

THEMESCENE

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THEMESCENE

Journal of the
British Thematic Association
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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

I am delighted to say that we have a very full issue of *Themescene*. So full, in fact, that I have curtailed my Editorial in order to find a bit more space. However, that should not deter potential contributors! Page 128 features “Blood and Plunder” by Tommy Broadly.

As Editor of *Logbook* (see p.155) Tommy is a busy man, and to save himself time he sent me a complete nine page competition entry, plus a few extra paragraphs of text. I scanned the stamps, put the article together and returned the pages. Result: minimal work for both of us. Does this approach appeal to any reader? You’ve done the work, got the marks, now send it to me to complete the ‘set’ – see it on display then see it in print.

Page 153 gives what I hope is a full list of recent BTA competition winners. If I have omitted anybody please accept my apologies: I rely on *Themescene* readers to keep me up to date on their activities, so don’t be shy - let me know. We did particularly well at WIPA08 (Vienna) and I’m sure readers will join me in congratulating Lesley Marley on her Gold. If you haven’t seen the display, read part two of “The Whale’s Tale” on page 133.

Plans for BTA events during 2009 and 2010 are well documented throughout this issue. Please try and support your Association as much as you can by attending what you can get to. Everything costs money of course, not least producing this magazine, which is ably supported by all those who advertise within it. When you respond to any of these adverts please make sure you mention *Themescene*: it sends the message that advertising is money well spent.

Finally may I wish you all a happy Christmas and collecting success in the new year. ☒

PRESIDENT’S PAGE

John Hayward

I greatly enjoyed the international exhibition, WIPA 2008, held in Vienna in September. It was a very large event and even in the two days I was at the exhibition I did not manage to get round everything. I only hope London 2010 is just as good. You can read on page 153 how the Brits got on, but I would congratulate Lesley Marley on her gold medal. She has put so much effort into it in the last few years, and she has now been justly rewarded. There were some fine thematic exhibits on display, none better in my view than an exhibit on the Holocaust by a German. It was most evocative and the material was outstanding. I enjoyed my tour of the philatelic bureaux and obtained three new issues of which I was unaware. I even brought a Ducati home with me from the Italian Bureau! I had also allocated one day to seeing Vienna with my wife – it is a beautiful city built on a grand scale.

You will note from the programme for 2009 issued with this edition of *Themescene* that we are running at least one further thematic seminar next year. Our seminar at the Royal last July was not that well attended, but the Committee feel that running these seminars with the county Philatelic Federations is very much the way forward to getting collectors interested in all that thematic collecting has to offer, and hopefully to recruit more members to the BTA. Our first seminar in 2009 will be at Emsworth in Hampshire (see the details on page 152), so please note this in your diaries and come along on the day. It is all about the fun side of thematic collecting and not about exhibiting and rules.

You will also note from the 2009 programme and elsewhere in this edition that sadly Thematica is no longer. The Friends of Thematica decided to hold their competitions, including the prestigious Fosbery Trophy, at Midpex next year, and the BTA has in consequence decided to hold the BTA Cup and its Annual General Meeting there as well on 11th July 2009. This is another date to note in your diaries and an opportunity for all our members in the Midlands to attend a BTA event much nearer to home. We will have to decide what to do in 2010 for the BTA Cup and AGM as Midpex does not come round next until 2011. It is good to see that dealers Bob Lee and Phil and Paula Cant are running a Thematic Stamp Fair “ThematiX ‘09”, next year at the Harlequins Rugby Ground. The BTA will be supporting the event with a table. At the time of going to press the dates have not been confirmed (being reliant on the Harlequins Rugby League fixture list) but it will definitely be either 26th – 27th June or 3rd – 4th July 2009. We will let you know the firm dates via the BTA website and *Themescene* as soon as we have them. We do wish ThematiX ‘09 every success. I wonder how many of you read our Patron’s article on Henry Ford in the October edition of *Stamp Magazine*. I thought he had forsaken his beloved bicycles for the motor car and wondered where on earth he had found the time to write it considering all the other tasks he undertakes for philately in general and thematics in particular. Brian assured me Henry Ford and cars are not new themes he has taken up, rather the article was the result of some very quick research he had undertaken and a visit to a thematic dealer! I read a similar article on Henry Ford in the October edition of *Stamp & Coin Mart* which I thought did not come up to the standards of Brian’s article and included errors of fact.

This all begs the question, how many of you collect two or more distinct themes? Perhaps you will write and let the Editor know, as well as why you collect them and how you find the time to collect them. Finally, as the festive season is fast approaching, may I wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Enjoy your collecting. ☒

Half page advertisement for Thames Themes

Please mention Themescene when you respond to the advertisement

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Richard Wheeler

Become Chairman, be involved with stamps and see the World!...well not quite, but I have travelled around a lot recently.

I had the good fortune to be accepted as an exhibitor for WIPA 2008 held in Vienna (see page 149). My wife Cynthia and I decided to make Vienna our holiday destination for this year and had a great time. Prior to the exhibition our days were packed with the Lipizzaner horses, museums, concerts, Melke and the Benedictine Abbey, a ride on the Ferris Wheel, old inns ...oh yes and Sacher Torte at its home and other forms of over indulgence. The highlights were WIPA in the vast complex of the Austria Exhibition Centre, and the sheer joy on Lesley Marley's face when she heard that she had deservedly won a gold medal. I add my congratulations to her and to our other members who have exhibited.

I was fortunate in that a dealer, situated by my own exhibit, took an interest in it and sorted out a number of items for me which I just had to have! On the final day, half an hour before closing, he produced a block of twenty mint Indonesian stamps (Japanese occupation) overprinted at the end of the war which contained an error. What made it even better for me was that this was the first issue of a puppet on stamps. I had to make a quick visit to the 'hole in the wall'!!! Since exhibiting in Essen and Vienna this year I have received a great deal of help with items of a special nature. I don't like the words 'rare' or 'scarce' which I sometimes see printed on exhibits – it is far better to point out their origin and let the viewer decide for themselves. An exhibit I saw recently had red dots stuck against items conveying that they were hard to get. They were. I checked with a catalogue and they ran into thousands of pounds. The exhibit was an example of deep pocket collecting with little or no research.

Ten days in Vienna then one day at home, then a trip to London to pick up my exhibit plus a beautiful certificate and medal. A return journey home to North Devon (four hours), another day off and back to London to stay overnight at the Victory Services Club for my first BTA Committee meeting as Chairman the next morning. Home again, Club evening for my own Society in Barnstaple, and a Committee meeting for the West of England Thematic Association, where we have now included Social Philately, helped pass the rest of that week.

Then off to Bristol Airport for a flight to Glasgow to display to the Glasgow Thematic Society and the superb hospitality I received from Margaret Morris plus a most appreciative Society. One guest was the Director of the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre who was most complimentary and the next day asked if I would mount a full display at their centre next year.

Flight home the following day for a re-pack and an early start the next morning for a flight to Dublin. I had been invited to join the panel of judges for Stampa. From the minute I arrived until the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening I was kept busy at this very friendly exhibition. It is small compared to the big exhibitions but well worth visiting. Home again Sunday having battled my way through an extremely busy Dublin Airport.

Already the diary for next year is beginning to fill with Stampa and Philatex, Thematix 09, Midpex, the seminar at Emsworth on March 21st (don't miss this), Autumn Stampex, Malmo in Sweden, and the news that Eurothema is to be held from the 6th – 8th of November in Roskilde Denmark. I also wish to go to the National Stamp Show in Dayton, Ohio, next June 12th - 14th. I don't wonder I feel jet lagged – even if my wife says I am more of an old lag! Happy hunting and may I wish you all the season's greetings. ☒

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	212
Family members	19
Junior members	3
Society members	15
Overseas members	20
Overseas Society members	1
Honorary members	3
Total number of members	273
(At 1 st November 2008)	

As mentioned in the last edition of *Themescene*, we are preparing a list of persons who are prepared to give philatelic displays to societies. A number of volunteers have already responded, and should you wish to be included, please contact the Membership Secretary or any other Committee member.

There has been a change to the way in which ATA Check Lists and Books can be ordered through the Association. Recently joined members will have received documentation with their welcome pack which is now of date. Two options are now available 1. Open the BTA web site and under **Publications** there are lists of available items and order forms can be down loaded; or 2. Contact Mr. R. Hyams, (for Check Lists) or Mr. R. Wheeler, (for Books) Their contact details can be found under Committee Members in *Themescene*.

As with last year we found ourselves in Houston, Texas for a family holiday just after hurricane Ike, and it was refreshing to visit the old fashioned stamp shop in Directors Row. The proprietor, who is extremely knowledgeable, has a most remarkable stock bought in over many years, and during a quiet afternoon many difficult gaps were filled and several useful items were obtained to help along the thematic interest. Like most dealers material is filed by catalogue number and country, but this proprietor seems to have a nose for 'those little treasures' reducing the time that a thematic collector has to plough through boxes of covers. Shopping on the internet may be more precise and of course can be done from home, but the old fashioned stamp shop will always come up trumps when searching for that elusive item, and is therefore well worth supporting.

New Members joining since the September 2008 issue

Mr. E. Davies	Weymouth	Mrs. G. Davies	Lewes
Mr. G. Davies	Eaglescliffe	Mr. O. Green	Chipping Norton
Mr. M. Kelly	Old Marston	Mr. R. Lyon	Llantwit Major
Mr. D. Whyte	Laparade, France		

Deaths advised since the September 2008 issue

Nil

PUBLICITY OFFICER'S PAGE

Simon Moorcroft

I mentioned in my last Page the regretful news that Thematica had been wound up with all future shows in London cancelled. I said then that I hoped certain aspects of the show could be maintained, albeit at different events. I am delighted to say that there have been positive developments that have, for 2009, secured the Friends of Thematica competitions and a specialist thematic stamp show.

