

# THEMESCENE

June 2024

*In this issue we:*



*Celebrate ourselves!*

**BTA Weekend 2024**

*And, at RPSL we were*

**Showcasing the world of pictorial collecting**



*Take the plunge and  
take to the skies*

**Auguste Piccard. Part 2**

*With Les Ashton-Smith*



*Plus all the usual features*

**BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**

**Volume 41, No.2. Whole Number 155**

**[www.britishthematic.org.uk](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk)**

**BTA WEEKEND page 40**



# THEMESCENE

Vol. 41, No. 2 Whole Number 155

JUNE 2024

## THEMESCENE

Journal of the  
British Thematic Association  
which is a member of the  
Association of British  
Philatelic Societies  
ISSN 0268-2508

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Printing for Pleasure  
Elder House, The Street,  
Chattisham, Ipswich  
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# EDITORIAL


Wendy Buckle

It's been a busy few months for the BTA. Firstly we had our anniversary event at the Royal Philatelic Society London (page 51), followed a few weeks later by our residential weekend at Oxford (page 40). Both were hugely successful, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of everyone who took part. The former was a real advertisement not just of the BTA but of pictorial collecting in general, perhaps opening the minds of a few rather more traditional collectors. And the latter was, as it always is, a lot of light-hearted fun where nobody takes anything too seriously but thoroughly enjoys talks, displays and plenty of socialising. It was no surprise that at the end of the event everyone voted to repeat it in 2026.

As we always do, we will be holding our AGM at Swinpex, on 8th June (the same venue as last year). You will find the Agenda and Accounts on pages 60-61, so if you are attending the AGM please bring this copy of *Themescene* with you, together with the September 2023 issue, which has the Minutes of the 2023 AGM. Thank you.

We will use the opportunity given at the AGM to present the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl to the author of the best article published in *Themescene* the previous year, as voted for by the Committee. This year's winner, by the very closest of margins, was Malcolm Gascoyne with *Evolution of the postcard*. Second by a whisker was Paul Webber with *Expo '58*. Thank you to them and all our contributors, without them there would be no magazine.

In addition to the formal meeting we will be treated to a talk and display by Jan Nyeki entitled *Tell me, please, why Sudan was the last one?* This has nothing to do with the North African country, so you'll have to come along and find out what it's all about!

We are pleased to welcome new member Vijay Wadhwa of Raipur, India. We hope you find your membership rewarding. 

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### NEXT BTA MEETINGS:

**Annual General Meeting 08 June at Swinpex, 13.00**

with guest speaker Jan Nyeki *Tell me, please, why was Sudan the last one?*

**York Stamp and Coin Fair 20 July**

10.30 George Henshilwood *Having fun with numbers*

# CHAIRMAN

**Barry Stagg**

**The future is the future, the past is not the future!**

**T**oday is a very special day in the West country and not just for philatelists! I opened the bedroom curtains and there it was, a brilliant warm and yellow orb of brightness just above the horizon. The sun has re-appeared again. No rain last night, no rain this morning, no rain forecast! Surely this is a turning point in the weather. The sunshine has resulted in a brightening of the mood of the shoppers this morning. Some smiled and at least one said good morning.

I think the sun is shining on British philately, at least on the BTA. We had a very



*Barry with RPSL plaque*

successful 40th anniversary event at the Royal with lots of visitors and many positive comments. We have Swinpex in a few weeks time and York after that. Both are very popular events, well attended by dealers and collectors alike. I'm looking forward to York as we have a BTA meeting planned for the Saturday. I hope you can come as it is great to meet BTA members. And don't forget we have a strong Zoom meeting programme and you are all welcome.

I do not subscribe to the theory that philately in this country is dying. It certainly is changing and there are certainly fewer of us as time goes on, but we are, by design, inquisitive people. We like to learn, and we like to collect. The show will go on although it will be smaller and fewer events but go on it will. Technology will play its part whether we like it or not. I am still fascinated by taking part in a zoom meeting (other remote

meeting software is available!) in which many of the audience are sitting at home, not just in a different country but a different continent! I know technology is not for everyone, but it is fast becoming part of our future.

Yes, it was good in the past when local stamp clubs had 40, 50, 60 or more members. When the post came twice a day and people welcomed a one-to-one conversation. But now we can talk to just about anybody in the world at anytime for free, we have access to huge philatelic libraries and have access to talks and discussions from the comfort of our front room. We can't turn the clock back, but we can embrace the future and enjoy our hobby in a different way. The future is here to stay, and the past has gone for ever. 📖



# BTA WEEKEND 2024

**W**e certainly attracted plenty of interest this year, with 32 full delegates plus six day delegates; and the feedback received afterwards indicated another very successful event, with positive comments on the venue, the food, the programme and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. There were four guest speakers.

