International Postage Stamp Exhibition – will be held from 18th to 21st September (see <http://www.wipa08.com/index.php>). Twelve exhibits have been accepted from the UK, of which no less than five are thematic. We wish Ron Backhouse, Lesley Marley, Brian Sole, Richard Wheeler and Peter Woods the very best of luck. A full report will appear in *Themescene*.

If you are attending an event which merits a brief (or longer!) report, or you would like to share your enthusiasm for your own collection, or even send me a snippet for Here & There, do send me an article. It doesn't have to have fancy layout and presentation (in fact I'd rather it didn't), it just needs to say something which others would enjoy reading about. I look forward to hearing from you! ☒

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Brian Sole

This is my final President's Page, because I will be standing down at the 2007 AGM on June 29 2008, after 5 years, one year longer than the normal four years. The Committee requested me to stand for an additional year, in view of the forthcoming Eurothema competition where I was to be the British judge. It was also the first time that the event had been held in London. Margaret Morris, the immediate Past-President, acted as Patron and thanks to the hard work of John Hayward, in particular, the event was a great success.

I am proud to have served as President of the BTA for the past five years. There have been a number of highlights, in addition to Eurothema 2007. As part of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the BTA, we were delighted to be invited to give a thematic display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 10 March 2005. Several members contributed material and it was an honour to receive the bronze plaque, as a memento of the occasion, from David Beech, the President of the Royal PSL. Later, in March 2006, the BTA filled 200 frames with displays by several of the Thematic Groups belonging to the BTA, plus some individual members' displays. It was noticeable that visitors spent more time than usual admiring some unusual material.

When the BTA was formed in 1984, Great Britain lagged behind both Europe and America in the field of thematic philately. Franceska Rapkin was the only G.B. thematic collector with a collection of any note, i.e. The Summer Olympic Games 1936. Her exhibit won her the first Gold medal by a British thematic exhibitor. In addition, Franceska arranged for the translation of "An Introduction to Thematic Philately" by Dr Ernst Schlunegger, which appeared in serial form in the early editions of *Themescene*, and for Giancarlo Morolli, President of the FIP Thematic Commission, to give a seminar on Thematic Philately during Spring Stampex, on 3 March 1985. The Seminar attracted an attendance of over 80 thematic collectors and was received enthusiastically. Other seminars/workshops were organised by Franceska, commencing with one in Weston-Super-Mare. These workshops have contributed to the advance in the medal levels achieved by British thematic exhibitors at International level and led to a greater acceptance of Thematic Philately in this country. Franceska, Alma Lee, Margaret Morris and Christine Earle were all invited to give individual displays to the Royal Philatelic Society London. On 13 December 2007 no less than five thematic gold medal winners gave a display to the Royal Philatelic Society: Ian Paton, Steve Boorn, Sheila Foster and myself displayed 120 sheets each from our exhibits and Christine Earle provided a Social Philately display "The Post Office went to War".

There have been sad times during my term of office. Betty Miller, so long a faithful worker for BTA in distributing *Themescene*, and helping out on the BTA table at Thematica, died very shortly after I had delivered the Life Membership Certificate to her and husband John. It was also a shock to learn that the Philatelic Music Circle was to disband, because nobody would volunteer to take over as editor of "The Baton". The BTA offered free membership for a year to all UK members of the PMC and we were very grateful to receive a donation to our funds, when the PMC was finally wound up. The PMC also kindly donated a music prize at Eurothema 2007 and we were pleased that Irene Lawford, the President of PMC, could join us at the Dinner, during Eurothema, to present the prize.

Continued on page 46

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	220
Family members	20
Junior members	5
Society members	16
Overseas members	21
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	3
Total number of members (at 1 st May 2008)	286

Subscription Renewals

As the subscriptions have come in we have received a number of resignations from members whose collecting interests have changed, or who feel that their collecting days are now over. Sadly we have also received in March a kind letter informing us that Dr Peters of Whetstone had passed away. The Association is always the poorer for these losses; however we do retain records of folk who resign for a short while, in case they have a change of heart at some future date. Having returned from a holiday visiting friends and family, it was pleasing to see a fresh crop of renewal forms and cheques ready for banking. However sadly there are still a number of members who need yet another reminder if they intend to participate in the Association for another year. If there is no response to these final requests for renewal we will have to consider those members lost to the Association.

A large number of people have been in membership for many years, and our records are compiled when a member enrolls. It is quite likely that collecting interests will have changed or have been added to and we would like to know. Therefore during the coming year we will be asking members to complete a short questionnaire in order that our records can be both accurate and complete.

New Members joining since the March 2008 issue

Mr. A.J.. Kearns Horsham
Mrs. H.G. Kirk Haddington

Deaths advised since the March 2008 issue

Dr. D. Jones Aberdeen
Dr. N. Peters Whetstone, London

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

As I sit and write this Page the national philatelic exhibition, Harrogate 2008, will be opening its doors to visitors. I hope that many of you will have been able to visit as I have been told that it should be a good show and that many rare and interesting exhibits will be on show. I myself have only been to Harrogate once before and found it a very pleasant place with many interesting attractions. Although previous submissions in my Pages have conveyed my dislike of too many exhibitions, and certainly the removal of national competitions from Stampex, it is important to support these events wherever they are held. One sometimes forgets the effort that goes into planning and staging these shows. However I am pleased to read that the national competitions will move back to Stampex in 2009. I am sure I speak for many of you when I say that Stampex has lost something very special that set it apart from other stamp exhibitions and fairs since the national competitions moved elsewhere. Hopefully their return to their natural home will be successful.

This issue will mainly be concerned with Thematica which runs from Saturday 28th June to Sunday 29th. There will be the usual array of specialist thematic dealers as well as the competitive displays – BTA Cup, Inter Federation Competition and John Fosbery Trophy as well as the junior competitions. Hopefully some of you have chosen to enter these this year. The John Fosbery competition is perfect for anyone who wants to begin competing or has something “unusual” that they would like to show but which would not be acceptable in general competition. The BTA Cup, with entries consisting of thirty two sheets, is a perfect starting ground for serious thematic exhibiting and is a good “stepping stone” to the national competitions. The standard of the entries in these competitions has always been high and hopefully that will continue this year with some new, imaginative ideas coming forward. Mention in this issue will also be made of the Thematic Workshop taking place on 26th July at the Royal Philatelic Society London. It will be a very useful and informative day and I hope you will chose to attend.

As you can gather we have a busy few months ahead of us so please do all you can to support our Association. Enjoy the summer! ☒

President's Page *Continued from page 44*

On a more cheerful note, as I write this, we are looking forward to Harrogate 2008. BTA is donating a Cup for the Best Thematic entry. Preparations are also advanced for LONDON 2010 and no doubt BTA will be able to play a part, as we did at The Stamp Show 2000.