The Competitions will remain essentially the same and will be staged in conjunction with Midpex on 11th July 2009. The show has been running for some time and has always focussed on the promotion of specialist societies. Indeed the BTA has taken a table there on many previous occasions. The trade element of Thematica will be incorporated into a new show, **ThematiX**, to be held on either 26th – 27th June or 3rd – 4th July 2009 next year. It will be staged at Harlequins Rugby Ground in Middlesex and it is hoped many of the dealers who used to be present at Thematica will attend this event. The BTA, along with other specialist societies, will have a table during the event.

Many congratulations must be forwarded to the Friends of Thematica and the organisers of ThematiX for ensuring that these important features and events are able to continue. The competitions are a great help for thematic exhibitors just beginning or those who wish to step up from federation to national level. It is vital that these are able to continue. I do urge you to go and support both of these events.

On the matter of what the BTA is planning for 2009, it looks set to be another busy and exciting year. On 21st March we will be holding a full day's workshop at Emsworth, Hampshire. It will be run along a similar format to the one held at the Royal Philatelic Society back in July of this year. The emphasis of the workshop is likely to be on thematic collecting. On 13th June we will be holding a joint meeting with the Postal Stationery Society at Swinpex. It will feature displays from the members of both societies and will be a day to learn about two very different, but equally important, philatelic disciplines. Finally arrangements for the AGM clearly will have to change for the coming year now that Thematica has been cancelled. It is planned to hold the meeting at Midpex where the thematic competitions will be displayed. As ever, for all the above events, look out for further details in *Themescene* and on our web page.

During the next year there will be increasing activity related to the International Festival of Stamps Exhibition, to be held at the Business Design Centre, London between 8th and 15th May 2010. The BTA have always supported the show and will be taking a table for the entire exhibition and will be holding a meeting on one of the days. More details to follow in due course.

As you can see, next year will be another busy year. It is very promising that, although the concept of Thematica will change, the elements remain in place. Innovation is occurring outside and inside the BTA. The Committee have tried to provide another interesting programme of meetings and events which, it is hoped, will be of interest to a large number of members. Please do try and support the many activities that will be taking place in the coming year.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! ☒

BLOOD AND PLUNDER: THE ARTICLES OF EDWARD LOW AND GEORGE LOWTHER

Tommy Broadley voyages into a bloodthirsty past

Pirates have always been elusive figures, appearing out of obscurity, briefly holding the spotlight of history and then slipping back into darkness, leaving no memorials or personal items behind. Some journals have survived to provide us with glimpses of pirate life, but the stories and illustrations that were published during their lifetime owed more to imagination than history.



Although piracy as a method of crime and warfare has existed for almost as long as sea travel -- it is still a danger - the era that captures the imagination of most of us is known as the Golden Age of Piracy. Beginning in the early 16th century with the rise of England's sea power, it ran to the end of the 1700s, when naval patrols drove pirates from their lairs and mass hangings eliminated the leaders.

The British Navy became the most powerful and feared naval force in the world after the destruction of the Spanish Armada, and was determined to hold onto their advantage at sea by having the most disciplined crews and fastest ships. The cruelty of the British officers and British law at the time caused many men to rebel and even mutiny. This brought a situation like no

other before, bands of rebellious, independent, well- trained fighters were in control of the most advanced warships of their time.

These pirates were sea robbers and raiders, given to acts of cruelty. They were romanticized for the free life they represented. In 1814, Lord Byron's epic poem, *The Corsair*, sold 10,000 copies on the first day of publication.

George Lowther

George Lowther (? -- 1723) was an 18th century English pirate. Little is known of his life but he was active in the Caribbean and Atlantic.



Not much is known about him before becoming the Second Mate on the slave ship *Gambia Castle* which was under the command of Captain Charles Russell. However Lowther was more popular with the crew, as Russell seemed to care more about his shipment of slaves than for his men. Russell distrusted Lowther, and when he attempted to have him flogged many crew members took Lowther's side and defended him, causing a disagreement among the crew.

Also on board, after retreating from their fort, was a Captain Massey, along with a company of soldiers under his command. One night, while Captain Russell was off ship, Massey and Lowther decided to set sail without him. Massey intended to return to England, but Lowther, the crew, and Massey's own soldiers disagreed. Lowther was made captain and he renamed the *Gambia Castle Delivery*. They attacked many

ships but when Massey wanted to pillage a village on shore, he lost the vote as the risk was deemed too great. Lowther was able to obtain a smaller ship, named the *Happy Delivery*, and parted ways with Massey and his men.

Lowther left for the Carolinas where he developed the tactic of ramming his ship into another, while his men boarded and looted it. Around 1721 he left for the Grand Caymans where he ran into the *Greyhound* captained by Benjamin Edwards. Lowther gave a cannon shot for a signal. *Greyhound* responded with a broadside. The pirates boarded the *Greyhound*, possibly killed the entire crew and burnt the ship. Lowther had many ships under his command by now, but when he sailed his fleet to Guatemala they were attacked by natives and he was forced to leave some ships and men behind.

In 1722 he sailed to a secluded island called Blanquilla. However, before landing he was spotted by Walter Moore, the commander of *HMS Eagle*. Lowther was able to escape to the island with a dozen crewmen but only four made it to shore. After a lengthy search Lowther's body was found. He had shot himself in the head rather than be taken prisoner.

Edward Low

Captain Edward "Ned" Low, circa 1690-1724, was a notorious English pirate in the early 18th century, during the latter days of the Golden Age of Piracy.



According to Charles Johnson's *A general History of the Pyrates*, Edward Low was born in Westminster, London, around 1690. He was described as illiterate, having a "quarrelsome nature" and always ready to cheat, running "wild in the streets of his native parish." As a young man, he was said to be a pickpocket and gambler, playing games of chance with the footmen of the nearby House of Commons. One of his elder brothers was hanged at Tyburn for "Thieving")

As he grew older, Low tired of pickpocketing and thieving, and turned to burglary. Eventually leaving England, travelling alone to the New World around 1710, he spent three to four years in numerous locations, before settling in Boston, Massachusetts. On 12th August 1714 he married Eliza Marble at the First Church of Boston. They had a son, who died when he was an infant, and then a daughter named Elizabeth, born in the winter of 1719. Eliza died in childbirth, leaving Low with his daughter. The loss of his wife had a profound effect on Low: in his later career of piracy, he would often express regret for the daughter he left behind, and refused to press-gang married men into joining his crews. He would also allow women to return to port safely.

At first working honestly as a rigger, in early 1722 he joined a gang of twelve men on a sloop headed for Honduras, where they planned to collect a shipment of logs for resale in Boston. Low was employed as a patron, supervising the loading and carrying of the logs. One day, he returned to the ship when hungry, but was told by the captain he would have to wait to eat, and that he and his men would have to be satisfied with a ration of rum. At this, Low picked up a loaded musket and shot at the captain but missed, shooting another fellow through the throat. Following this failed mutiny, Low and his friends were forced to leave the boat. A day later, Low led the twelve-man gang - which included Francis Farrington Spriggs, who went on to become a notorious pirate in his own right - in taking over a small sloop off the coast of Rhode Island. Killing one man during the theft, Low and his crew turned pirate. He captained a number of ships, usually maintaining a small fleet of three or four. Low and his pirate crews captured at least a hundred ships during his short career, burning most of them. Although he was active for only three years, Low remains one of the most vicious pirates of the age, with a reputation for violently torturing his victims before killing them. Sir Arthur

Conan Doyle described Low as “savage and desperate,” and a man of “amazing and grotesque brutality”. *The New York Times* called him a torturer, whose methods would have “done credit to the ingenuity of the Spanish Inquisition in its darkest days”. The circumstances of Low’s death, which took place around 1724, have been the subject of much speculation.

The Articles

The pirate organization was run more like a co-op business than a feudal kingdom. Every ship had a ‘code’ to live by, called the ‘Articles’. Everyone on board had to follow the articles, even the captain, who was generally elected. Few disobeyed the Articles because the punishments were harsh. Everyone was entitled to a portion of the plunder and it was all drawn up in writing fair and square.

The Pirate Code grew out of the experiences of most Pirates who had served in Naval or Merchant Service under the harsh conditions of the time, and even harder commanders, leaving them with an unforgettable impression and a desire to create a really secure and suitable environment aboard ship.

In the latter half of the 17th century buccaneers began operating under a set of rules called Chasse-Partie, or Charter Party, which for a period of time held legal weight in the Jamaican Court System. This so called Pirate code of conduct eventually grew into the Articles of Agreement which explained in a basic way the standard procedures that all pirates who signed on had to follow. To “go onto the account” usually meant that a person signed the Articles and was declaring their membership with that group of pirates. All pirate Captains had their own version of the Articles; these depicted in this précis were of Edward Low and George Lowther.

Article I

The captain shall have two full shares, the quartermaster one and a half, and the doctor, gunner, and master one and a quarter.



Article II

He that shall be found guilty of unlawfully taking up a weapon aboard the privateer or any prize taken by us, with intent to abuse or strike another of the company, shall suffer whatever punishment the captain and the majority of the company shall think fit.



Article III

He that shall be found guilty of cowardice in the time of the engagement shall suffer such punishment as the captain and the majority of the crew think fit.



Article IV

If any gold, jewels, silver or other valuables be found aboard the prize to the value of even one piece of eight, and the finder do not deliver it to the quartermaster within the space of 24 hours, he shall suffer such punishment as the captain and the majority of the crew think fit.



Article V

He that shall be found guilty of defrauding another in gaming, even to the extent of one shilling only, shall suffer such punishment as the captain and the majority of the crew think fit.



Article VI

He that shall have the misfortune to lose a limb in the time of engagement shall have the sum of £150 sterling and shall remain with the company as he may choose.



Article VII

Good quarter shall be given to all when called for.



Article VIII

He that first sights a sail that may prove a prize shall have the best pistol or other small arm aboard her as he may choose.