## **James Podger *Africa and Islands***

Our first invited speaker, asked to provide the after-dinner display, was James Podger with *Africa and Islands*. His display certainly covered that brief, with rare and fascinating items from Mauritius, St. Helena, Seychelles, and others, but his accompanying talk may not have been what the audience expected. Rather than a philatelic discourse, James regaled us with stories from his time as Chief Officer serving with the Maersk fleet. While at Ascension Island he had a variety of shore-based duties, and met the station commander and administrator. He also made friends with Angela Francis, Postmistress of the Island. I suspect she was not used to someone so keen on philately, but must have been delighted at the quantity of stamps, postage dues and FDCs - multiples of everything - purchased by James in his time there. The sheet of postmarks shown on the next page were simply her testing various cancels; she was somewhat taken aback when James requested to keep the sheet for himself.

James later commanded the *Maersk Gannet*, and spent time at St. Helena, working and finding time to fit in his philatelic interests.

This was a wonderfully entertaining story full of anecdotes, impossible to capture in this report, but hugely enjoyed by his audience, and which gave the Weekend the perfect start.

## **Wayne Cox *Small but perfectly formed: the British lamp letterbox***

Wayne described his collecting interests as a venn diagram with overlap between his interest in philately and his interest in letter boxes. He does have a pillar box in his back garden, not something which can be transported easily, but he did bring along five actual lamp letterboxes, not to mention an array of 3-D memorabilia. As a member of the Letter Box Study Group (<https://lbsg.org/>) Wayne spends his summers going round the country searching for and recording rare examples.

Wayne described lamp boxes (rarely found on lampposts, more likely to be telegraph poles) as “the junior member of the portfolio”. Rowland Hill’s postal reforms created a demand for post boxes: stamps could be purchased in advance and kept at home before being used, there was no longer the need to visit a post office. However GB was late to the game of providing them, being first used in the Channel Islands in 1852, with the first wall boxes appearing in England in 1857.

Lamp boxes come in different sizes and styles, all of which makes for a detailed study of the subject, explained in Wayne’s words as “the difference between the GB Concise and GB Specialised catalogues”. They also, like pillar boxes, have the royal cypher of the monarch reigning when the box was built. On one occasion this caused controversy when Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne. To the English she was Queen Elizabeth II, but to the Scots she was the First Queen Elizabeth of Scotland. (It didn’t help that the person the English call Queen Elizabeth I signed the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots). After a campaign in Scotland which included paint, fireworks, and worse, the cypher was changed to the Scottish Crown.

## *Africa and Islands*



*The Island of Ascension  
surrounded by warships. Book  
illustration, hand coloured, c.1750.*



*Prepaid Naval Officer's letter 1849*



*Wideawake Fair birds (Sooty Terns), Ascension*



### Checking the date stamps



Boxes sometimes live on after their working days are over, not just adopted by collectors, but sold or given away by Royal Mail to charities and others, perhaps used as a donation box.

This was a fascinating talk, and I for one will never take letter boxes for granted again.

### **Philip Cant *Thematic ripples***

This is not a title that gives anything away, so seeing it in the programme didn't mean a lot, but it turned out to be the ripple effect that happens to all of us: you start on one collection, which unexpectedly leads on to another, which leads on to another ... But the end result for the audience was a varied display by an extremely knowledgeable collector. It all started with a study of railway artillery. Possibly the biggest gun ever was 'Dora', a German World War II railway gun which needed a crew of 1,420 (500 of them to operate the gun), built specifically to smash the forts of the Maginot Line, although not used for that.

World War II led on to combat, and the invasion of Poland in 1939, a story of great bravery by the Poles who did not have the resources to repel the invaders, but nevertheless still used cavalry (yes cavalry) effectively.

World War II also meant fighting aircraft, and a study of the all the GB and Commonwealth issues commemorating the anniversary of the Royal Air Force. Despite the many stamps issued, there was no duplication of individual aircraft in the designs.

This led on to the air stamps of France, French Overseas Territories and former colonies which charted the development of the air industry and commercial air travel within these regions. Along the way Philip told the story of the loss of the USS *Indianapolis*, torpedoed by the Japanese in 1945 with very heavy loss of life.

Finally we were shown a frame of "nonsense", mostly stamp design errors, including a purported picture of the *Titanic* (actually the *Bremen*, which only has two funnels), and a Ghana stamp showing a Stuka with its wheels retracted (they didn't retract).

Overall this was a talk from an enthusiast with a deep mastery of armed forces history.

### **Paul Leonard *Exploring forgeries in your collection***

Paul is a member of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London, a committee which certifies the genuineness, or otherwise, of items (which they call 'patients') submitted to them. When we first approached Paul to give this talk, over a year ago, none of us could have any idea just how timely the talk would be. But a few days before the Weekend members of the Committee were interviewed for the Watchdog feature on BBC's *The One Show*, investigating the flood of Chinese forgeries of the Charles III definitives (see [YouTube clip](#)); a subject then taken up by the *Daily Mail* and its sister publication the *Daily Telegraph*, with banner headlines.