I wish to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work in carrying out their various functions and send my best wishes to my successor as President, John Hayward. ☒

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

From: Lise Whittle, by email

Dear Members,

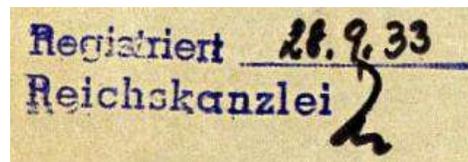
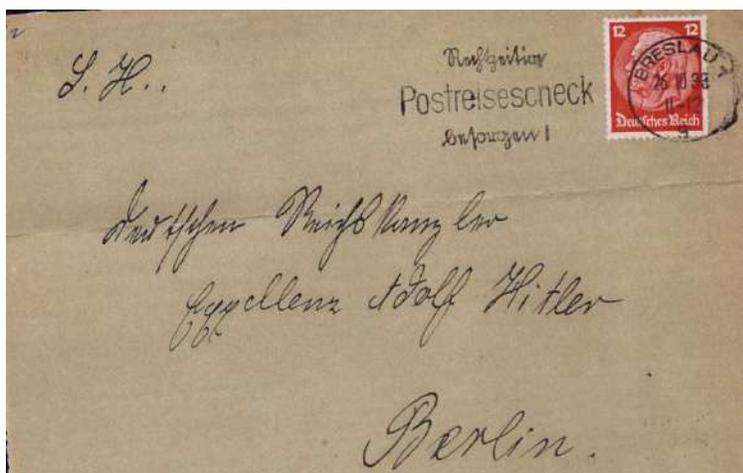
You may have recently seen a report printed in various philatelic publications by Linda Nicholson, the Head Teacher at Doonfoot Primary School, extolling the virtues of a school stamp club and how it fits in perfectly with the requirements of the school curriculum. There has been an acute shortage of school stamp clubs across the country for a number of years entirely because there are no club leaders volunteering to start them. The situation is dire, not because children don't like stamp collecting - as the Head Teacher's article said, they LOVE it - but entirely due to lack of leaders. It is denying children the opportunity to experience stamp collecting. Many adults feel very wary of working with children nowadays, but there are strict guidelines to protect adults, and plenty of support. If you feel you could help start or restart a club in your area, the Stamp Active Network can advise and support you, please email Erene Grieve at erenegrieve@f2s.com or contact myself, Lise Whittle, on (01292) 441821. No one is asking you to run a club for 50 children, you can restrict it to half a dozen if you wish, and run it once a week or once a month - in any way you want, and we will support and advise you. It will be unbelievably rewarding for you, other Philatelic Society members will greatly admire you, and you will be guaranteed an eternal place in stamp heaven with as many stamps, albums and catalogues as you wish, when the time finally comes!

Your help is needed more than ever. But if getting involved in a school club doesn't appeal, perhaps you could help by passing on the junior pages from *Themescene* and *Raflet* magazines, and sending 20 bright, colourful stamps to your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, or giving them to neighbouring parents to give to their children (don't send more than 20, that way the recipient will want more!) This is a small way in which you can help pass on your enjoyment to the next generation.

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

Dear Wendy

You kindly featured, as a letter, my piece on "Herr Hitler's Fan Mail" in *Themescene* December 2007. We asked if any GB stamp collector had a cover addressed to the Fuhrer. I have received one response from Rabbi Zaiden and he sent the enclosed illustration.

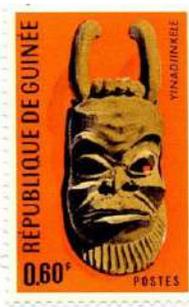


Pmk: Breslau 26.10.1933
Reverse: Reichskanzlei Registriert
28.9.33

MASKS – A LOSS OF SELF

Richard Wheeler explains how man has hidden his identity

The wearing of a mask disguises the wearer and portrays a different character. Masks have been used since pre-historic times, made from animal skulls, wood, cloth and other materials including make-up. Some are very elaborate and are part of a costume. Some masks are very plain with few features whilst others are elaborate carvings which may have been painted. Many masks have movable jaws and may open to reveal a second mask. An eagle mask opens to reveal a supernatural being in human form.



Part of a costume

Elaborate carving

Eagle mask

Followers of the Shaman who wears a mask believe him to have great powers and be possessed of a great spirit that he uses in ceremonies ensuring a successful harvest, the need for rain, a successful hunt and even for curing illnesses. Totem poles are thought to frighten away evil spirits and protect the living. They are also used in initiation ceremonies. In North America, each Inuit group had a Shaman who had power to communicate with the spirits. Masked dancers are thought to be possessed by a spirit representing the mask which has great powers. They also drove out sickness, and in funeral ceremonies they seek to drive out the soul of the deceased into the spirit world.



Totem pole, Shaman and masked dancer.

Burial masks were used in Egypt, Rome, China and Mexico to protect the dead from evil spirits in their after life.

In parts of Africa judges wore masks when sentencing a miscreant whilst in Europe the executioner wore a mask.

The wearing of a mask is ‘a loss of self’ (your own



personality). However it is an extension of oneself with the need to explain, explore and embrace the human condition. It is still the safest way to act out, entertain, educate, wonder out loud, commiserate, unburden yourself or release your feelings.

In ancient times Greek and Roman actors, in vast auditoriums seating thousands of people, would wear large masks with exaggerated



features to portray the characters they were playing. They incorporated a wide mouth which contained a megaphone to help project the actor's voice. They would quickly change these masks to

show if the character they were playing was happy or sad.

The division of comedy and tragedy was established by the Greeks. To this day the symbol of the masks has been associated with theatrical entertainment.



In the early 1600's a group of actors included females whose characters had hitherto been played by men, and wore half masks. They created an improvised Italian comedy around a basic plot with comic actions. This was known as the Commedia dell'arte and troupes spread throughout Europe. It was through them that Pantomime, and famous clown figures such as Punch and Kasperl derived.



Half and full masks were worn in earlier times when Court functions were held at the time of Mardi Gras. Nobility dressed themselves up in disguise and considered all pleasures allowable.

Protective masks have been worn by soldiers over hundreds of years; and are now worn by sportsmen involved in cricket, baseball, hockey, etc. Today's use of masks also includes



theatrical make-up by actors, clowns, Oriental characters and face painting by children. Masks are used in carnival, stage presentations, television and films, which all disguise a person. ☒

COINAGE OR BANKNOTES OR STAMPS?

Brian Buckle looks at one of the more unusual effects on philately of war

Not a question most thematic collectors need to ask themselves. A few who should are the collectors of the history of currency, a theme which, by the way, I recommend for its several aspects – philately, numismatics, aesthetics, history and economics.