A Detailed Account of the Usual Share-out

To the Captain, for his ship	Pieces of eight (not stated, presumably dependent on the ship captured)
Salary of the carpenter or shipwright	1200 to 150 pieces of eight
Salary of the surgeon, including supplies	200 to 250 pieces of eight
Provisions and victualling (estimated)	200 pieces of eight
<u>Disability pensions</u>	<u>Balance to be divided as follows</u>
Loss of right arm	600 pieces of eight or 6 slaves
Loss of left arm	500 pieces of eight or 5 slaves
Loss of right leg	500 pieces of eight or 5 slaves
Loss of left leg	400 pieces of eight or 4 slaves
Loss of an eye	100 pieces of eight or 1 slave
Loss of a finger	100 pieces of eight or 1 slave
	Captain 5 or 6 shares
	Masters Mate 2 shares
	Officers
	Proportionately to their employ
	Ordinary seamen 1 share each
	Boys Half share each

Tommy Broadley is the Secretary of the Ship Stamp Society – 155. As well as the Society’s web page at <http://home.wanadoo.nl/jos.wessels/shipstamplinks.htm> there is also a helpful website, done by one of the Society members, at www.shipstamps.co.uk

A WHALE'S TALE

Lesley Marley continues the story of these magnificent creatures

The Development of the Whaling Industry.

Whaling vessels.

As whaling developed larger vessels were used, i.e. SHIPS – as opposed to BOATS, which were the smaller vessels that the whalers rowed after their quarry. A whaling ship had three masts and was square-rigged on all masts. On a squared rigged sailing ship, the spanker is a gaffed rigged fore-and-aft sail set from the aft most mast. Ships carried four or five boats and had the largest number of crew, six per boat plus the ship-keepers, who stayed on board when the boats were down after the whales. The most famous whaling ship is the *Charles W Morgan*. Built in New Bedford in 1841, she sailed for 80 years and reputedly caught more whales than any other ship.

A bark has three masts; it is square-rigged on the fore and main masts and fore and aft on the mizzenmast. This sail plan required fewer crew to handle the sails when the boats were down for the whales. A typical whaler was 100 to 150 feet long, and especially broad in the beam to accommodate the fixtures of whaling and space required to perform the trying-out of the dead whale.



Finding the whales.

The whales that the early whalers persecuted were slow swimmers; feeding with their mouths open meant that they were easy prey. Under ideal conditions an experienced look-out could spot a whale's spout up to as much as eight miles away. Each foremast hand took a two-hour turn aloft in the rigging, scanning the ocean, hoping to sight whales. The spout of a whale is a vapour plume caused by its breath. Each whale species has a distinctive spout.

Pursuit and capture.

When the whales were sighted the ship was sailed to within a range for the boats from which



the whales were harpooned were to be lowered. Each whaleboat was approximately 30 feet long and six feet wide, and pointed at both ends. Killing a whale was a complicated procedure, harpoons were used to capture and make the whale fast to the boat. Lances were used to kill the exhausted whale. The harpoon was a forged iron head mounted to a hardwood shaft five or six feet long. Each ship carried a blacksmith as the whaling equipment required constant maintenance on the long voyages.



The hunt and its dangers.

It was a tense moment as the small, wooden whaleboat drew up to the unpredictable and enormous mammal. Whales have acute hearing, so it was important to approach quietly. A splash of the oar could scare the whale and make it ‘sound’ (dive). The boats were equipped with sails for a more silent approach. When the boat was a few feet from the prey the harpooner plunged his barbed weapon with a line attached to the whale’s back and with a good aim made fast to the whale.

Processing the kill.

If the wind was favourable the whale ship sailed to where the carcass floated, if not the tired crew rowed slowly back towing the dead whale behind them. The whale was lashed to the starboard (right) side of the ship with the head to the stern, so that the gaping mouth did not impede any forward motion of the ship. The decks were cleared and a line from the rigging attached to the whale. The crew erected a cutting platform above the carcass and stripped off the blubber, (thick layer of fat) with cutting spades set on 15-foot long poles. Each long strip of blubber was called a ‘blanket piece’. After hauling it on board it was divided again into



‘horse’ pieces and smaller ‘bible’ pieces.

Trying out and producing the oil.

Although trying out, or ‘boiling’ (extracting oil from the blubber) was carried out on shore in the early days of whaling, by the mid 19th century whale ships carried ‘try works’ – big iron pots set in a brick stove. Fires were built under the try-pots for rendering the blubber down; water troughs were used around the fires to make it a little less hazardous. ‘Bible leaves’ were tossed into the pots and cooked until the oil was rendered from the blubber. Throughout the days and nights of work, an unforgettable stench clung to the men and their ship. The oil was cooled, placed in casks of varying sizes, and stored in the hold of the ship. A carved wooden stamp was used in the log- book to denote the type of whale caught.

Cooperage: casks for storing oil.



Casks, an essential element in life at sea, were containers made from wooden staves and metal hoops which served many storage purposes. Aboard ship they held provisions, and on whaling vessels, the valuable cargo of oil. A cooper was an important member of a whale ship’s crew. A barrel is technically a measure of the size of the cask. The cooper’s responsibility was to assemble pre-made casks, as they were needed to hold the valuable whale oil. He was held responsible for

leakage as well as accuracy of the measure. Casks intended for whale oil or other liquids had

to be tight – that is, water tight - and the cooper who made these was called a ‘tight cooper’. These casks were for long-term storage and transportation of liquids, and were therefore made of oak.

Scrimshaw: the whaler’s art.

Scrimshaw is an art form developed by the American whalers, who used their hours of idleness and the availability of whale teeth and bone to carve homecoming presents for loved ones. Lamp black was used to stain and highlight the carved designs. Sperm whale teeth were often given as a mark of respect by native cultures. Whale men were happy to trade these teeth with natives they met.

Exchange visits with other whalers.

The whaling ships were equipped to follow the whales for months or even years. On these long voyages away from their families, sailors would spend hours writing letters home. A custom of whalers when they met on the high seas was to hold a ‘Gam’ - an exchange of visits between ships. A Gam was also a way of getting their letters home. Any whaler returning home took mail, and put it into the postal system.

Engineering development in whaling – The Svend Foyn harpoon cannon.



A new invention revolutionised the industry and heralded the era of modern whaling. This was the explosive harpoon gun designed by the Norwegian Svend Foyn in 1868. The Foyn gun is a cannon, firing time-fused harpoons, which explode just after entering the whale’s body. The head behind the explosive cap has four hinged barbs that open out to hold fast on to the whale.

Steam driven ships.

The other invention that revolutionised whaling was the steam powered whaler. The Svend Foyn gun was mounted on the bow of these ships. The two combined was now a formidable hunting machine enabling the larger faster whales to be caught. The early steam driven ships were also rigged with sails to avoid alarming the whales on approach. Steam pressure was used to fill the whales with air to stop them sinking.

Factory ships and stern slipways.

Floating factory ships waited for the whale catcher boats armed with harpoon guns to bring the whales to them; they could remain at sea and fully process the whale more efficiently than the old time whaling ships. In 1925 the introduction of the stern slipway (where the whale carcass was winched aboard through a whale-sized hole) again changed the nature of the whaling industry. *Jan Wellem* was the first factory ship whose machinery was entirely powered by electricity. *Unitas* was built by the Germans in 1937, and owned by the Unitas German Whaling Co. of Brake, near Hamburg, and at 22,000 tons was then the largest factory ship in the world.

Telegraph and radio communication.

The establishment of the Public Electric Telegraph Company in 1846 meant that whaling companies were able to communicate faster by using the new invention of the telegraph system. Guglielmo Marconi sent his first radiotelegraphy signals in 1895; during the following

year he obtained the world's first radio patent. In 1897 he demonstrated the wireless communications between ships and the shore. The whaling ships soon made use of this



method of communication. The factory ships could now talk to their whale catchers, which could number up to twelve boats. During World War II in January 1941 the German raider *Pinguin* who had been listening to their radio conversations surprised the Norwegian fleet. The total haul was three floating factory ships; eleven whale catchers and 23,626 tons of oil. *Thorshammer* received radio warning and escaped to Grytviken with her seven catchers. *S/S Pelagos* with seven catchers was captured and re-named *Athenic*.

Planes and Helicopters.

In the 1950's when it became difficult to locate whales due to the depletion of stocks, spotter planes were used from shore stations. They were able to direct the catcher boats by radio and the system proved very successful. The Durban whaling station in South Africa used De Havilland D.H. 89A Dragon Rapide planes. A helicopter deck is located to the stern of the whaling factory ship and clear of obstacles. In 1953-54 factory ships were using spotter helicopters to look for whales and also to report ice conditions back to the ship.

The Products that put the Whale on the World's most Ignominious Shopping List.

European and American Whalers did not hunt the whale for food, but for the products that could be obtained from them. The race was soon on to find as many whales as possible; this



large source of blubber was to provide lighting for the human population. It was soon found that the head of the sperm whale contained oil that gave the clearest flame. This was called sperm whale or spermaceti oil. Candles produced from spermaceti

oil burn well with a clear and steady smokeless flame. This always attracts a premium as they are highly prized for reading and lighting homes and churches.

Before the end of the 1840's the light source of locomotives was typically a wick with a whale-oil font (reservoir) mounted ahead of the smoke chamber. Glass lenses were placed in front to help intensify the beams of light as well as to protect the flame against wind, rain or snow. Before the discovery of paraffin or kerosene whale oil was also used in lighthouses. Watch, clock makers and sewing machine manufacturers found that the fine spermaceti oil was the right lubricant for their precision instruments. Glycerine is a by-product in the process of removing the fatty acid from the oil, and is used for industrial purposes including the manufacture of dynamite.



Until the middle of the nineteenth century whalebone, as baleen was called, was used for many purposes because of its flexibility, springiness and

strength. When cut into strips the whalebone was used for the supports in women's corsets, to give women the tiny waists which were fashionable in the 19th century. It was also used to make large hoops to support crinoline skirts, which were also high fashion, and to make the ribs of umbrellas and parasols, to protect young ladies complexions from the rain and sun. The flexible baleen filaments were also used to make the springs of typewriters. Shredded baleen made durable nets for tennis courts and it was the sinews of the whales that were first used for stringing tennis rackets.