The Expert Committee was founded in 1894, and you do not have to be a member of the Royal to submit items. They will be investigated first by comparing them with reference material and known genuine items. The Committee has photographic records of 235,000 previous submissions, so can check to see if the item has been previously submitted. Stamps and covers can fetch eye-watering prices, so sadly it is worth the forgers time to try and fake them. Common issues are: cleaning a used stamp to make it appear mint; coloured and distinctive postmarks such as the GB Maltese Cross; margins or corners added; and covers that did not originate from the stated place. Paul has an array of equipment at his disposal, including a video spectral computer, the VSC8000HS. He and colleagues used a 3D microscope made by Keyence to investigate the printing plate for



*Small but perfectly formed*



*A door stop*



*Exploring forgeries in your collection*



*Discussing forgeries?*

### *Thematic ripples*



*The RAF*



*Guam Guard Mail*



*A dodgy Stuka*



## The colour blue



## One-page story



the first issue of Mauritius. In 2024 the Committee investigated the world's rarest stamp, the 1856 1 cent magenta British Guiana. Paul himself has worked with the University of Surrey on banknote forgeries.

This was a fascinating insight into a different aspect of collecting, summed up by Paul as "If it's rare and valuable - beware".

Thanks to Owen Green, members were able to examine stamps, including Charles III definitives, under a microscope. He and a colleague brought along a range of microscopes for people to play with, including a recreation of the nineteenth century *Watson Philatelic Microscope*, built by Owen and his colleague Chris Kennedy. A splendid piece of Victorian design, but perhaps over-engineered (a very Victorian approach).

### **Members' Displays**

Our invited speakers were only part of the programme. Attendees were invited to participate in up to four sessions of members' displays, including 'Latest acquisitions' and 'Six sheets in one minute'. There were also rather more challenging topics: 'One-page-story', 'The most difficult item I ever found', 'The colour blue' and 'Non-philatelic items which enhance my collection'. Needless to say everyone rose to the challenge.

Crawford Alexander

- Covers and postcards featuring American flying boats.
- A selection of "blues" including the 2d blue stamp, the 2d Mulready envelope, and a wrapper with A. G. Baylis advertising ring.

Jean Alexander

- Outlining her firm belief that if it is really important to you "an item will find you", Jean explained the many steps taken to get a Christmas menu from the 1977 Stamp Advisory Committee Christmas meeting. It came up for auction at Cotswold Auctions, she missed the auction by one day; it was unsold, she got in touch with the vendor, who couldn't find it; but eventually it was located and now sits happily with other menus in Jean's collection.
- Waterfalls in the Blue Mountains of Australia featured on 1898 postal stationery cards.

Mike Blackman

- An array of fashionable ladies and their parasols featured on stamps, postcards and memorabilia.

Geoff Blackwell

- A brief history of photography from early inventors to Eastman Kodak.
- In 1934 Canada voted its 1929 stamp showing *The Bluenose* to be 'The most beautiful stamp in the world'. The engraved design was taken from two photographs by Warren Robinson MacAskill, found in the Nova Scotia archives. It is a stamp and theme which has been commemorated on later Canadian stamps.

Pauline Boddie

- Some recent acquisitions including coffee house covers, slogan cancels, coffee labels and a stagecoach notice giving postal routes.

Wendy Buckle

- Transport played a key part in the history of paper making. For road transport an 1814 entire sent by hand internally in the Netherlands was annotated "by farm wagon"; and for canal transport a 1699 entire sent from Brussels to Antwerp and annotated "by sea mail" - except of course it was actually canal mail.

Gary Cook

- Covers from the 1770s to 1881 concerned with consumption (i.e. TB) together with their accompanying letters from relatives.
- A lovely registered cover from New South Wales to France, carried on the *SS Australia*, franked with the 1897 NSW charity stamp; a possibly rare postal use of a charity stamp.
- Items on Kew Gardens included an embroidered stamp showing the blue gentian, and material on Sir Joseph Hooker, appointed the first official director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1841.

#### Wayne Cox

- Advertising on stamps, including margins, inter-leaves, selvedge etc.
- 350 years of the Royal Mail public postal service was commemorated with a set of stamps in 1985. These were shown plus presentation pack, first day cover postmarks, cylinder blocks and booklets.
- Illustrations and models of blue post boxes, used for a time for airmail, also blue airmail vans - a publicity stunt.

#### Bev Davies

- The Leipzig Messe [Fair] which has been held in spring and autumn since the twelfth century. Stamps featuring the event started in 1947.
- With a childhood obsession with ballet, including taking ballet classes, Bev was delighted to acquire a cover from the Sadler's Wells Theatre signed by several notable people.
- An array of various topics including Concorde, Women, Gerald King and the *RMS Titanic*.