What exactly am I referring to? There are a series of stamp-looking items that were not intended to be stuck on an envelope but to be used as small change. As such they appear in both stamp and banknote catalogues – a real hybrid. There are several other types besides these, including stamps stuck on cards and signed, and stamps encapsulated in plastic.

How do they come to be? Invariably they are the result of war. During wars it was common to hoard coins with precious metal content creating a shortage of small change. For some curious psychological reason it appears the British did not do this in either World War, or at least not enough to affect circulation – I don't know why, especially as during both wars postage stamps were declared legal tender.

The group I intend to draw your attention to are those which are purely stamps, though often printed on cardboard. The best known are the Russian examples but they are preceded in 1915 by a Turkish issue. These appear in the Standard Catalogue of Paper Money in two denominations [3 stamps] 5.10.10 paras that describes them as unissued stamps, presumably why they are not listed by SG. Look carefully at this one and you can see that the stamps were printed in sheets, pasted onto card and then



re-perforated. This stamp has two rows of perfs along the base.

We turn now to Syria. Again these are listed in the Banknote catalogue but not SG. Syria in 1945 was freshly independent but cut off from France, her usual supplier. Look at SG and you will find Syrian fiscals used for a variety of subsidiary postal purposes. In this case the fiscal has been affixed to cardboard with a denomination on the back. There are 2 values – 2½ piastres and 5 piastres.



The Russian issues follow the train of events. The first issue in 1915 uses the lower values of the Tercentenary set printed on card, 10.15.20 kop. In 1916 more were issued, this time with the Imperial arms and a value on the back. The third Imperial issue was only two stamps and these have the value, 1 or 2, on the front as well. Finally under the Kerensky Government there was an issue with no arms and the value 1,2,3 kop also on the front and back.



Stamp-

money also exists for Azerbaijan [1918], Odessa [1917], South Russia [1918] and the Ukraine the same year. Some of these are quite difficult to find – I have never seen the ones for Odessa and Azerbaijan. Also for Northern States of the U.S. during the Civil War.

I can't guarantee how these would go down with a judge. If it were me I would congratulate the collector – but that's me. ☒

Reference

Standard catalogue of world paper money. 9th ed. Vol.2: General issues 1368 - 1960

Half page advertisement for Thames Themes

NEW ISSUES

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

WHERE LAND AND WATER MEET

Barry Floyd enjoys some scenery



Over 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water and this percentage is likely to increase if global warming intensifies. Our planet features vast oceans, extensive seas, great lakes and lengthy rivers.

It follows that Postal Agencies around the world have a great opportunity to focus upon the seascapes and bodies of water of their individual countries. The resultant pictorial illustrations offer an interesting theme for collectors, especially as there is a fascination to the meeting of land and water, inherent in mankind due to our early evolution. Prehistoric man frequently dwelt along coastlines, lake shores and rivers. In historic and more recent times, King Canute and others have tried to influence the work of waves upon coastal landforms. Today, vacations are often associated with seaside or shoreline destinations.

The ordering of this theme takes account of marine (seashore), lacustrine (lakeshore) and riverine features as depicted on stamps. Clearly a substantial collection could be amassed if all three topics are pursued on a global basis. Thus you may wish to focus on one of the three branches, or to collect all three within a single country. Other options are to differentiate between, e.g. tropical and non-tropical regions; or to identify erosional and depositional features along coastal shorelines, lakes and rivers; or to study historic and contemporary images of water bodies on stamps.

In this brief article only a few philatelic items can be included, to illustrate the three variants of shorelines, lakes and rivers.

Great Britain



Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Trust, an attractive set of five stamps was issued in 1981 (SG 1155-1159). The paintings show Glenfinnan in Scotland, Derwentwater in England, Stackpole Head in Wales, the Giant's Causeway in Northern

Ireland and the seas around St.Kilda in Scotland.

Three Royal Mail aerogrammes have also featured our water bodies: the harbour of Porthgain, Dyfed in Wales

(reverse side: the coastline around White Rocks, County Antrim in Northern Ireland); Buttermere, Cumbria in England (reverse side Lough Erne, Fermanagh in Northern Ireland); and the River Dulas, Dovey Valley, Powys in Wales (reverse side the River Dee, Braemar, Grampian, Scotland.)



Marine (Shoreline)

The Pacific Island of Niue issued a set of four scenic stamps in 1999 (SG 863-866), two of which illustrate a colourful coral reef shoreline and an erosional arch feature. The neighbouring island of Samoa in 1987 issued four stamps (SG 754-75) showing some of the interesting marine features of that country.



In 2003 (SG 1149-MS 1153) Malaysia in S.E. Asia depicted some of its tropical islands and beaches, shown here on First Day Covers (next page).

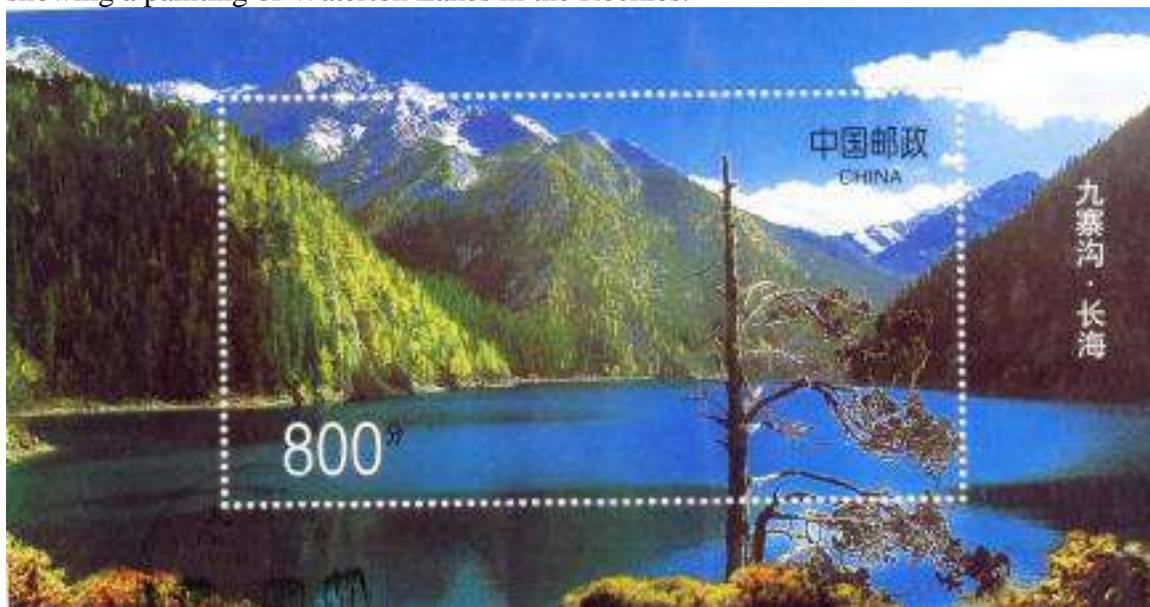


Turning to Africa, the Bantustan state of Transkei, in a tourism set of four stamps issued in 1980 (SG 79-82), focused on its Indian Ocean shoreline in three of the stamps. Dramatic erosional features are depicted.