In the lower end of the sperm whale's large intestine a dark waxy substance called ambergris is found, which contains ambrein, a fatty substance similar to cholesterol. Man uses this highly prized substance as a fixative for perfume. A hormone extracted from the whale's pancreas is used to manufacture insulin to treat diabetes. The liver of the whale is the heaviest of all its viscera. It has the highest content of vitamin A among marine mammals. Man was soon extracting this vitamin and selling the preparation as a substitute for cod liver oil.



Global Threats to Cetaceans – A cause for concern

A threat to the smaller cetaceans is the enormous growth in commercial fishing. They are caught indiscriminately in the gill net and drift nets that can range from 100ft to several miles in length. The use of smaller coastal gill nets offers no protection to cetaceans, they are often caught in the nets and drown.

The pollution of the oceans has increased with the growth of industries and cities. Cetaceans are often found dead and dying from the devastating affects of pollution. It is now widely recognized that man is polluting the world on an unprecedented scale. Air pollution is a great cause for concern. The planet needs a healthy atmosphere to benefit all inhabitants; whales and humans must breath air to survive. Factories pump toxic gases into the air and pollutants are falling as acid rain. The use of pesticides and detergents also add to the cocktail of pollutants being swept into the seas. Ultimately this has a detrimental affect on the oceans, the home of whales. Man is not only endangering his home but also that of other species. The Baija or white fin river dolphin is thought to have become extinct. It had its home in the Yangtze River in China and had to compete in the crowded river for its food. It has not been seen for a number of years, is this the first cetacean to become extinct?



Over Antarctica a hole in the ozone layer has been detected. This layer protects the earth from harmful rays from outer space. It is thought that this hole could be contributed to by the use of crop sprays; car and plane exhausts, and aerosol can propellants, all of which pollute the atmosphere.

Slowly man is feeling concerned for the environment that he shares with other creatures. The United Nations is now addressing the cause of pollution and is monitoring and cleaning the oceans. Different organisations take samples to check the quality of the water. The ocean sediments and marine life are being monitored for harmful toxins.

Conservation – How Man is making an Effort to Preserve Cetaceans

By 1924 some men were so concerned by the slaughter of cetaceans that it promoted the United Kingdom to set up the ‘Discovery Investigations’. This involved using observers on whale ships and shore stations in the Antarctic. From 1925 to 1937 three research ships also carried out a study on whales and marine life; the irony of it being it was funded by a tax on whale oil. These hydrographical and biological surveys took place in the Antarctic; specimens of plankton and krill were taken, this being the main food for the larger species of cetaceans. By 1959 twelve nations of the world signed the ‘Antarctic Treaty’, which entered force on the 23rd June 1961. The first steps to conservation had begun.



In 1946 an International Whaling Convention was held in Washington. Guidelines were drawn up for an international organization whose expressed purpose was to ‘conserve’ whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry. In 1994 the commission established a ‘Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary’ around the South Pole. The sanctuary follows the 40 degree south boundary of the southern ocean, comes back to the 60 degree south latitude countries - Chile, Argentina - then follows the boundary of the Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

In the summer of 1971 a group of self-styled ‘ecologists’ set out on a mission to stop underground nuclear testing in the Aleutians. This pressure group was called Greenpeace. By 1975 they turned their attention to saving the whales from slaughter. With constant campaigning for public support and funds, their cause slowly won a reprieve for the whales. The images of these brave eco-guerrillas risking their lives to save the whales was one of the most compelling aspects in the propaganda war against whaling.



In September 1961 a small group of influential Europeans – scientists, naturalists, business and political leaders - founded the World Wildlife Fund. It is now the largest privately supported international conservation organization in the world. WWF directs its conservation efforts toward three global goals: protecting endangered spaces, saving endangered species and addressing global threats.

Progress is being made, albeit slowly, in trying to conserve the cetaceans of the world. Man is now aware of the plight of cetaceans. News highlights concerns of the general public and tells of the cruelty dealt out by man. We hope this is just in time to save the cetaceans from extinction. Spread the word around the world ‘Save the Whales’: leviathans who most men have never seen, cast indelibly on their minds, through myths scripted by fearful men and adventures told by hardy sailors and whaling men. ☒

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NEW ISSUES

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THE WIRE THAT FENCED THE WEST

Ian Paton explores some Westward expansion

I have always been interested in the backwaters of American history, especially when the subjects relate to events which had a huge impact on the development of the nation. One such backwater, which has never warranted a commemorative stamp, is Barbed Wire, and the only way to illustrate a philatelic article is with advertising covers. I must acknowledge that the title of this article is the same as that of the book by Henry and Frances McCallum, from which I drew much of my information, and I have a copy in my library.

In thematic exhibiting circles there is concern about using covers without some post office related marking as well as relevance to the theme. For American Advertising Covers I believe the Congressional Post Office Act of 27 July 1868 ensures a formal post office connection, because the Act required the postal service to return, without further charge, all undelivered prepaid letters endorsed externally with the sender's name and address. Return would take place automatically if a letter had not been called for at the Post Office to which it was directed within 30 days, or such lesser period (often 5 days) as the sender might endorse on it. Naturally most organisations wanted to take advantage of this, and so complied with the Act by printing a return address on the front of their envelopes, often embellished with an illustration to advertise their products.

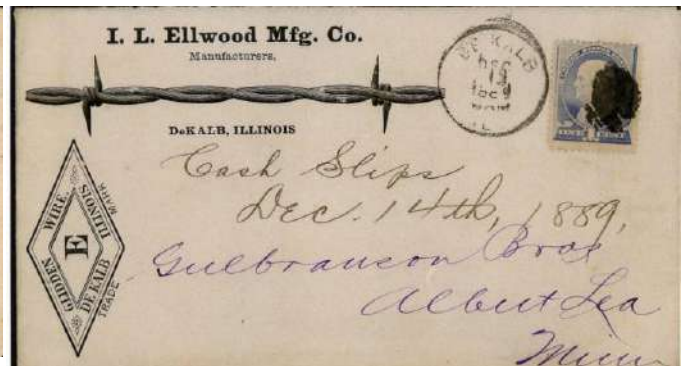
Up to the early 1890s the postmasters of fourth class post offices had to provide their own cancelling devices containing the Town and State names. In the days before 1855, when pre-payment became compulsory, the many duplications of post office names caused some postmasters to buy devices which included the County or Postmaster's name to help the receiving PM calculate the distance covered and hence the rate. The practice continued even after it was no longer necessary, and by the 1870s a number of manufacturers of post office supplies were advertising a range of cancelling devices which included the county name.

If registration of a patent for a 'fence and tree protector' made of twisted strands of sheet metal is taken as demonstrating the intention to produce a form of barbed wire then Leonce Grassin-Baladans got in first with a French patent in July 1860. Several other French patents followed in the 1860s and some in the USA starting in 1865, but my story begins at the De Kalb (Illinois) County Fair in 1873. Henry Rose, a farmer, demonstrated a piece of fencing made up of a wooden fence rail equipped with short wire points extending out and intended to be fastened to existing wire or board fences; he had a patent for this. Three men who saw this were each inspired to go off and develop their own form of barbed-wire independently, and influenced by their background.

Joseph F. Glidden (1813-1906) was a farmer with a need to keep his stock out of his crops, and saw how he could use plain wire in place of the wood, and slide the 'spikes' onto it. He developed the use of the coffee mill from his wife's kitchen to make the spikes with a loop in them to fit round the wire. The problem of keeping the spikes in place was solved by twisting a second piece of wire round the first one. The illustration on the cover (next page) shows Glidden's barbed-wire for which he was granted Patent No. 157124 on 24 November 1874. Neighbouring farmers saw his use of the wire and when they wanted to buy it, he began production in his home with the aid of his wife.

Isaac L. Ellwood (1833-1910) was a hardware merchant serving a wide area round De Kalb, and his customers were mainly farmers so he understood their need for fencing. He took out only one patent for his own version of barbed-wire because he had looked at the wire in Glidden's fields and recognising its superiority he did not pursue it, and instead bought a half

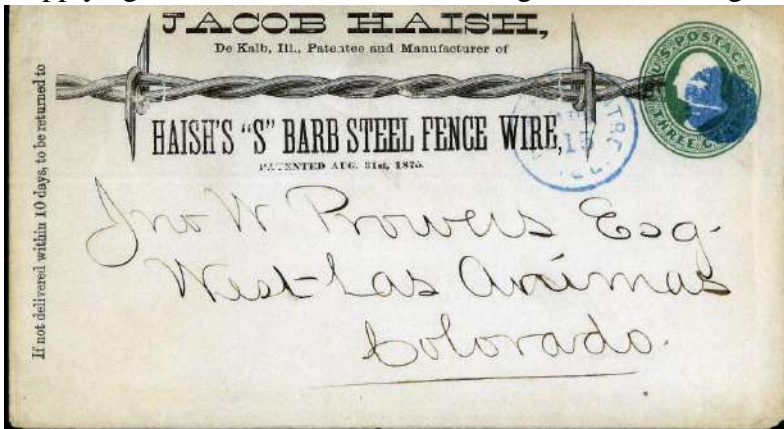
interest from Glidden. Together they formed the 'Barb Fence Company'. Ellwood was twenty years younger than Glidden and had good business sense.



Glidden's wire

Elwood's wire

Jacob Haish (1826-1926) was a lumber merchant and building contractor who as well as supplying conventional wooden fencing, also sold Osage Orange seeds which grew into *bois d'arc* (= thorny) hedges; when planted thickly these were effective against livestock. A strong-willed, self-opinionated man he went his own way and took out his own patents as well as raising legal objections to the granting of Glidden's patent, which delayed its approval by almost a year.