#### John Davies

- Perhaps less well-known than its London counterpart, the 1890 Edinburgh International Exhibition commemorating 50 years of penny postage had an operating post office, for which there is a very rare cancellation. Having failed to get a cut-out copy, which went for £850 at auction, you can imagine John's delight when some time later he was the only bidder on a unique registered cover. His for £35!
- Caricature postcards in blue of the 1890 Uniform Penny Postage Jubilee by Harry Furness.

#### Malcolm Gascoyne

- Booklets of postcards of Singapore, illustrating how picture postcards started in the colonial period, such as Singapore and the Netherlands Indies.
- The Portuguese navigators played an important part in the story of the spice trade; unfortunately they have only featured on Portuguese stamps, but an attractive cigar wrapper provided an alternative illustration.

#### Owen Green

- Belgian miniature sheets with geometric patterns taken from nature.
- Stamps commemorating the fourth expedition to Tibet of Sven Hedin, a Swedish Central Asiatic explorer and adventurer. His reputation declined after he wrote a sympathetic book on the German armies in 1915. He was denounced by the Royal Geographic Society as an enemy of the King. During the 1930's he openly supported the Nazis.
- Coin covers and coins featuring dinosaurs.

#### Erene Grieve



- A brief history of the writing tool from sharpened stone through to the luxury fountain pen, often seen as a status symbol.
- A cross-written letter from Rome, dated 1838, sent by a gentleman no doubt undertaking the grand tour, it was full of gossip and name-dropping, which made it worth the painstaking decipherment done with the aid of a magnifying glass.
- “When I’m feeling blue” provided the theme for pages on: kingfishers, stained glass windows, art galleries, music and stamp boxes.

John Hayward

- An entertaining range of deliberate or inadvertent design errors on stamps. These included Christopher Columbus with a telescope, over a hundred years before it was invented (St. Kitts Nevis 1903); East Germany commemoration of Robert Schumann, showing music by Schubert; and GB 2007 Memories of Wembley Stadium sheet which referred to the 1936 World Speedway Championships, which had actually been held at Crystal Palace.

Edith Knight

- Postcards of Handley Page aircraft which operated the airmail route from Spain to Africa.
- A selection of beautifully embroidered Spanish postcards.

Rodney Knight

- Spanish miniature sheets issued between 1987 and 1991 featuring furniture.

Heather Lawn

- The destrier: the warhorse that carried knights in armour in to battle, tournaments or in jousts.
- You would not expect a collector of parrots to be in search of a Zeppelin cover, but an August 1933 cover flown by the *Graf Zeppelin* carried the logo of its fifth flight: a palm cockatoo.
- Parrots are a good source for the colour blue, including the blue macaw, the blue/yellow macaw and the blue lorikeet.

Janet Nelson

- A 1934 postal stationery set from Brazil showing the Avenue of Palms. While most of the set are quite common, it took five years to complete the set due to one very difficult item.
- From a display entitled “!,000 years of annoying the French”, a stamp from a French booklet showing a coffee and croissant, the croissant being a common comestible which apparently had not previously featured on a stamp. Why did it annoy the French? The croissant was invented in Austria.

Nick Nelson

- In 1931 Brazil was in extreme financial debt. The Finance Minister authorised the issue of stamps to the face value of equivalent £100 for the “Civic Contribution” in the hope they would sell to collectors, and so raise money. They didn’t sell and were withdrawn and incinerated. Consequently today this is a very rare stamp.

Estelle Shale

Three items from her “Bible” collection found as a result of serendipity:

- A nineteenth century manuscript cancel for Genesis (Tennessee), at a time when only 22 people lived there.

- Following information on a blog by Trevor Pateman about Russian / Polish arrival marks, a very rare Lublin mark for 'evening' "and the evening and the morning" (i.e. one day), followed three weeks later by the 'morning' mark.
- An item of Paris siege mail marked "drifting with limited control".

Brian Sole

- British greetings telegrams.
- The famous 1900 1d Mafeking siege stamp from the Second Boer War ticks two boxes for thematic collectors: bicycles and scouting (Robert Baden-Powell was the troop commander). But did you know that the original design for the stamp was a horizontal format? A photocopy from the Royal Collection illustrates this, but since Brian was only granted the illustration on condition it was not reproduced we couldn't be shown this key evidence. Nice stamp though!

Barry Stagg

- New air routes were opening in the 1930s, including one from Brazil to Guyana, but flights did not operate until the supporting ships were in place; so the authorities hired the *Graf Zeppelin* which did three runs from Recife, Brazil to Bathurst, the Gambia. With no landing facilities the mail was delivered by parachute. A rare item for the parachute collector.

Anne Stammers

- 'Open' material on the theme of copper, including a piece of malachite and a copper plate.
- The sapphire, the second hardest stone after diamond, including a cover carried on the ship *Sapphire*, and the stone tanzanite, found only in Tanzania.


Peter Weir

- Stamps, first day cover postmarks and artwork from the GB 1989 set commemorating the Royal Microscopical Society.