Lacustrine

The photo of a beautiful lake scene appeared on a mini-sheet issued by the Peoples Republic of China in 1998. Long Lake in the Province of Jiuzhaigou is fed from snow-capped mountains and glaciers which surround the lovely water body. A strikingly similar view to the Chinese scene appeared on a recent Canadian stamp, showing a painting of Waterton Lakes in the Rockies.

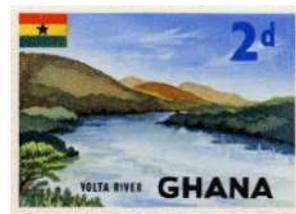


Returning to Africa, and another Bantustan state Venda, two stamps in a set issued in 1981, entitled Lakes and Waterfalls (SG 42-45), show a lake created by the Nwandezi Dam and, by contrast, the natural Lake Fundudzi.



River Stamps

Rivers and Waterfalls feature widely on stamps from all around the world. From the Niue and Transkei sets mentioned above, a view of the striking Matapa Chasm in the Pacific appears; while, from Southern Africa, the river mouth at Port St Johns is shown. Turning to West Africa, the state of Ghana (1959, SG 216) has a stamp depicting the imposing Volta River.



Canada has depicted its numerous rivers in several issues. The third series (1993, SG 1558-1562) appeared in a strip. Reading from left to right: the Fraser River; the Yukon River; the Red River; the St. Lawrence River; and the St. John Rivers.



The last river image is drawn once more from China, with a mini-sheet issued in 1998. It featured a beautifully meandering river (or stream, to judge the scale from a herd of wild horses, approaching the sunlight water).

Conclusion

“One foot in sea and one on shore....” (from the song: *Much Ado about Nothing*) This

overview of the theme ‘Where Land and Water Meet’ has scarcely touched the surface of the innumerable water bodies which have appeared on stamps the world over in the past half century or more. No doubt future issues will continue to feature H₂O in its varied and often complex relationship to *terra firma*. We can recommend this theme to all collectors who enjoy a day out by the seaside, or who seek rest and recuperation by a lakeshore or along a river. Happy times! ☒

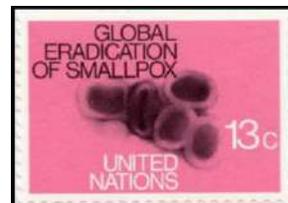
**FULL PAGE ADVEERTISEMENT
FOR THEMATICA**

LIFE'S EVENTS CHRONICLED ON POSTAGE STAMPS: A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

Dr. David Jones looks back over his life

I celebrated an important birthday recently and it prompted me to feature stamps which bring back memories; some good, some not so good, to illustrate some of the landmarks throughout this 'incredible journey' as it was referred to in one birthday card. I suffered from tubercular pleurisy as a student and recovered because of the expert medical treatment with streptomycin, an antibiotic discovered by a soil microbiologist, Selman Waksman (Gambia S.G.953). Whilst hospitalised I fed caterpillars of the Emperor moth (*Saturnia pavonia*; see Yugoslavia S.G.2311) in a special cage until they spun cocoons. Adult moths eventually emerged from the cocoons and were set free 'into the wild'. Grasses featured in my undergraduate days but unlike the ones shown on stamps (not too often) from Bophuthatswana (S.G.80-83 and 116-119) were British species. As a postgraduate student I was vaccinated against smallpox (United Nations S.G.303).

I became a research microbiologist and used optical microscopes (Russia S.G.3242; Brazil S.G.1859) and electron microscopes (Japan S.G. 1852; a transmission electron microscope on a pre-stamped envelope issued in Russia in 1993 is shown here) in my studies on *Penicillium* spp.(Monaco S.G.1117) and a plant pathogen on *Agathis* sp. (Fiji S.G.817). A colleague attended the 3rd.International Protozoologist Congress in Leningrad (Russia S.G.3694). I attended an electron microscope conference in Budapest in 1984 (EUREM) and the roses stamps are cancelled as shown. And now I have to get my blood checked for glucose (Denmark SG 941 displays insulin crystals). And finally, lichens, which played a prominent part of my research, were the subject of an article I submitted recently to a philatelic magazine. I do hope that it is accepted! ☒

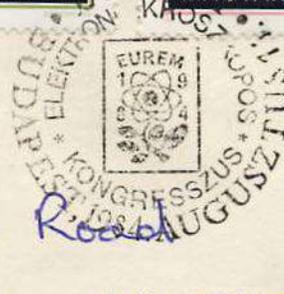
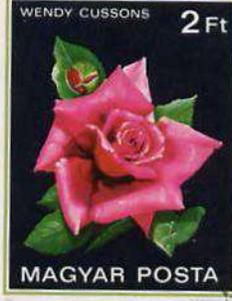




Handwritten initials

Куда Новосибирск
обл.
г. Бердск
Кому Электромеханический
Завод

Индекс предприятия связи и адрес отправителя



Dr. D. Jones
137, Cranford Road
Aberdeen AB1 7NJ.
Scotland
U.K.

JERSEY NEW ISSUES MAY - JUNE 2008

Jersey Cows

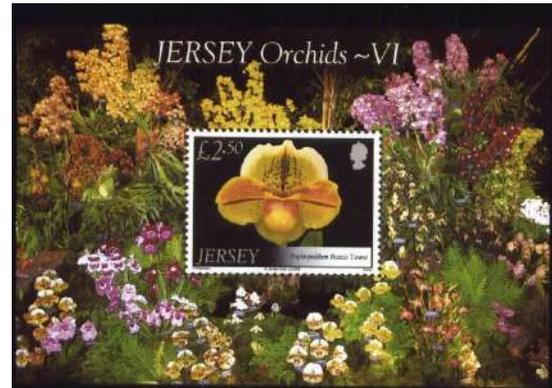


Commemorates the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society hosting of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau Conference. The Bureau was formed in 1951, bringing together Jersey cattle breeders around the world. Today the Jersey is the second largest breed of dairy cattle in the world. By the 1700s Jerseys were being exported in large numbers to England, being recognised for their superior quality milk. The 1860s to the First World War was the period of greatest development for the breed worldwide: they were first exported to

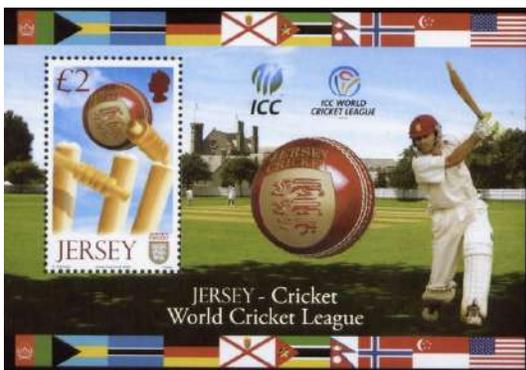
Canada in 1868, to South Africa in 1880, New Zealand 1862, Scandinavia the 1890s and Latin America by 1900.