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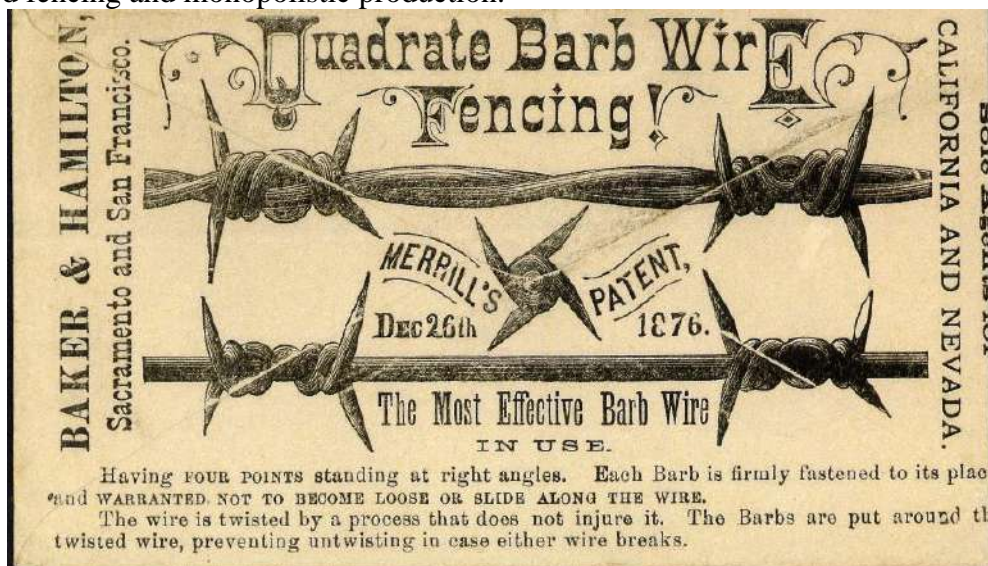
In 1874 Charles Washburn, Vice President of

Washburn and Moen Co., a large wire-drawing business in Worcester, Mass. went to De Kalb to find out why his sales of wire there had increased so dramatically. The company, established by his father, had already experienced one period of rapid growth because it had supplied much of the telegraph wire which had spread across the nation. Washburn saw Jacob Haish first but they failed to reach any agreement. When he turned to Glidden and Ellwood he found that Glidden wanted to retire, and in any case as a farmer he had no interest in "manufacturing", so a deal was made under which he was bought out for \$60,000 in cash and 25c (later 12½c) per 100lb of barbed wire manufactured. For the purpose of assigning sole selling rights the country was divided in two with Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company of Worcester, Mas. taking the East, and the new I.L. Ellwood & Co. the West. The business acumen of Ellwood and Washburn was demonstrated by the way they bought up as many of the rights as possible associated with barbed wire design and the machines used to make it.

John Warne Gates joined Ellwood & Co. as a salesman and although they already had Sanborn and Warner as agents, in 1876 he was sent to Texas where he demonstrated the use of barbed-wire in a spectacular way by setting up a corral containing about 25 cattle in the centre of San Antonio. The ranchers were impressed and bought miles of barbed-wire. But Gates wanted a share in the profits and when this was not granted he left in 1878 and went into business on his own. He was a brilliant salesman but initially lacked manufacturing capacity. He had started selling the wire at 18c per pound and at this price he sold 100's of miles of it; by 1880 the barbed wire industry sold over 80 million pounds of it!

A crime that grew out of barbed-wire fencing was the practice of fence cutting in Texas, which by 1884 had become a serious problem, solved by the legislature making it a felony punishable with one to five years in prison.

Throughout the 1880s there was continuous legal wrangling over patents, not only for barbed-wire but also for the machinery used to make it. After years of wrangling with Jacob Haish and many others the purchasing of patents by Ellwood and Washburn contributed to the ultimate victory of the Glidden Patent in the Supreme Court. Fortunately farmers continued to put up barbed wire fences to keep out cattle and sheep, the ranchers continued to use it for corrals and to mark the perimeter of their lands, and the railroads fenced in thousands of miles of track. In 1891 Gates and Ellwood formed the Columbia Patent Company and bought up 95% of the barbed wire production capability in the U.S.A. The following year the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Glidden's Patent over all the others. The way was now clear for unlimited fencing and monopolistic production.



This final cover is included because it illustrates two types of Quadrangle Barb Wire using Merrill's Patent granted on 26 December 1876 to John C. Merrill of Turkey River, Iowa. This type of barb could do serious damage to cattle and it was mainly produced between 1876 and 1880.

NOTE: This article relates only to the U.S.A prior to 1912, and anyone interested in looking further afield, including military use, should consult the Internet. Try doing a Google or other search engine search on Barbed Wire.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Advertising PSE illustrating Glidden's patent. A wire barb twisted onto double strand wire - known as 'The Winner' because it triumphed over all others in both litigation and sales volumes in the 19th century. It shows I.L. Ellwood & Co. as the Manufacturer. 2c green PSE (1st Class Rate PO Act 1885) with pmk of DE KALB/ DeKALB Co. ILL. 1885 with black double outer circle date stamp from DE KALB/DeKALB CO. ILL, December 5 1888.
2. Another advertising cover illustrating Glidden's barbed wire, but this time showing the Trade Mark of I.L. Ellwood Mfg. Co. which now made it. 1c stamp was the 'circular rate', and the name in the 1889 cds had replaced DE KALB CENTRE in 1883.
3. Advertising PSE illustrating Haish's "S" Barb Steel wire fence with its "S" shaped spikes in two strand wire, quoting its patent date as AUG. 31st 1875. 2c green PSE postmarked in blue with cds of DE KALB CENTRE/ILL & Killer. There is no year shown but CENTRE was dropped from the postmark in 1883.
4. Reverse of cover illustrating a double as well as a single strand of Quadrate Barb Wire Fencing invented by John C. Merrill and granted a patent on 26 December 1876. The cover dates from 1879 because the SACRAMENTO, CAL postmark on the front was of a type only used between 28 January 1879 and 30 December 1879. ☒

AUTOMATED MACHINE LABELS

John Hayward suggests a modern source for thematic items

Automated machine labels (ATMs) can be a very useful source of material for a thematic collection. In the last 30 years or so their numbers have mushroomed and nowadays many countries' Post Offices issue them. Their design has changed immensely, from labels showing only the country and value, to pictorials showing many collectable themes. But how do you obtain them and how do you know an ATM is about to be issued or has been issued? Well help may be at hand. A recent edition of the British Philatelic Bulletin carried an article about a new ATM journal, a Society for collectors of ATMs and its website.



Try visiting www.ateeme.net/angles/welcome_a.html where full details of the journal and the Society, ATEEME may be found. The journal is in colour covering ATMs from a whole world perspective with particular emphasis on Spanish issues – BTA members are probably aware of the long running historical transport series etc. ATEEME itself specialises in the collecting and study of variable value stamps in general. The website is a mine of information with details of recent and forthcoming issues and more besides. Why not give it a try; the labels are very collectible. ☒

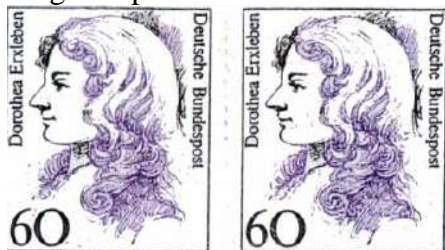
WOMEN IN MEDICINE, or, BREACHING THE CITADEL

Tom Wilson recalls some female medical pioneers

One of my reference books that I constantly use is Newerla's *Medical History in Philately and Numismatics* (1972). One chapter comprises 200 biographical sketches of physicians throughout the ages. Only twelve women are named, and that includes four goddesses from mythology. Yet in Ancient Egypt and Greece, the schools of medicine admitted students of both sexes; women graduates were well respected.

During the Middle Ages devout women from wealthy families founded and managed hospitals for lepers where they enjoyed the status of doctors. The first woman physician in Germany was Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) whose image appears on stamps from Germany 1979, SG 1899. and Liechtenstein 1983, SG 812. Known primarily as a mystic, she also involved herself with medicines and natural science. She wrote extensively on theology, medical and biological observations and physiology, and as the Abbess probably practiced medicine. In 1136 she was appointed Abbess and moved to Rupertsburg, near Bingen on the Rhine. Her writings, which were illustrated by nuns in her convent, had a great impact on her contemporaries.

However, by the sixteenth century medicine had become the exclusive privilege of narrow-minded and bigoted males. Only the practice of obstetrics, which physicians regarded as beneath their dignity, was relegated to the "Old Wives," meaning midwives, who very often were herbalists of little education. It was not until the nineteenth century that women like Mary Wollstonecraft and Susan B Anthony began the campaign for women's rights, which included the right to practice medicine on an equal footing with men.



As early as 1754, a remarkable victory was achieved by Dorothea Christina Erxleben (1715-1762), who was the daughter of a physician from Quedlingburg in Prussia. In 1740 her brother entered the University of Halle, but fled the kingdom when he was called up for military service. Dorothea petitioned Frederick II, King of Prussia, to permit her brother to return to Halle and to allow both of them to study at the University. She married a widower who had four children and then presented him with another four. In 1749 after the death of her husband, she published anonymously "Rational Thoughts on the Education of Women". She practiced medicine among the poorest people of the city, which brought down upon her the wrath of the medical establishment. Using the authority of her Royal patron, she went back to Halle where she qualified as a Doctor of Medicine in 1754 and practiced obstetrics and gynaecology until her death in 1762. For many years thereafter, Dorothea Erxleben stood alone as the only woman to graduate by her own efforts in any academic discipline. Her head is on the 60pf value of a series of "Famous German Women" from Germany 1987, SG 2154.

First Woman Graduate

There followed a hiatus of nearly 100 years. Elizabeth Blackwell (1812 -1910) was born in Bristol, England, and went to the USA at the age of eleven. After her application to study medicine had been rejected by 17 other medical schools, she studied medicine at Geneva Medical School, New York, and graduated with honours in 1849. Elizabeth immediately

accepted a resident appointment at La Maternite Hospital in Paris, France. While there, she contracted purulent ophthalmia, which caused her to lose the sight of one eye. In 1850 she returned to New York and in 1853 she founded the Infirmary for Women and Children which was entirely staffed by women. In 1869 she came back to England permanently to become Professor of Gynaecology at the London School of Medicine for Women, which had been founded by Dr. Garrett Anderson. She died 31st May 1910 and is buried at Hastings, Sussex. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman doctor of modern times and she pioneered the education of women as physicians. Her portrait appears on a series of "Prominent Americans," USA, 1970, SG1388.



