

The British Thematic Association's One Page Virtual Competition

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Why did we need a One Page Competition?

Born out of COVID and a desire to keep BTA members 'together'.

Competitions bring people together, but had to be a virtual (i.e. on-line) competition as 1-2-1 meetings not allowed

Why do we continue with the competition?

- We need more fun in competitions
- We need to bring philatelists together
- To encourage overseas members
- To encourage those that do not normally compete
- To encourage non-members to take part

Scope

We are a 'thematic' association; hence our interest is in **Thematic, Open Philately** and **Picture Postcards** (the Pictorial philatelic classes)

Overall Aim

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We took the KISS approach

Keep it simple, stupid

Original Concepts

The one-page exhibit is
not designed to be a stepping stone to
a one-frame exhibit.

Original Concepts

Needed a scoring system and subsequent 'level' achieved that did not mimic National and International exhibiting.

No Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Bronze awards

No marking based upon FIP guidelines

The Main Rules of the one-page competition

- On A4 or A3 paper
- In English
- The exhibit must have a title
- The exhibit must have an introduction
- The exhibit must tell a story

The Main Rules of the one-page competition

- The presentation must be good
- The items shown must be full size
- The exhibit must have a variety of philatelic material from a variety of countries
- The quality of the material must be the best possible

Philatelic Classes

- Thematic – Nature
- Thematic - Science and Technology
- Thematic – Culture
- Open Philately
- Picture Postcards
- Youth
- Topical

Each Class will have a winner.

Four Award categories

The four categories are:

- **Diamond** – all the elements listed in the rules are present
- **Ruby** – all or most of the required elements present
- **Emerald** – some of the elements required are present
- **Opal** – few or none of the required elements are present

An Example of a One-page entry

The World's Capital - The United Nations Headquarters

The story of the development of the United Nations (UN) headquarters is fascinating. We will discover how and why the headquarters ended up on an 18 acre site in the middle of Manhattan, New York City.



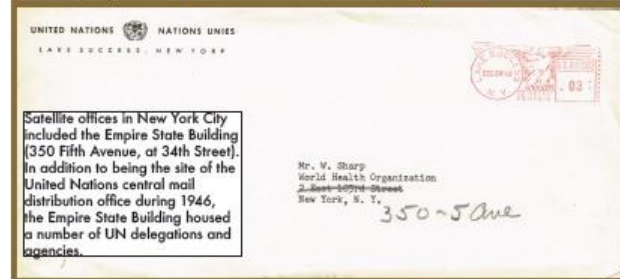
Cordell Hull - Father of the United Nations. US Representative to the UN-CIO and chief architect of the UN Charter.



The United Nations Conference on International Organization convened in San Francisco, CA. on April 12, 1945. Sixty-one nations participated with the principle goal of the meeting to develop the Charter of the United Nations. Discussions on where to permanently house the UN were widespread but no decisions were made other than to temporarily establish the UN in New York City.



The UN first temporary headquarters was established at Hunter College, Bronx Campus, but only lasted for a few months as classes resumed in the Fall of 1945. The UN moved to Lake Success in Queens, New York and occupied the old Sperry-Rand Facility for several years before the permanent HQ was constructed.



Satellite offices in New York City included the Empire State Building (350 Fifth Avenue, at 34th Street). In addition to being the site of the United Nations central mail distribution office during 1946, the Empire State Building housed a number of UN delegations and agencies.



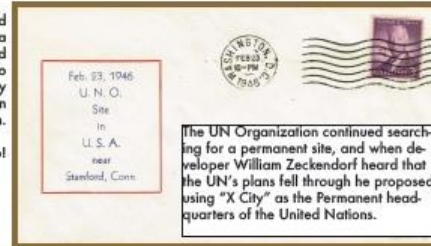
Philadelphia, cradle of liberty, almost got selected as the permanent home.

Publicity label



Many Cities including Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, New York, and even Saint Louis fought to lure the UN to their cities. New York City Mayor Dwyer even commissioned a study to show that Flushing Meadows would be a wonderful permanent location. The UN Site Selection Committee traveled to many of these locations to study how well they could accommodate the organization and its international work force. Ultimately a large tract of land near Stamford, Connecticut was chosen.

A large public hearing was convened during the summer of 1946 where a significant number of citizens argued against the plan. The room was so crowded, it was estimated that nearly 1000 additional citizens had to listen from outside the auditorium.



The UN had no where to go!

The UN Organization continued searching for a permanent site, and when developer William Zeckendorf heard that the UN's plans fell through he proposed using "X City" as the Permanent headquarters of the United Nations.



Photo of X-City Turtle Bay site looking southward prior to the demolition of the slaughterhouses and vacant tenement apartments and office buildings.

An international committee of engineers, architects, and designers quickly began developing designs for the HQ. Charles Le Corbusier, France, Oscar Neimeyer, Brazil, are credited with the final design.



J.D. Rockefeller sent a letter to Dr. Eduardo Zuleta Angel, Chairman of the Permanent Headquarters Committee, offering a gift of \$8,500,000 to purchase the land proposed by Zeckendorf on the East River. The UN Officials quickly accepted the offer.