Peter Wood

- First World War Ireland, including the Ulster Volunteer Force and Irish prisoners of war in Germany.
- Acquisitions including a Charles Whiting tri-colour embossed frame and head of Thomas Moore from the Royal Cameo Scrapbook; a postmark from Lilliput, Jamaica; and items relating to characters in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.
- A cover from World War II, censored and returned to sender, proved to have an interesting Irish connection since it was associated with the infamous American-born William Joyce, aka Lord Haw-Haw, who spent some time in Ireland before moving to England.

As if all these displays weren't enough there was also time to hunt through stock brought by Paula Cant Stamps, and material sold by Paul Leonard, profits of which were split 50/50 between Stamp Active and the BTA.

Hopefully this report captures the experiences of those present: busy, varied, entertaining, but above all - fun. Watch this space for our next Weekend, to be held in 2026. 

*Editor's note: Apologies if I have missed any of the Members' Displays in this listing.*



*A selection of microscopes to play with*



*Counting the profit*



*Socialising played a large part in the event*

*Selected photographs courtesy of Paul Leonard and Dane Garrod*

# SHOWCASING THE WORLD OF PICTORIAL COLLECTING

All members of the BTA, whether attending the meeting or not, will have received a copy of the booklet accompanying our presentation to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 21st March, on the occasion of the BTA's 40th anniversary.

It was a great honour to be invited to give this display, which proved to be hugely successful, with around 90 visitors, many of them not pictorial collectors themselves but interested in finding out more. The comments heard as people viewed the frames were certainly very complimentary, and those who were displaying were asked a number of questions about their pages.

As outlined in the booklet, there were fifteen displays of between one and eight frames. Some of them had been competitive exhibits in the Thematic, Open or Picture Postcard classes, while others were what our Chairman Barry Stagg described as "collections": put together for sheer enjoyment without any reference to rules. And isn't that what we all do in some of our collecting?

The occasion gave us the opportunity to publicise our virtual one-page competition (which will be launched again later this year) in which the BTA has taken a leading international role. One frame on display at the Royal featured some of the most entertaining entries received.

One thing that unites all of us is enthusiasm for the subject whose story we are telling, so it was no surprise that as well as 54 frames of pages there were also four display cabinets featuring memorabilia. This included books, medals, miniature figures, jewellery, gold foil for embossing, an umbrella, a vase and a piece of woven cloth.

In her vote of thanks Grace Davies paid tribute to those exhibitors, including Christine Earle, Lesley Marley and Birthe King, who have done so much to enhance the credibility of pictorial collecting by their outstanding international exhibits. She remarked that when she first joined the Royal, members' reaction to her collecting interests could be "polite but kind disdain". That is no longer the case, as reinforced by Mike Roberts, RPSL President, who stressed that during his time in office he wanted the programme to cover every aspect of collecting. The BTA certainly played its part in fulfilling that wish. 📖





*Barry with President of the RPSL Mike Roberts FRPSL.  
This and selected following photographs are courtesy of the RPSL*

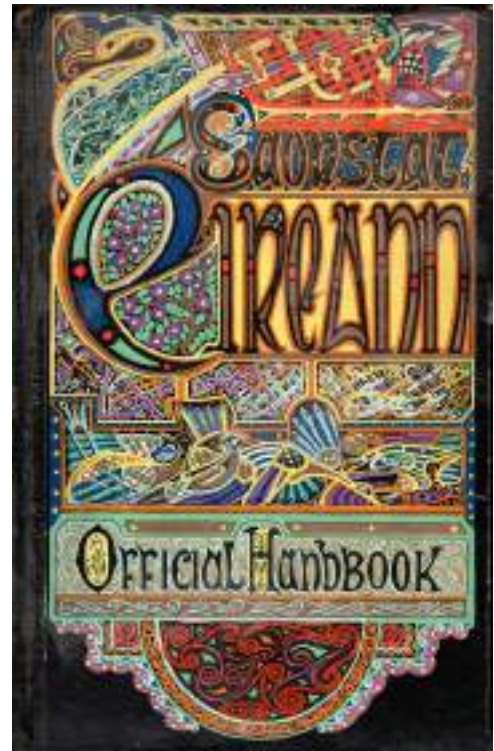


*The Road to Independence*



*Liquid of Life*





# AUGUSTE PICCARD AND HIS FAMILY LEGACY, PART 2

*Les Ashton-Smith*

**B**ack to Auguste. As previously mentioned, Auguste's son Jacques had helped Auguste with his diving exploration. Jacques Piccard (28 July 1922 – 1 November 2008) was a Swiss oceanographer and engineer, known for having developed underwater submarines and for studying ocean currents. Jacques initially started out his career by teaching economics at the University of Geneva while continuing to help his father improve the bathyscaphe to demonstrate its potential for operating in deep waters. During that period Jacques also completed a diploma at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. Together, Jacques and his father built three bathyscaphes between 1948 and 1955, which reached record depths of 4,600 feet and 10,000 feet (the last one was bought by the government). With this success, the younger Piccard abandoned economics to collaborate with his father on further improving the bathyscaphe and demonstrating its practicality for exploration and research.