Many of the women who graduated in medicine prior to 1900 have been honoured on postage stamps. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836 - 1917) is portrayed on a 23p stamp from Jersey, 1996 SG 739. She was inspired, after a meeting with Dr. Blackwell, to enter the medical profession, one of the first women in England to do so. Anderson was also the first woman to hold office as Mayor, at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. From that time onward, women began campaigning for the right to enter medical schools everywhere. The first breach had been made in the walls of "The Citadel" All over the world the bastions were falling.

"Corsets are Coffins"

In 1855, Mary Walker (1832 -1919) from Oswego, New York, graduated in medicine from the Syracuse Medical College. With her husband Dr. Albert Miller she began to practice in Rome, New York. Besides being a pioneer woman physician, she was an ardent dress reformer,

Dr. Mary Walker
Army Surgeon



Medal of Honor
USA 20c

known for her insistence on wearing men's clothing. She publicly announced that "corsets are coffins." Mary Walker served with distinction during the Civil War, roaming battlefields to succour the wounded of both armies. At one time Confederate soldiers arrested her on a ridiculous charge of spying, which was dropped allowing her to resume her duties. Congress awarded her America's highest military distinction, The Medal of Honor. After the war she resumed her practice and campaigned for women's suffrage. Her portrait appears on a 20c stamp of USA 1982, SG 1990, and the Medal of Honor on 1983, SG 2032.

Canada's first woman doctor Emily Stowe (1831-1903) began as a schoolteacher at the age of fifteen. She graduated with honours to become the first woman principal at a Canadian school. After marriage, she became the mother of three children and decided she would study medicine because she believed that women and girls had the right to be examined by female doctors. She obtained a degree from an American medical school in 1868. Because it was illegal for a woman to obtain a licence (due to a regulation issued in 1869) she practiced without one in Toronto until 1880. Emily crusaded vigorously for women's rights and founded the first Canadian society for woman's suffrage. (Canada 1981 SG 1005).



The first Canadian woman to actually be licensed to practice medicine was Emily's friend, Jennie Kidd Trout in 1875. Male students protested against these two women being allowed to study at the university. The women's struggle to be accepted within a medical establishment dominated by men helped to clear a path for all the women who followed in their steps. Dr. Trout established the Women's Medical College in Kingston, Ontario, which was opened on 2nd October 1883.

She has been distinguished by a place in the television series “Canadian Heritage” and on a 1991 Canadian 40c stamp, SG 1413.

In the 1880s no Australian university would admit women to the faculty of medicine, so Constance Strong (1856-1902), born in Hobart Tasmania, enrolled at the University of Philadelphia, USA, to obtain her doctorate in medicine. In Toronto she obtained a British degree, then went to London to work at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Back in Melbourne, Victoria, Constance encountered prejudice and opposition when she opened a medical practice in Collins Street. Her husband Egryn Jones, who was a part-time preacher at St David’s Church of Wales, with Constance and some women colleagues opened a free out-patients department in the Church Hall. She is portrayed on Australia 1975, SG 606, and 1990, SG 1233.

Family Planning Pioneer

Aletta Jacobs (1854-1929) was born at Groningen, Netherlands, where she received her medical degree at the University in 1878. In 1879 she opened a practice in Amsterdam, treating many of her patients free of charge, and she opened the world’s first birth control clinic. In 1894 she was a leading member of the Dutch Association for Women’s Suffrage, and in 1903 she became its president. With Carrie Carr she travelled extensively to win support for the rights of women. A Bill passed in 1919 gave all women in the Netherlands the right to vote and take seats in the Assembly: the Bill is known to this day as “The Jacobs Act”. The 60th anniversary was celebrated with a 1979 stamp from the Netherlands that depicts a suffragists’ meeting. Aletta Jacobs is the second figure from the left on the upper edge, beneath the letters K.I.E. SG 1319.

Nurses and Nursery Schools

Born at Aarau, Switzerland, in 1863, Anna Heer became a doctor of medicine at Zurich University in 1892, and she studied gynaecology, obstetrics and public health at hospitals in England and Germany. She practiced medicine in Zurich from 1899, and she taught hygiene at a school for girls. In 1901 Anna Heer opened a training hospital and school for nurses in Zurich where she acquired an international reputation as its director and chief physician. She died from influenza in the 1918 pandemic. (Anna Heer portrait, Switzerland 1963, SG 676)



A celebrity in the field of child education had the additional distinction of being Italy’s first woman physician. Maria Montessori was born in Ancona in 1870 and graduated in medicine from Rome University in 1894. Her first post was assistant physician in a psychiatric clinic for mentally deficient children. In 1907 she took charge of nursery schools in a slum area of Rome, where she devised “The Montessori Method” of teaching. She believed that children should be free to find things out for themselves and to develop through individual activity. At her Children’s Houses she converted incorrigible children in a short time into well disciplined pupils. She published her Method in 1912 to international acclaim.



She visited the USA in 1915 where there were already more than 100 Montessori Schools. When her methods were suppressed by Mussolini’s Fascists in 1929 she left Italy and resided in Holland until her death in 1952. On the centenary of her birth, in 1970, she was celebrated as a famous educator on stamps of Italy SG 1262, a pair from Pakistan SG 299/300 and India, SG 617.

Struggle in Latin America

When she graduated from the Medical School of Buenos Aires University in 1889, Cecilia Grierson (1858-1934) became Argentina's first woman doctor. She represented her country at the Women's International Medical Congress in 1899, and in 1900 she founded the Argentine Obstetrical Society. Grierson was noted as a teacher and taught deaf children in a school she herself had founded. Her portrait is one of "Famous Women", Italy SG 1262, a pair from Pakistan SG 299/300 and India SG 617.

Rita Lobato Velho Lopez (1866-1959) graduated in medicine from the University of Bahia in May 1888, the first woman physician in Brazil. She did not practice between 1891 and 1909, after which she moved to Buenos Aires for a refresher course in medicine and met Cecilia Grierson. She resumed general practice at Capivari, Brazil, until 1925, when she retired in order to enter politics. In 1936, aged 70, she was elected as a Councillor for the Liberal Party and she was honoured by many institutions and medical societies; Brazil 1967, SG 1164. ☒

MEETING OF THE FIP COMMISSION FOR THEMATIC PHILATELY, Bucharest, 27 June 2008

Report by Dämien Lage which first appeared in the F.I.P. publication Flash

Delegates from 38 countries attended the Commission meeting. The report of the Chairman made clear that the Commission has reached two of the major goals for the period 2004 — 2008:

- continuing jury education (14 seminars, ranging from short seminars at F.I.P. exhibitions to full weekend seminars offering practical training).
- the installation of an annual international event of high-class thematic philately (European Championship of Thematic Philately, Essen).

Emphasis was put on recognising the parallel process of the improving quality of publications by the national thematic associations and of the increasing scores of thematic exhibits to be noted at the international exhibitions of the past years.

The Commission's website www.fipthematicphilately.org was the main focus of the open discussion. Concrete measures were evaluated to improve content and offerings in a way to better guide collectors and exhibitors by providing practical advice and by offering an open electronic forum for discussion.

The following members were elected for the 2008 – 2012 Bureau:

Second Term

Damian Läge, Germany, Chairman
José Ramon Moreno, Spain, Secretary

New

Tan Ngiap Chuan, Singapore, member FIAP
David Braun, Mexico, member FIAF
Jonas Hällstrom, Sweden, member FEPA

In concordance with the FIP board member in charge for the Commission, the Chairman will (subject to being confirmed by the Congress) appoint the following two additional members: Darrell K. Ertzberger, USA, and Koenrad Bracke, Belgium.

Lumir Brendl, outgoing F.I.P. board member in charge for the Commission, was thanked by standing ovation for his enormous contribution to the successful work of the Commission. ☒

WIPA08

Barry Floyd enjoys one of Europe's premier events

It was a truly memorable experience to attend the Wiener Internationale Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung (Vienna International Postage Stamp Exhibition), held in the capital of Austria between September 18th and 21st 2008.

The exhibition was housed in the Austria Center Vienna, the largest conference structure in Austria and easily accessible by underground line (red U1) from the city centre. All three levels of the fine modern building were available for WIPA08, providing a ground space of 10,000 sq. metres. Some 370 exhibitors from all over the world took part and there were



twelve competition classes; an area of 2,300 sq. metres was reserved for framed displays. Elsewhere, postal administrations and stamp dealers presented their philatelic offerings at over 150 stands. Sadly, among the 47 postal administrations and agencies GB (Royal Mail) was not represented, but the Channel Islands of Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey, and the Isle of Man, did have booths. British dealers were even more poorly represented: one (Cover Story Ltd.) out of a total of 91, the rest being largely Austrian and German.

At first sight, on the opening day, it was all a bit bewildering, particularly as - within the first hour - there was an unseemly struggle at the Information Desk to achieve registration material. The sight of middle-aged and elderly men pushing and shoving to reach the small desk, behind which were two young flustered women, was not a pretty one. However as the hours and days sped by at the show one was genuinely impressed by the incredible organizational skills required to mount such an ambitious venture, on such a vast scale.

Although a trained cartographer, I found it difficult at first to interpret the detailed floor plans for the three levels of the exhibition included in catalogue; only by foot-slogging around (with too few chairs for occasional rests) did one finally identify the location of the numerous displays and dealer stands.

WIPA08 was themed "The Future of Philately" with the intention of focusing on what lies in store for our time-honoured hobby. However, apart from two talks on the ground floor stage (both naturally in German) featuring this theme, it did not appear to be a dominant aspect of the proceedings. To judge from the attendance figures - there were large crowds on the three days I was present and thronged dealers' stands - there need be no fear for the future of philately.