Photo-essay of the UN HQ completed in 1952. Design used for 1968 letter rate definitive issue.

Why those Award titles?

- By using precious stones, we avoid confusion with National and International awards
- We reduce expectations that a good mark in a one-page competition can translate into a good mark in a one-frame exhibit

Examples of One-page entries

PILLAR BOX PERSECUTION!

INTRODUCTION: British pillar boxes have been subjected to criminal acts by people 'posting' explosive and dangerous items, damaging the letters inside and/or causing harm to property and major injuries to the public if the box shatters.

1. **SUFFRAGETTES**...threw bombs, acid and ink into pillar box apertures across the country from 1912-14, as part of the 'Votes for Women' campaign.



'London Opinion' postcard No.5033, artist: Alfred Leete.

...fireworks were also dropped into pillar boxes, usually around Bonfire Night.



2. **'ER' NOT 'EIR'**...was coined by protesters in Scotland, who blew up a pillar box in 1953 because it had an 'Eir' cipher. They argued that the new queen was the second Elizabeth of England, but the first of Scotland.



3. **THE PROVISIONAL IRA**... placed timed devices inside five pillar boxes in the centre of London in 1974. The blasts injured twenty people.



1971 'Patriotic Seal' propaganda label

Matchbox label

4. **ANTI-SOCIAL ARSON**... was a problem in north-west England in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The number of pillar box fires led the Post Office to obtain handstamps to apply to affected mail. The culprits posted lit matches;...



Cover salvaged from a pillar box fire in Warrington. There is also water damage, from where the fire was put out.

PLAN: Running through the entry, numbered section headings are in bold. Descriptions are in *italics*.

Consequences for judging

- You must remember that you are NOT standing in front of a frame discussing the markings; you are sitting alone in front of a PC
- You may be marking over 100 entries!
- The four-award level approach means that it is easier to agree the markings on a Zoom-like call with other judges
- BUT as we had to determine a winner in each class we point scored all Diamond-level entries

Point scoring

- The story 40
- Presentation 15
- Non-thematic information 15
- Quality of material 10
- Variety of material 10
- Title and introduction 10

Results so far

- We have had three virtual competitions: January 2021, 2022 and 2023
- We have had entries from Belgium, Morocco, Australia, Italy, Bahrain, France, Canada, New Zealand, India, USA and the UK
- In 2021 we had 25 entries from seven countries
- In 2022 we had 108 entries from eleven countries
- In 2023 we had 36 entries from seven countries

An Example of a One-page entry

Sir Arthur Keith
Perpetrator or Victim?

In December 1912, the *Geological Society of London* was presented unusual remains found by **Charles Dawson** (1864-1916) in a roadside gravel pit at **Barkham Manor** in 1908.



Sales advertisement for the manor home and grounds

Barkham manor is located near **Piltdown** in East Sussex.



Boonies and Beakthorn's (Covered sent to *Highways*, New York, 12 February 1940
Sir Arthur Keith (phonograph address in his hand)

Debate within clergy and scientific circles raged, some suggesting remains were victims of the **Flood** or **wild men**.

After discovery of **Neanderthal**, European scientists searched feverishly for more examples of fossil man and **Piltdown** seemed to fit in as a transitional form.



Sir Arthur Keith (white coat) examining Piltdown skull



Sir Arthur Keith
Former South Devon
Cigarette card #119



Original Neanderthal skull analysis

Sir Arthur Keith reconstructed the fragments into a partial skull with jaw. The skull's features reflected both archaic and modern traits and was believed to be the **'Missing Link'**, older and more prestigious than Germany's **Neanderthal**. Analysis of this new discovery shook the international natural history world. Keith named the find ***Eoanthropus dawsoni*** (Dawson's dawn-man).



Piltdown Skull
Fanny Cornhill



Wild man and woman



Keith's Arc

More than forty years later these ancient 'fossil remains' were exposed as a hoax!



Orangutan
Jawbone of the fossil



Chimpanzee
Tooth for 'tooth'

The 'fossil remains' were artificially stained fragments of a overly thick **human skull**, an orangutan jaw and a chimpanzee tooth.



Conversational source sheet

Arthur Keith is often named as the person most capable of preparing fakes. Far from proven, he may have been duped by Dawson or his own lab technician, **Martin Hinton**. The mystery remains as to **"Who really done it?"**

What Prizes do we give?

- All Youth entrants get one year's free membership of the BTA with electronic access to Themescene
- Overall winner, existing BTA member, gets one year's free membership of the BTA with print access to Themescene.
- Overall winner, non-BTA member, gets one year's free membership of the BTA with electronic access to Themescene.

What Prizes do we give?

- For the above, the electronic access is via our website - we supply them with username and password.
- All entrants get an electronic version of the Themescene issue containing a report on the competition. This is emailed to them as a pdf.

The way forward

- We have decided to make this competition a biennial event
- The next competition will be open this Autumn, with a 31 January 2025 closing date
- And we look forward to receiving your entry!