Jacques sought financial help from the U.S. Navy, which at that time was exploring various ways of designing submarines for underwater research. Jacques was welcomed to the U.S. to demonstrate his bathyscaphe, now named the *Trieste* (Fig 7). Impressed by his designs, the U.S. Navy bought the vessel and hired Piccard as a consultant. Recognizing the strategic value of a workable submersible for submarine salvage and rescue, the Navy began testing the *Trieste* for greater depths. With his *Trieste* already able to reach depths of 24,000 feet, Piccard and his colleagues planned on an even greater challenge - a voyage to the bottom of the sea. On 23 January 1960, Piccard and Lt. Don Walsh reached the floor of the Mariana Trench located in the western North Pacific Ocean, called the "Challenger Deep". The depth of the descent was measured at 10,916 metres (35,813 feet); later, more accurate, measurements during 1995 found the Mariana Trench to be slightly less deep at 10,911 m (35,797 ft). The descent took almost five hours. The bathyscaphe carried no scientific equipment and no experiments were conducted; the mission's purpose was to prove that the depth could be reached. The descent progressed without incident until 30,000 feet, when the crew heard a loud crack. They continued the dive, however, finally touching down in "snuff-coloured ooze" at 35,800 feet. When they reached the featureless seabed, they saw a flatfish as well as a new type of shrimp. Marine biologists later disputed their observations, claiming that no fish could survive the 17,000 psi pressure at such depths. Life at the bottom of the sea has since been proven. Upon discovering cracks in the viewing windows, Jacques cut the voyage short. After only a twenty-minute stay on the bottom, they began dumping ballast for their return to the surface, and the slightly damaged vessel returned to its escort ships without incident in three hours and 15 minutes. The historic dive received worldwide attention, and Jacques wrote an account of it, "Seven Miles Down", with Robert Deitz, a renowned geologist who had helped plan the mission. A planned return expedition, however, never occurred. The *Trieste* was expensive to maintain and operate. It was incapable of collecting samples and could not take photographs and so had little scientific data to show for its voyages. The original vessel was retired in 1961, although a rebuilt version later located the remains of two lost

U.S. Navy nuclear submarines, the *Thresher* and the *Scorpion* (Fig 8). Another design by Jacques was the *Auguste Piccard Mésoscaphe*, also known simply as the *Mésoscaphe*, which was a manned underwater submarine designed in 1964. It was the world's first passenger submarine, built for Expo 64, the 1964 Swiss national exhibition in Lausanne (Fig 9). The *Auguste Piccard* achieved 1,100 dives in Lake Geneva with 33,000 visitors in 1964 and 1965, to a depth of approximately 150 metres. The ride cost CHF 40 and was the hit of the national exhibition. From 1969 to 1984, it also achieved scientific and industrial observation dives in the Gulf of Mexico. The vessel is currently on display at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne. There was yet another submersible designed by Jacques which was called The *F.-A. Forel* which was built in 1978 (Fig 10). It is named after the Swiss limnologist F. A. Forel. A limnologist is essentially a scientist who studies all aspects of a lake, river, stream, or wetland - in other words, an inland body of water. The *F.-A. Forel* achieved a total of 3,600 dives with more than 6,000 passengers between 1979 and 2005. Many of them were done in Lake Geneva, although the submersible visited many other lakes such as Lake Neuchâtel, Lake Constance, Lake Zurich, Lake Lucerne, Lake Maggiore, Lake Bracciano and Lake Lugano. It also visited the Strait of Messina where it reached a depth of 560 metres. Although most of these missions here were scientific, the submersible was also used for legal inquiries, industrial observations as well as some tourism. Jacques died in 2008 and had one son Bertrand Piccard.