Appropriately one may note here the remarks of the Director of the Philatelic Section of the Austrian Post, Dr. Eric Haas, on the future of stamp collecting. These were featured in the first of four handsomely printed bulletins which preceded the exhibition proper, when the final catalogue was distributed.

In response to the questions: "What about the new generation? How can more young people be attracted to the hobby?" Dr Haas initially replied: "It is in the nature of the matter that a contemplative hobby like philately is not made for children's minds or for young people looking for excitement or for distraction."

I found this an incredible response! Surely nearly all of us developed a keen interest in stamps precisely when we were children, and our minds were fully receptive to the pleasures and exciting challenges of collecting little bits of coloured paper.

It may well be that the present generation of youngsters has a number of other interests and collecting hobbies these days, e.g. computer games, DVDs and I-pods, but it cannot be correct to claim that “philately is not made for children’s minds.” In fact, Dr Haas did later consider ways in which young people could be attracted to the hobby, via “cool” stamps, children’s mailings, films and games. He also acknowledged that a lot of associations do work successfully with young people. “If there is somebody in the club who can put the subject of stamps well across to the kids, then an active youth group can emerge very quickly.”

The second day of the exhibition (Friday) was devoted to ‘School and Philately’ when considerable numbers of children in school parties attended, some participating from the stage. There was a delightful ‘music intermezzo’ from the children’s choir of the Viennese Se La Salle school, who also produced a very large image of the Vienna skyline, composed entirely of stamps!

Reverting to Dr. Haas’s printed comments, he was also asked: Who are the collectors of the future? Will philately stay a masculine domain? He claimed: “Philately is mainly a hobby for men I imagine, because - from the evolutionary point of view - we have it in our blood, the hunting and collecting.”

What an extraordinarily simplistic comment to make! However, the Austrian supremo continued: “I deplore this [male dominated hobby] for I think that women could bring a lot of new aspects. The Austrian Post is trying to attract more women to philately with some feminine themes specially for them.”

In response to the second question: “Will philately remain a masculine domain?” Dr Haas believes that “nothing much will change. It will be mainly men over 45 in good financial situation. We shall continue our share so that philately is perceived as a relatively good priced hobby and by all means as an interesting and demanding one.”

As a male 83 year old collector, in a sometimes shaky financial situation, I suppose I just qualify to remain a *bone fide* stamp collector according to the good doctor. But I do seriously wonder whether such reflections as he offered on our hobby are truly representative of the thoughts and hopes of contemporary philatelists beyond Vienna.

Reverting to the exhibition, I naturally set out as my first assignment to view the entries of committee members of the British Thematic Association and, after some searching, I was able to locate the appropriate display boards in Class 4: Thematic Philately. And what wonderful displays awaited my viewing. I was mightily impressed with the professional contributions from Ron Backhouse: ‘Anyone for Tennis?’; Lesley Marley: ‘A Whale’s Tale’; Brian Sole: ‘Go by Cycle!’; Peter Wood: ‘Irish Life,’ and Richard Wheeler: ‘Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets.’ It was particularly pleasing to learn later that well-deserved Gold, Vermeil and Large Silver medals had been awarded these displays.

There were other BTA and British entries which also scored highly in the judges’ ratings. Among them were thematic displays by Geoffrey Hood and Ian Patton; Frank Walton and John Davis in Class 1: Traditional Philately; Otto Hornung (Large Gold) and Hans Smith in Class 2 : Postal History; Arthur Woo (Large Gold) in Class 3: Postal Stationery; Joyce Boyer in Class 6 : Aerophilately; Francis Kiddle in Class 8 : Revenues; Andy Taylor and Barry Floyd in Class 7 Philatelic Literature. Inge Kent had a display in Open Class 10.

It was perhaps disappointing not to find more entries from GB collectors, who numbered in total just 17 out of a total of 372 exhibitors, thus a mere 4.5%.

Locating further thematic displays, I was particularly keen to view an entry on a topic which I also pursue: ‘Rural land use in the tropics.’ Under the broad rubric of ‘Land cultivation from the beginning of agriculture to the present time.’ I was totally gob-smacked (if I may use the expression) to view 128 pages in 11 frames, filled with the most remarkable selection of

rurally related stamps, covers, cards and other pertinent illustrations. The inspired creator of this display was Joshua Magier from Israel, and he rightfully received a Large Gold medal for his endeavours, as well as a Special Prize.



Although I do not collect bird stamps, I have a fondness for our feathered friends (I even have an aviary in my back garden) and I enjoyed viewing quite a number of entries in this highly popular topic. Quite the most striking display was an Open Class entry from an Austrian collector, Rudolf Galler. This featured not only the stamps of over 60 birds from around the world, but also a colourful feather for each of the species portrayed philatelically. This must have been quite a collecting venture.

As at all major Stamp Exhibitions, there were some world rarities to be viewed. Topping the list was the ‘Bordeaux Letter’ (described as the ‘Crown Jewel of Philately’) and probably the most expensive letter in the world. The cover bears the imperf 1d red and 2d blue stamps of Mauritius; it was mailed from Port Luis to Bordeaux, via England, on October 4th 1847 and arrived 85 days later. It was discovered quite by chance by a schoolboy 55 years later.



Bordeaux Letter

A. Hepburn

2d. blues

Another carefully guarded item was a ‘modern sensation and authentic rarity’: the Audrey Hepburn stamp. Described as the most valuable stamp of post-war times, it was to be part of a five-piece series, to be issued in Germany in 2001. The motif showed the actress with a long cigarette holder. At the last moment Audrey’s son objected to her portrayal and the entire edition was ordered to be destroyed, yet four specimens survived. The Hepburn stamp is thus rarer than the famous Blue Mauritius, of which twelve specimens exist. The stamp on display was bought by a German collector in 2005 for a record sum of Euros 135,000.

On view and of particular interest to British philatelists was a block of six 2d. blue Queen Victoria stamps, sheet positions OJ-PL. This is described as the ‘Dublin Find’ since they were found as remainders in the General Post Office of that city. FRPSL experts have indicated that the present value of the stamps is around eight to ten million Euros. The Court of Honour featured largely precious German and Austrian covers although a lovely black swan made an appearance: a Perkins & Bacon proof of the first stamp printed in Western Australia, 1860.

Austrian Post issued a number of stamps with special postmarks to commemorate WIPA08. A set of three triangulars in a silver block appears here on the first-day cover. Together they form the symbol of WIPA with the three landmarks of Vienna: the Giant Wheel, St. Stephens Cathedral and the Gloriette of Schönbrunn Castle.



Black Swan proof



Austrian Post special issue 1

On the second day of the exhibition, two stamps were featured. One was quite novel: an embroidered 3.75 Euro stamp depicting a Gentian flower. The second portrays an enticing nude, creation of the Austrian artist Dina Larot. Her alluring feminine figure is in marked contrast to the robust sculptured Venus of Willendorff, a rare Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) find dating from circa 24,000 BC and found in the Danube Valley in 1906.



The limestone figurine is a star exhibit in Vienna's Natural History museum.

There was a planned social programme for visitors to the exhibition who required an interlude from the pressurised bargaining between dealers and collectors, and the serried, multiple rows of display boards crying out for careful viewing.

Half-day and full-day tours of downtown Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace, the Spanish Riding School and the Danube Valley (by coach and riverboat) were on offer. Evening programmes featured the city by night, a wine tavern serenade and a river cruise.



My wife and I stayed on in Vienna a few extra days at the end of WIPA08, to enjoy an evening concert of popular Mozart and Strauss melodies, with costumed performers, singers and dancers, and to visit just a few of the innumerable outstanding museums of which the baroque city justifiably boasts. We particularly enjoyed a display of some 150 drawings and paintings by the brilliant if disturbed artist Van Gough. His appealing portrait of the postman in the village of Arles in southern France, provided a fitting conclusion to our enjoyable stay in Vienna. ☒

BTA NEWS

MEMBERS' MEETING & THEMATIC WORKSHOP 21ST MARCH 2009

Waterside United Reformed Church Hall, Bath Road, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7EP.

The BTA will be running a Thematic Workshop in conjunction with the Hampshire Philatelic Association at the above venue on Saturday 21st March 2009. The programme for the event will be:-

1030 - 1130	Members' displays of 12 sheets
1130 - 1145	Coffee Break
1145 - 1300	Guest Speaker David Hunter: Thematic Miscellany
1300 - 1415	Lunch
1415 - 1645	Thematic Workshop (with tea break)

Those members attending should bring twelve 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, but members may bring their own sandwiches if they wish for consumption on the premises, or use various local cafes or hostelrys. Parking is not available at the Hall, but is available in the adjacent Bridge Road and in three public car parks within walking distance. (A location map may be found on the BTA website). As many members as possible are encouraged to attend this event, which will be similar to that run successfully at the Royal last summer. It will concentrate on the fun side of thematic collecting, especially emphasising the "please yourself" approach and will not cover the more formal side of thematic exhibiting.

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

LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

Plans for this are growing fast, and it's worth watching their website <http://www.london2010.org.uk/>, which is packed with information and already showing a



mouth-watering range of events throughout the country. The main theme is the 100th anniversary of the accession of George V: the "philatelist king". The primary event of course is the International Stamp Exhibition to be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, from 8th to 15th May 2010. If you are interested in getting involved the website has a form for volunteers willing to help with a range of tasks at the International Stamp Exhibition. The BTA will be playing a full part in the Exhibition:

we have already booked a table near the main entrance and we will also be holding a meeting on 12th May, with a top international speaker. Make a note in your diaries now!