Jersey Orchids

Six different orchids feature of the stamps with the background image on the miniature sheet being the Eric Young Orchid Foundation display at the 18th World Orchid Conference held in Dijon in 2005. The Foundation received a gold medal at the 2007 Chelsea Flower Show



Jersey Cricket – World Cricket League



This miniature sheet commemorates the designation of Jersey as host for the 2008 World Cricket League Division 5 Tournament. The tournament will see twelve different countries from around the world (including Jersey) competing to go through to Division 4: a six team event being held later in 2008. The miniature sheet surrounds features the Victoria College Cricket Ground.

Jersey Naval Connections “Visiting Naval Vessels”

Features seven of the naval vessels that have visited the Island over the years. The Prestige Booklet provides an account of many more vessels, their capabilities and the relationship Jersey has with the Royal Navy.



AGENDA

**For the 17th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association
to be held during Thematica on Sunday June 29th 2008 at 2.15 for 2.30 p.m. in the
Allenby Room at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* September 2007
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2007
6. Election of Officers
There are vacancies for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman:
The following Officers have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Anne Stammers	Secretary
Peter Wood	Treasurer
7. Election of Committee members
The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor <i>Themescene</i>
Currently	Peter Denly FRPSL	Membership Secretary
Currently	John Hayward	Displays Organiser
Currently	Simon Moorcroft	Publicity Officer
Currently	Richard Wheeler	Distribution
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising
Currently	Brian Sole	Committee member

The committee would welcome one or two further nominations for Committee members.
8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of

Ron Backhouse	Librarian
Ronald Hyams	Examiner
9. Motions for Discussion
 - a) This meeting invites Brian Sole to become an Honorary Life Member of the BTA
10. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by **June 18th**.

The meeting will be followed by a display 'The History, Development and Uses of Parachutes' by Barry Stagg winner of the BTA Cup at Thematica 2007.

Signed: Anne Stammers 18 April 2008 (Hon. Secretary)

BTA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2007

2006	INCOME		2007
3,468	Subscriptions		3,170
87	Publications - net surplus on account		36
49	Miscellaneous sales		27
201	Net Bank Interest		241
<hr/>			<hr/>
3,805	TOTAL INCOME		3,474
	EXPENDITURE		
3,328	"Themescene" - Printing, distribution and Expenses	3,018	
-980	less : Advertising Income	-840	2,178
490	Meetings (2006 included Torquay, 2007 Midpex)		226
922	Stampex-Village Green - net cost		0
0	Eurothema (expenditure)	8,007	
		-	
	less: income	4,178	
0	less: Philatelic Music Society donation	-750	3,079
85	BTA Cup expenses	59	
-75	less : Entry Fees	-75	-16
	Committee Meetings and Expenses (extra meeting in		
284	2007)		457
437	Publicity and Web Site		486
99	Insurance		99
377	Affiliations (ABPS, ATA, Friends of Thematica)		398
	Officers Expenses (other than shown under relevant		
367	activity)		252
250	Donation to 2010		0
79	Other		70
<hr/>			<hr/>
5,663	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		7,229
-1,858	DEFICIT Expenditure over income		-3,755

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

Accumulated fund		
11,622	Balance at 1.1.2007	9,764
<u>-1,858</u>	less : Deficit for the year	<u>-3,755</u>
9,764		6,009
-379	less : Stocks of publications	-204
<u>750</u>	Eurothema Fund - donation from Philatelic Music Circle	<u>0</u>
<u>10,135</u>		<u>5,805</u>
Represented by:		
11,200	Cash at Bank: High Interest Account	5,090
1,345	Current account	2,969
200	Held by distribution manager	200
<u>9</u>	Amounts due to us and our payments in advance (debtors)	<u>0</u>
12,754		8,259
-1,138	less: Subs received in advance	-924
<u>-1,481</u>	less: Amounts due or received in advance	<u>-1,530</u>
<u>10,135</u>		<u>5,805</u>

Hon. Treasurer, P. J. Wood. Hon. Examiner, R.Hyams.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS

Five good reasons to recruit a fellow collector to the BTA:

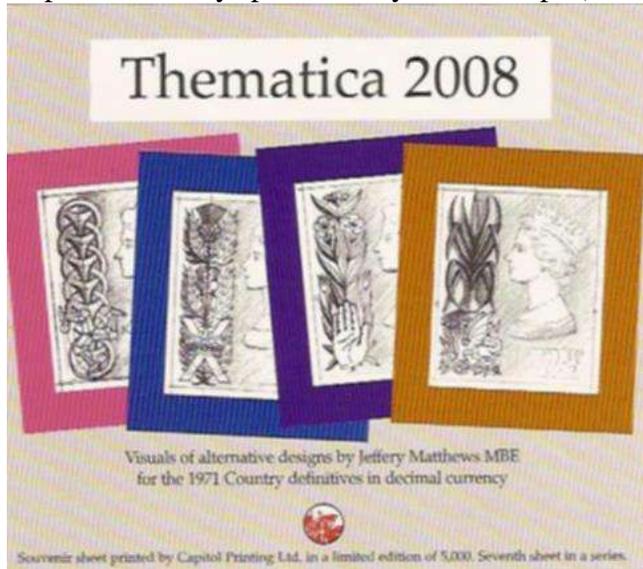
1. Library of books and journal articles. Indexed by theme, with index updates appearing in *Themescene* and on the BTA Website. Books can be posted out - you only pay the return postage. Photocopies can be purchased of journal articles; or borrow the article and scan / photocopy it yourself.
2. List of members interests. Ask our Membership Secretary to give you the contact details of other members collecting the same or similar themes.
3. London and regional meetings. Enjoy meeting up with fellow members, looking at their displays, and benefiting from advice from the experts.
4. Access to the publications of the American Topical Association.
5. Plus of course ... *Themescene* four times a year!