### **Auguste's grandson Bertrand Piccard**

Bertrand Piccard FRSGS (born 1 March 1958) is a Swiss explorer, psychiatrist and environmentalist. Bertrand was born in Lausanne, Switzerland, the next generation of explorer following on from his grandfather Auguste Piccard and his father Jacques Piccard. As a child, Bertrand was taken to the launch of several space flights from Cape Canaveral. He developed early interests in flight and human behaviour in extreme situations. He received a degree from the University of Lausanne in psychiatry. He has since become a lecturer and supervisor at the Swiss Medical Society for Hypnosis (SMSH). Bertrand obtained licenses to fly balloons, airplanes, gliders, and motorized gliders. In Europe, he was one of the pioneers of hang gliding and microlight flying during the 1970s. He became the European hang-glider aerobatics champion in 1985. In 1999, Bertrand Piccard, along with Brian Jones, achieved the first non-stop balloon circumnavigation of the globe. The balloon called *Breitling Orbiter 3*, completed the journey in 19 days, 21 hours, and 47 minutes, marking a significant milestone in the history of aviation (Fig 11). As a curious aside, there was a chance discovery on the Ober-Gurgl glacier of a door handle which had been fitted to the gondola of the FRNS-1 which had been lost in 1931 soon after landing. Rediscovered by chance in 1990 by an Austrian climber, it was offered and accepted as a gift to Bertrand Piccard, by then a balloonist himself, in honour of his grandfather. Bertrand's post-balloon journey took an unexpected turn as he redirected his efforts toward promoting sustainability and clean technologies. Bertrand was the initiator, chairman, and pilot, along with André Borschberg, of the *Solar Impulse*. He co-piloted the *Solar Impulse*, which is a solar-powered aircraft that completed a round-the-world flight in 2016 (Fig 12). This ambitious project aimed to showcase the potential of renewable energy and highlight the importance of adopting sustainable practices in aviation and beyond. In 2012 Bertrand was designated as a Champion of the Earth by the UN Environment Programme.

What a family of explorers. The family's attitude, Bertrand Piccard once explained, is that being told that something is impossible is “exactly why we try to do it”.



Fig 7: The Trieste



Fig 8: Search for the nuclear submarine 'Thresher'



Fig 9: Postcard from Expo 64, Lausanne, showing the Mésoscaphe



Fig 10: F. A. Forel



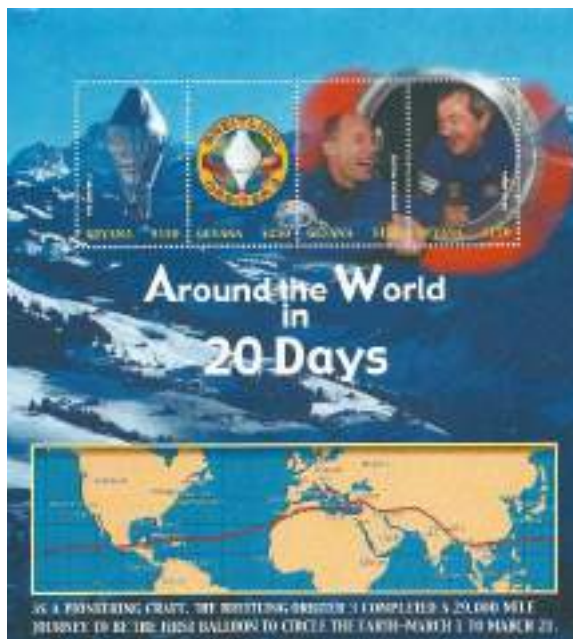


Fig 11: Breitling Orbiter 3



Fig 13: Professor Calculus



Fig 12: Solar Impulse



Fig 14: A tribute - Captain Jean-Luc Picard



On a slightly lighter tone who does Auguste Piccard remind you of? Certainly, many children of a certain age will be thinking that Auguste Piccard looks familiar. There also exists a couple of surprising reminders of Auguste Piccard and indeed also a link to his brother Jean.

Auguste Piccard was the inspiration for Professor Cuthbert Calculus in the *Adventures of Tintin* by Belgian cartoonist Hergé (Fig 13). Auguste held a teaching appointment in Brussels where Hergé spotted his unmistakable figure in the streets. This connection was confirmed by Hergé in a subsequent interview. Hergé said "Calculus is a reduced scale Piccard, as the real chap was very tall. He had an interminable neck that sprouted from a collar that was much too large... I made Calculus a mini-Piccard, otherwise I would have had to enlarge the frames of the cartoon strip."

In French he is called Professeur Tryphon Tournesol (meaning "Professor Tryphon Sunflower"), Tryphon was the name of Hergé's plumber! He is Tintin's friend, an absent-minded professor and half-deaf physicist, who invents many sophisticated devices used in the series, such as a one-person shark-shaped submarine, the Moon rocket, and an ultrasound weapon. Calculus's deafness is a frequent source of humour, as he repeats back what he thinks he has heard, usually in the most unlikely words possible. He does not admit to being near-deaf and insists he is only a little hard of hearing in one ear.

The other link is that Gene Roddenberry also named Captain Jean-Luc Picard as captain of the *Enterprise* in the "Next Generation" Star Trek stories after one or more, likely both, of the twin brothers Auguste and Jean Felix Piccard, and is said to have derived Jean-Luc Picard from their names; it is even implied in the series that the character is a descendant of one of the brothers (Fig 14).

It is clear to see that the spirit of exploration and innovation that defined Auguste Piccard's career did not end with him. His brother Jean Felix and his family, his own son, Jacques and grandson Bertrand, continued the family legacy by making significant contributions to the fields of exploration and technology.

Auguste Piccard's contributions extended beyond his ground-breaking exploration endeavours. His commitment to education and the dissemination of knowledge played a crucial role in shaping the scientific community. Auguste served as a professor of physics at the University of Brussels, where he shared his passion for science with the next generation of thinkers and innovators.