2008 EXHIBITION RESULTS

Congratulations to all the BTA members who exhibited at WIPA08. The full results are:

Thematic Class

Lesley Marley	Whale's Tale	Gold
Ian Paton	From Texas Statehood to the Assassination President McKinley	Gold
Brian Sole	Go by Cycle!	Gold
Ron Backhouse	Anyone for Tennis?	Vermeil
Geoff Hood	More Than a Pretty Picture	Vermeil
Richard Wheeler	Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets	Vermeil
Peter Wood	Irish Life	Large Silver
Revenue Class		
Francis Kiddle	Tasmania Revenues	Large Vermeil
Aero Philately Class		
Joyce Boyer	Austrian Airmails 1918 - 1938	Large Silver
Philatelic Literature Class		
Barry Floyd	Captain James Cook the Explorer	Silver

Beijing hosted Olympex during the Olympic Games, organised by the Society of Olympic Collectors. BTA member Alan Sabey was awarded a Silver-Gilt for his Thematic entry on the 1948 Olympics. Congratulations to him and to fellow BTA members David Griffiths who won Gold for "Here Be Dragons" at the World Stamp Championships, Tel-Aviv, in May, and Peter Wood who got a Large Silver at the World Philatelic Exhibition EFIRO in Bucharest in June

BTA LIST OF SPEAKERS

Do you give talks locally or further afield? The BTA is updating its Panel of Speakers and if you deliver thematic displays we would like to hear from you. Please email our Membership Secretary Peter Denly peter.denly@btinternet.com The panel of speakers and subjects will eventually appear on the BTA website. The list will only show Theme and Speakers Name with a brief description where appropriate and will direct interested parties to a central contact point. Your name and address will not be published.

BTA PROGRAMME 2009

This is enclosed with this issue of *Themescene*. As explained elsewhere in this issue we have a new location for the AGM and competitions (Midpex for 2009) and a new trade fair Thematix at Twickenham. And do try and make our meetings at Emsworth and Swindon.

BTA WEBSITE

This is always worth keeping an eye on for the latest news.



HERE AND THERE

FIP THEMATIC SEMINAR



The International Philatelic Federation (FIP) will be running a joint seminar for Postal History and Thematic Philately in Malmo, Sweden, from 21-23 August 2009. Attendance is open to Societies, Dealers, Jurors, Exhibitors and Collectors. If any members are interested full details of the seminar including booking forms may be obtained from Jonas Hallstrom, at Billingstorpsvagen 13B, SE-541 32 Skovde, Sweden, or by email to j.hallstrom@telia.com.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLIGHT OF THE MAIA AND MERCURY FLIGHT

A cover has been produced to commemorate the historic flight of the Mercury from Dundee to Wavis Bay near Cape Town – a distance of 6045 miles. This was the longest non-stop flight ever made by a seaplane. Piloted by Air Vice Marshall D.C.T. Bennett, the Mercury took off from the River Tay on top of another flying boat, the Maia, and separated above Dundee.

This commemorative cover is sponsored by Dundee City Council as part of the celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of this event.

The cover, as shown, can be obtained from Colin G Campbell, 11 Denoon Terrace, Dundee DD2 2EL e-mail: campbell933@btinternet.com

Cost: £2.50 plus postage/packing 50p



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

An FIP World Philatelic Exhibition takes place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 1st to 10th October 2010. This is a full FIP show which includes all of the traditional classes, youth, literature, open class and one frame entries with approximately 3000 competitive frames.

The British Commissioner is Chris King. Exhibition application forms and the second bulletin are now available for stamps to the value of £1.00.

The closing date for receipt of entries is 30th May 2009, which will need to be received by the Commissioner by 30th April 2009.

Chris King, PO Box 37460, London N3 1TN. Email chris.king@postalhistory.net Phone 020 8346 1366; Mobile 07768 422 840; Fax 020 8343 3090

The Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms are hosting an exhibition by the British Postal Museum and Archive from now until February 28th entitled "Last Post: Remembering the First

World War". It tells the stories of the role of postal workers at war and on the Home Front, through medals, uniforms, correspondence and treasures from both the BPMA and the Imperial War Museum collections. Topics include the Post Office Rifles and their brave action on the battlefield, the increasing role of women in the war effort, postal censorship and spycatching, and the determination of the Post Office to maintain an essential postal service for military and civilian correspondence against all odds. Full details are available at http://postalheritage.org.uk/events_archive/exhibitionlastpost

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

Due to the pressure of other commitments, Hugh Feldman has realised that he is unable to devote the time necessary to fulfil the position of Chairman of the Stamp Active Network. The



Committee reluctantly had to accept his decision, but are very pleased to advise that John Davies has agreed to resume the position that he last held in 2001.

Prompted by his own children's enthusiasm, John has been heavily involved in Youth Philately since the late 1980's, developing and launching the "Stamp Active" programme in 1990 as well as Kidstamps, the club which supports serious young collectors. He has been involved in all the changes from the Melville Committee, the National Youth Stamp Group and Stamp Active Network, with significant involvement in Stamp World 90 and the Stamp Show 2000. As Chairman John will lead our involvement in the Youth events for London 2010.

BILL HART AWARD



This award, created in 1996 in his memory, recognises exceptional contributions to the organisation of youth activities. This year's nomination of Bridget Robinson is well justified. In presenting the award, John Davies, the chairman of Stamp Active Network, said "Bridget has been an outstanding supporter of youth philately for many years. She runs her own junior stamp club but has also been actively involved in supporting the work of the National Youth Stamp Group, now Stamp Active Network, in the Youth area at both Spring and Autumn Stampex for several years. She is a real enthusiast." Bridget has said "I enjoy working with children at Stampex. It is possible to have quality time with them and their parents and hear about their collections. Stamp collecting is not dead yet!"

GROUP NEWS

SHIP STAMP SOCIETY



The Society was formed in 1970 for the general study and advancement of ship stamps in all their classifications. It provides a medium for collectors to discuss their various interests and to exchange and acquire stamps. Its membership is worldwide and it prides itself on being the foremost society of its kind.

The annual subscription (UK and overseas) is £17.00 (posted air mail outside Europe £22.00). *Log Book* is their monthly A4 fully illustrated magazine. For more information on the Society, or to receive a free copy of *Log Book*, write to the Secretary:

Tommy Broadley, 10 Heyes Drive, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0PB. Telephone 0925 742760.

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, 35 – 50
Rathbone Place, London, W1T 1HQ*



Just4kIDS

(Themescene Juniors)

(Adult readers - please photocopy these two pages
and pass them on to a youngster)



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

LET'S GET CHRISTMAS CRAFTY!

Here are some Christmas crafts that you can make.



At this time of year you will be getting lots of cards through your letterbox with Christmas stamps on them. Many people throw the envelopes and stamps away! Check with your parent or stamp club leader that none of the stamps are valuable, and that it's ok for you to use them for craft activities.

What you need to do is soak the stamps off the envelope in a bowl of warm water for about 20 minutes, or until the stamp slides smoothly off. Dry the stamps upside down on kitchen paper (best to leave them overnight).



MAKE A CHRISTMAS GARLAND OR ADVENT CALENDAR GARLAND!

You will need;

- your Christmas stamps
- sellotape
- piece of string or ribbon



Attach your Christmas stamps with tape to a long piece of horizontal string or ribbon to make a garland. Use your garland to decorate your room or to wrap around your Christmas tree.

To make an **Advent Calendar Garland**, choose 25 stamps and attach them to the horizontal piece of string or ribbon. Cut up sticky labels to sizes just slightly smaller than the stamps. Write a festive message on each label, and stick it **UPSIDE DOWN** on the back of each stamp, covering the string. Choose somewhere to hang it where everyone can see it. Each day in December you can turn one stamp upwards and over to read the message on the back. You could make another one as a lovely present to post to your grandparent, cousin or your friend!



MAKE A 'CHRISTMAS STAMP' TREE BAUBLE

You will need:

your Christmas stamps,
a Christmas tree bauble,
thin ribbon or string
a glue brush
newspaper

some watered down PVA glue (half glue, half water, and you could add some glitter if you like).



This is messy, so put some newspaper down first! Before you start gluing, think of somewhere you can hang your decoration to dry overnight (it might drip!) Paint glue all over the bauble, then using your hands place your stamps all over the bauble, overlapping them and covering the ball entirely. Use the glue brush to paint more glue over the front of the stamps - this will dry to a clear glossy varnish - and use your hands to smooth the stamps round to the shape of the bauble. Hang your decoration up to dry overnight, with some newspaper below to catch any drips. When it is dry, loop it onto a ribbon and hang it on your tree.



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AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS



“Perforated Hearts” (Hearts on Stamps). Benedict A. Termini

Retired Cardiologist Benedict A. Termini has taken his topical collection and written a fascinating book that covers the topic of hearts in an interesting format. In addition to the checklists of stamps and postal stationery picturing hearts he set two goals. First, he wanted to encourage stamps collectors to explore the world of heart stamps. Second, he wanted to make sure that the information, which he had gathered over many years, was available to stamp collectors. Additionally his book serves as an aid to the novice collector as he relates how he organizes his topical collections and where and how he locates sources who supply him with both information and philatelic items.

His opening chapter is “Mending Broken Hearts – Cardiology on Stamps”. In layman terms he discusses and identifies stamps showing the human heart and how it works. This is followed by the history of man’s view of the function of the heart throughout history and the development of means to overcome heart problems. Within the narrative he tells the reader about the beginning of the stethoscope, the electrocardiogram, angiography, heart surgery and transplantation and preventative steps to reduce the risk of heart problems.

Next he describes the philatelic uses of the heart as a symbol in the context of love stamps, Valentine’s Day, heart-shaped stamps, heraldic hearts, playing card hearts, religious uses and the Purple Heart.

Other interesting factoids are found with items such as the “World’s Heartiest” stamps, cover collecting, souvenir sheets, booklets, perfins, cancellations, advertising covers, and cinderellas.

Appendixes list United States Love Stamps and Envelopes; World Health Day (Your Heart is Your Health); World Communications Year; International Year of the Family; and also Betty Boop and I Love Lucy. The book closes with a listing of romantic town names in the United States complete with zip codes.

For a full list of ATA publications and instructions on how to buy them at a discounted rate via the BTA please see our website: <http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/publications.htm>

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