'REGIONAL' SHEET FOR THEMATICA

We look forward to Thematica (from the official press release)

A reminder that Thematica will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday, June 28 (10.30am to 5.30pm) and Sunday, June 29 (10.30am to 5pm). The event will include thematic dealers from the UK and overseas, entries in the various competitions organised by The Friends of Thematica, a chance to meet representatives of the British Thematic Association and of leading thematic societies.

The competitions are the John Fosbery Trophy, judged by the visitors to the event, the British Thematic Association Cup, the Inter-Federation Competition and the Barclays Youth Competition kindly sponsored by Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd.



2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the 'Regional' definitives by the British Post Office. On the introduction of decimal currency in 1971, Jeffery Matthews was selected to produce new designs for these stamps, issued for the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Thematica souvenir sheet for 2008, designed by Jeffery, shows alternative sketches that he produced while creating the designs for these stamps. A souvenir sheet is given free to each visitor to Thematica. In addition the exhibition catalogue is free, including articles written by thematic collectors,

and more information about the dealers at the event, which over the years has proved an essential visit for every thematic collector.

BTA TABLE – HELP NEEDED PLEASE!

As you know we have an information table at Thematica where there are some books for sale, details of membership and also boxes of meter marks and stamps etc for people to browse through. It is necessary for this table to be manned at all times and if you would like to 'do' an hour please let our Secretary, Anne Stammers, know (contact details page 42). It is not onerous and you meet fellow collectors and have a chat with them, making the hour go very quickly. Anne is looking forward to hearing from You!

HARROGATE 2008: 8TH ABPS NATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

And Wendy Buckle looks back at Harrogate

Harrogate turned out to be an excellent venue for the latest ABPS event in a number of ways. Firstly the venue – the Harrogate International Centre – was in a central location with a large enough hall to accommodate dealers, specialist societies and the exhibition all in one hall, and it had excellent lighting, something not available everywhere. Then the town itself had a number of holiday attractions making the weekend very relaxing (I avoided trying the spa water); and even the weather was kind.

The National Competitions had thirteen categories, the single most popular being the One Frame Exhibits with 23 entries. It's nice to see that many of us, unable to muster the 64 or more sheets needed for a full category entry, can still have the chance to submit something displayed and judged to national level.

The full thematic category had seven entries:

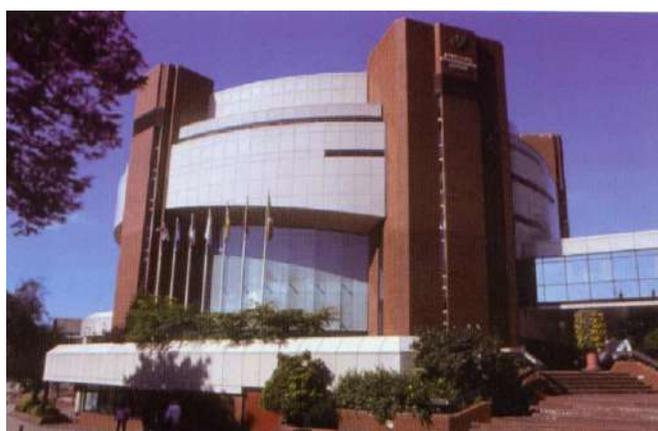
The winner, with 92 marks and a Large Gold, was Christine Earle with *Extracts from a Wartime Diary 1939-45*: an account of a family living through the Second World War, showing aspects of daily life for those involved. It was cleverly put together giving “diary entries”, historical facts and philatelic information. This also won the BTA Trophy for Best Thematic Exhibit.

Second was Glenn Morgan with 89 marks and a Gold for his *Through the Letter Box*, reminding us of the slowly disappearing system of corresponding with envelope and stamp (so much quicker to email...) showing street letter boxes, travelling boxes, private and household boxes and mechanical boxes.

Alan Watson received 83 marks and a Large Vermeil for *Heraldry: a basic course* which took beginners through the technical terminology, how heraldry is controlled and the significance and symbolism of designs.

Large silvers were awarded to William McKinlay with 73 marks for *Water is Life*, showing some of its many uses; Peter Weir with 71 marks for *The Liquid of Life*: a study of blood from ancient times; and KADS (pseudonym) also got 71 marks for *Gandhi life and legacy*.

Roshin Sudesh received 48 marks and a Certificate of Participation for *Mahatma Gandhi by Philately*.



Continued on page 68

BTA NEWS

IN THE NEWS

Eurothema collected a lot of favourable comments. One very full report appeared in *Thema: Tijdschrift voor Thematische Filatelie*. My Dutch is non-existent, but I did cope with the headline: "Yes we won! Nederland wint de Eurothema 2007!" which featured a full (A4) page report and five photographs.

A review of *Themescene* by Ian McQueen appeared in his regular review of specialist journals in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* February 2008. Regretfully, Ian is unable to continue this feature. If anyone is interested in taking this on please contact Hugh Jefferies, Editor of GSM. (Journals will be supplied to you).

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

One of the objects of the BTA, set out in its Constitution, is the provision of a panel of speakers willing to visit Societies. After several years the BTA wishes to bring this panel up to date. So would members who are willing to give thematic displays to Societies please inform our Membership Secretary, Peter Denly, that they are willing to give thematic displays and the Theme which they will display.

The panel of speakers will eventually appear on the BTA website, so please indicate to Peter Denly (see pag42) if you wish your private address to appear thereon or, if not, just your phone number/email address at which you may be contacted.

MEMBERS' MEETING 26TH JULY 2008

Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

The programme for the meeting will be:-

1030am	Members' displays of 12 sheets
1130-1145	Coffee Break
1145-1300	Guest Speaker John Leathes – Tigers and Submarines
1300-1415	Lunch
1415-1645	Thematic Workshop (with tea break)

Those members attending should bring 12 sheets from their latest acquisitions and be prepared to talk on them for no more than two minutes. The thematic workshop in the afternoon will include advice on starting and building a thematic collection and examples of the full range of thematic material available.

There is no charge for the meeting, coffee and tea will be provided. Lunch will not be provided on the premises, but members may bring their own sandwiches if they wish, for consumption in the main library at the Royal, or use various local cafes or hostelrys. Members must sign the guest register at the Royal on entering the premises and on leaving. They are welcome to use the main library facilities during the day.

John Hayward would appreciate an indication of numbers attending, so would you please inform him on Tel 01276 29246 or by email at ssasman@btinternet.com beforehand.

HERE AND THERE

THEMATIC METERMARKS

For those members who collect metermarks related to their theme, and even for those who do not, may I recommend a website I came across on reading a back issue of the British Philatelic Bulletin. It is all about British meter franking marks on www.meterfranking.co.uk. There is a monthly online newsletter and 80 back issues. There are also 20 listed themes with illustrations (all UK), so you may come across metermarks to add to your wants list. There is a huge amount of information on meter frankings themselves from 1920 including how to identify the machines. I was amazed at what was available on this website and to date have nowhere looked at everything. (JH)

BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

I've long been a fan of their website, and four months ago they set up a Wiki on the site. A Wiki, for anyone new to the concept, is a website or similar online resource which allows users to add and edit content collectively. (The most famous is probably Wikipedia, delight of schoolchildren doing homework and bane of the lives of higher education lecturers expecting at least some degree of educational quality from students). Eight themes were created for the BPMA wiki: Mount Pleasant Sports and Social Clubs, Working for the Post Office, Wartime Letters, War Memorials in the Post Office, Family History Research, Letter Boxes, Postal History and Working with our Collections. Now they have added a philatelic glossary; and their latest Bulletin says:



“The philatelic glossary is an exciting opportunity for you to help us to explode the mysteries behind philatelic terms. Forming part of a new wiki on The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) website, the glossary is an evolving resource where visitors can edit and add to the content with their own ideas. The glossary can be found at www.postalheritage.org.uk/wiki/PhilatelicGlossary

The wiki provides an opportunity for our website users to work together to create an informative and interesting resource that reflects their vast knowledge and experience of the history of the postal service. Visitors can both access the glossary for information and also produce their own content. If you think you can improve an existing entry, then go ahead and start editing. Alternatively, if you think a term is missing, why not add it in. Together we can use the glossary to regenerate an interest in philately and open up stamps to new audiences. Editing is quick and easy.

Users are encouraged to discuss contributions and find out about new entries by joining the BPMA Wiki User Group at <http://groups.google.com/group/bpma-wiki-group>” (WB)

HARROGATE *continued from page*



There was plenty to see and do during the weekend. The Court of Honour had a number of stunning exhibits. It featured different areas from the Royal Philatelic Collection: essays and varieties of the GB Wildings, aspects of Commonwealth issues with artwork and proofs and the Crown Agents UPU Omnibus issue. Chile, Portugal, and the Penny Black and Mulready envelopes also featured in the Court of Honour. And we shouldn't lose sight of the 46 dealers present, whose attendance made this whole event possible. ☒

STAMP ACTIVE

RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH WORK

All those involved in work with young collectors will be pleased to hear that the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies presented their Award of Merit to Lise Whittle for all the work she has undertaken to promote the hobby with school children.

Her citation read –

“Lise introduced her own children to stamp collecting as an activity for the summer holidays and, deciding that other children may be interested, she approached their school headmistress to see if a school stamp club was feasible.

Much hard work went into drawing up her proposals for the club, developing ideas for its operation and also for obtaining funding. These were already well developed when she contacted Erene Grieve, who gave her further encouragement.

The club was well attended from the start and fully appreciated by the school, the PTA and the members’ parents. During the 7 years that the club has been in operation well over 200 children have been introduced to the hobby from Doonfoot alone, and Lise has always made herself available to assist Erene Grieve with her several visits to other local schools on her Stamps for Schools project. Other collectors considering starting school stamp clubs have been made welcome at the Doonfoot club to see it in operation and offered generous advice and assistance on how to get started.



Contact was made with the Ayrshire Society in the early days, with Lise becoming a member, and both Ayrshire and Largs are proud to be associated with the club and give it their support.

Arranging weekly club activities throughout the school year takes considerable time and effort, as well as soliciting funds, but Lise also arranges displays of the children’s work for Parent’s Evenings, runs a children’s corner and puts on displays at South West Congress, and helps when she is available at the Children’s Table at Scottish Congress.

She now contributes a youth page to the BTA magazine Themescene, and is involved in Stamp Active Network, being their Scottish Youth Officer.

The children who were encouraged by Lise have been successful not only in Ayrshire and ASPS competitions, but have done particularly well in national competitions, thus positively raising the profile of Scottish

philately throughout the UK.”

The presentation was made at Perth at the Association’s 2008 Scottish Congress Dinner by Willie King, the Association’s President and was warmly applauded by the assembled company. ☒

ESSEN: CAPITAL OF EUROPEAN THEMATIC PHILATELY?

by Raymond Todd, Vice-President, F.I.P.

From TC News April 2008

I had the pleasure and honour of being invited to attend the Internationale Briefmarken Messe which was the site for the European Championship of Philately staged on 3 to 5 May 2007 in Essen. My thanks go to the BDPH and its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen group for their kind support. The event was staged in the hall in conjunction with many dealers present, postal administrations, philatelic talks (16 spread over the 3 days), specialist society booths and most importantly thematic seminars spread over 2 days.

The competition was split into 8 specialist groups (as opposed to the FIP split of just 3 groups) with 4 panels of 3 judges allocated to each work on 2 groups. Groups were split into:

Arts & Culture	Transport & Technology
History & Organisation	Medicine and Science
Man & Everyday Life	Animals & Plants
Sport & Leisure	Agriculture and Pets

For me the split into the eight sections was very interesting, and a distinct departure from what we have become accustomed to in FIP exhibitions. The judging was undertaken quickly and efficiently and time was allowed to cross check other teams' results. Each European country was entitled to enter up to eight of the groups with just one entry – this seemed to work well as there was a very good blend of exhibits spread over the 600 frames (12 sheet).

The awards ceremony was conducted in the afternoon and provided for a live presentation of marks for the championship; the selection process previously being done in the jury room on a points basis. The presentation included the previous year's champions as well in the process. This was very interesting as there were varied marks but the winner was quite clearly quickly identified as Wolf Hess (Germany) whose exhibit on Tuberculosis was outstanding.

A FIP/FEPA teaching seminar for jurors was held on Saturday 5 May under the guidance of Damian Läge. This provided for all present to be placed in teams to judge one exhibit in each of the groups – these results were then discussed at length with the all present. Damian Läge also introduced as a main topic the points allocated in exhibitions to Condition and Rarity and the concept of weighted marks for Condition compared to the level of those allocated to Rarity for a particular exhibit. In short, unless an exhibit scored highly in Rarity, the points for Condition should be reduced because of the lack of Rarity. This concept was understood by most people in attendance although it would be a new and challenging idea for other disciplines of philately.

The following day, PowerPoint presentations on the use of Postal History items in thematic exhibits were given first by Giancarlo Morolli and then by Wolf Hess. Again these were very interesting and a credit both to the presenters and the organizer Damian Läge. Also assisting to a large extent was Joachim Maas, another one of the German thematic stars on the horizon.

The European Thematic Championships will be held again next year at Essen on May 8 to 10. Essen must be the capital of European Thematics! ☒

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*

SCOUT AND GUIDE STAMPS CLUB

1957 - 2007

Peter Duck tells us about the history of Scouting, and its collecting

2007 was a big year for Scout philately. Firstly the Scout Movement celebrated its Centenary following the first experimental camp for boys organised by Robert Baden-Powell on Brownsea Island, Dorset in August 1907. Also 2007 saw the 150th anniversary of the birth of Baden-Powell who in 1900 had been the Hero of Mafeking during the Anglo-Boer War.

Our Club was founded in 1957 following the 50th anniversary of Scouting, so we are also celebrating our half-century. Originally we were called Scout Stamps Collectors club, but in 1985 our name was changed when the Girl Guides Movement reached its 75th anniversary. Many millions of men and women, boys and girls have been members of the Scout and Guide Movements over the past century and almost every country in the world have issued stamps in honour of either or both Movements.



Perhaps it might be appropriate to mention some “firsts” in Scout and Guide philately. B-P, as our founder was affectionately known, first appeared on a stamp before Scouting had even started.

He was depicted on the local ‘blue stamp’ as Commander of the besieged town of Mafeking in 1900. These stamps are said to have caused the displeasure of Queen Victoria, although B-P said he knew nothing about this. The first time that Lord Baden-Powell (he

was raised to the Peerage in 1929) appeared on a stamp as Chief Scout of the world was 12 years after his death when Liechtenstein hosted the 14th World Scout Conference issuing four stamps in 1953.



The first stamp with the Scout name on it appeared in 1918 when the newly founded State of Czechoslovakia used Boy Scouts to deliver official mail. Two stamps were prepared which carried the text “Posta Ceskych Skautu” (Czech Scout Post) and mail bearing the stamps had to be signed for by both the Scout postman and the recipient using a special handstamp on the

envelope itself.

Three sets of overprinted stamps for Scouts funds were issued in Siam (now Thailand) in 1920. The overprints showed the head of a tiger, as the Scouts at that time were called “Wild Tiger Scouts”. Many forgeries exist of these rather crude overprints. The first Boy Scout shown on a stamp came from Hungary in 1925 as part of a set of eight stamps issued for Sports Charities. Romania produced the first set of stamps for a Scout event when they issued five stamps with charity surcharge for their Scout Exhibition in 1931. This was a fine set depicting Scout activities and personalities.



World Jamborees had started in 1920, the first one being held at the Olympia Hall in London with the camp in Old Deer Park, Richmond. There was no philatelic recognition of this event, nor of the 2nd World Jamboree in Denmark in 1924. Scouting celebrated its Coming-of-Age with a huge World Jamboree at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead in 1929. Although B-P's first camp on Brownsea island in 1907 is considered to be the birth of Scouting, the Movement did not actually get under way until 1908 following the publication of *Scouting for Boys*. The 21st Anniversary Jamboree produced a postmark which was technically for use on Registered mail. It was a skeleton-type handstamp reading ARROWE PK CAMP WIRRAL CHES with no mention of Scouting.

The 4th World Jamboree which took place in Hungary 1933 produced a set of five stamps of identical design plus a variety of postmarks. Following this most World Jamborees, which



occur at four-yearly intervals, except during World War II when there was a gap of ten years, saw stamp issues or postal stationery together with appropriate postmarks.

No mention of Girl Guides yet, but the first one appeared from Romania in 1935 with a set of five stamps commemorating the 5th Anniversary of the Accession of King Carol II. She appears with two Boy Scouts on the 10+2 lei value.

The first Guide event mentioned on a stamp was from Lithuania in 1938 with an overprint for their Girl Guides National Camp. Hungary produced the first set for a Guide event in 1939 for their first Pax Ting (Peace) Rally at Godollo.

In 1912, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, as he then was, married Olave St.Clair Soames who later became World Chief Guide. But it was not until 1962 that she appeared on two stamps and a miniature sheet from Haiti to commemorate 22 years of Scouting in that country. Great Britain issued its first set of Scout stamps for the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield in 1957. These were also overprinted for used in British Postal Agencies in Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar.



After all these "firsts" there has been a vast number of Scout and Guide stamp issues as well as hundreds of postmarks worldwide, and our field of philatelic interest has grown enormously.

GROUP NEWS

GUILD OF ST GABRIEL



The next meeting will be held on 21st June, led by the President and Secretary, entitled "Religion on Stamps". This is an open meeting for anyone interested in attending: please contact the Secretary: Rev. David Hague, tel. 020 8664 9850 to book a place.

With no meetings during July and August the programme for the rest of the year is:

September 20 th	Ecumenical movement	Rev Noel Shepherd
October 18 th	Illuminated manuscripts	Peter Greening
November 15 th	Postcards plus Bring & Buy	Members
December 6 th	Christmas meetings, carols, quizzes and tea	
	Hugh Morgan Cup for best entry on "Christmas"	

FOR SALE

Available from Richard Wheeler, address on page 42

Books

Van Den Bold, Pim

Handbook of Thematic Philately. 2004.

£10.00 plus £2.00 post and packaging

Themescene

Back issues £0.50 each

Binders £4.25 inc. postage

DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY

INTERESTED IN THEMATIC COLLECTING?

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

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION?

Just4kiDs

(Themescene Juniors)

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

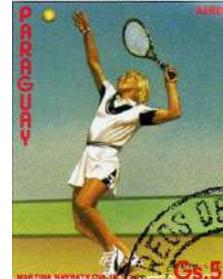
Can you play tennis? Here are a few basic moves you could try.

You will need a friend to play with you (or if there are 4 of you, you could play 'Doubles' with two players on each side.)

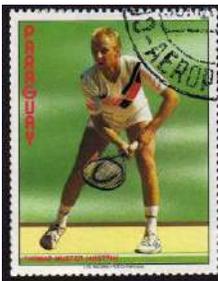
All the pictures showing the moves are on stamps – have you got any of them in your stamp collection?

'TO SERVE'

This is when you toss the ball up in the air, and on its way down you strike it with your racket towards your friend.



Martina Navratilova serving



'THE SERVICE RETURN'

The service return is when your friend hits the ball back after you have served.

Thomas Muster waiting to return a serve

'GROUNDSTROKES'

Groundstrokes are played after the ball has bounced once on the ground. There are two main types, the forehand and backhand drive.



Boris Becker playing a backhand drive



'THE LOB'

The lob is when you hit the ball high over your friend but it still lands inside the court.

John McEnroe trying to save a high lob

‘THE SMASH’

The best return from a lob is a smash. The smash is a fast and powerful shot which hopefully your friend won't be able to control.



‘THE VOLLEY’

The volley is when the ball is hit back to your friend without it bouncing on the ground.

‘THE DROP SHOT’

The drop shot is a low shot designed to move your friend around the court and wear them out.



A twisted backhand drop shot!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNER – YOU OR YOUR FRIEND?



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