This dedication to education was a common thread woven throughout the Piccard family's legacy. Jacques Piccard, in addition to his exploration achievements, contributed to academia, sharing his knowledge and experiences with students and fellow scientists. Continued by Bertrand, the Piccard family's commitment to education underscored their belief in the transformative power of knowledge and its role in shaping the future.

### **The Piccard Legacy**

The Piccard family's achievements collectively represent a testament to the power of human curiosity, ingenuity, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. Auguste Piccard's pioneering spirit and ground-breaking work in aeronautics, oceanography, and space exploration laid the foundation for his descendants to continue the legacy of exploration.

The Piccard family's story is one of resilience, adaptability, and a refusal to be confined by the limits of the known. From the stratosphere to the ocean depths and into the reaches of space, the Piccard's blazed trails that inspired generations to dream beyond the horizon. Their endeavours not only advanced scientific understanding but also ignited imaginations and encouraged others to pursue the seemingly impossible.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Auguste Piccard and his family's achievements transcend the boundaries of individual accomplishments. Auguste's pioneering work in aeronautics and oceanography laid the foundation for the Piccard family's enduring legacy of exploration. Jacques Piccard's historic dive into the Mariana Trench and Bertrand Piccard's contributions to aviation and sustainability further solidified the family's place in the annals of exploration (Fig 15).

Beyond exploration, the Piccard's contributed to education and academia, emphasizing the importance of knowledge in shaping the future.

The Piccard legacy serves as an inspiration for future generations, reminding us that the pursuit of knowledge knows no bounds. Their story is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, curiosity, and the transformative power of exploration. As we look to the future, the Piccard family's legacy challenges us to continue reaching for the stars and exploring the unknown, for it is in those uncharted territories that humanity discovers its true potential. 📖

*Fig 15: Auguste, Jacques and Bertrand Piccard*



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## AGENDA

**For the 31st Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held on Saturday June 8th 2024 at 1.00 p.m. at Swinpex. Studio meeting room, Grange Leisure & Community Centre, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, SN3 4JY**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* Sep 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023
6. Election of Officers  
The following Officers have been nominated or are willing to stand for re-election

Barry Stagg	Chairman	Peter Wood	Treasurer
Anne Stammers	Secretary		

7. Election of Committee members  
The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor <i>Themescene</i>
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Lesley Marley	FIP Representative
Currently	Jon Matthias	Webmaster
Currently	Owen Green	Membership Secretary & ATA Liaison Officer
Currently	Andrew Millington	Competitions Organiser
Currently	Wayne Cox	

**NB.** There is a Committee Vacancy for a Press / Publicity Officer. Please let the Chairman or Secretary know, prior to the meeting, if you are interested in this position.

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of  
Brian Turner                      Examiner

9. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary ([secretary@britishthematic.org.uk](mailto:secretary@britishthematic.org.uk)) by June 2nd 2024.

A display *Tell me, please, why was Sudan the last one?* by Jan Nyeki will follow the meeting.

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary)      Dated: 4th May 2024

**NB The venue for Swinpex 2024 as above! Thank you**

**THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION**  
**Account for the year ended 31 December 2023**

2022	INCOME	2023
2,866	Subscriptions	2,722
32	Other income (incl. interest, donations)	85
<u>2,898</u>		<u>2,807</u>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
1,823	"Themescene" - Printing and distribution expenses	1,924
-345	less : Advertising Income	<u>-400</u> 1,524
101	Meetings (incl. Zoom)	384
162	BTA Cup costs (incl. Ardingley)	243
-70	Less : Entry fees	<u>-50</u> 193
50	Publicity	20
137	Web Site	152
144	Insurance	157
207	Affiliations	264
8	Administration expenses	0
123	Bank charges (incl. Paypal fees)	<u>108</u>
<u>2,340</u>		<u>2,802</u>
558	Surplus / Deficit	<u>5</u>
<u>2,898</u>		<u>2,807</u>
	<b><u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</u></b>	
	<b>Accumulated fund</b>	
12,890	Balance at 1.1.2023	13,448
558	add : Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>5</u> 13,453
1,049	Weekend Events Reserve/Deposits	<u>1,269</u>
<u>14,497</u>		<u>14,722</u>
	<b>Represented by:</b>	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
10,287	Current Account	<u>10,514</u>
15,177		15,404
-680	less: Subs Received in advance & Creditors	-692
0	add: Amounts due	<u>10</u>
<u>14,497</u>		<u>14,722</u>

Hon Treasurer, P.J.Wood

*P.J. Wood 16 April 2024*

Examiners report.

I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and confirm that they are in accordance with the Associations accounting records which have been properly kept.

Hon. Examiner, B. Turner.

*Brian Turner 25 April 2024*



# ZOOMING ALONG

## **Jean Alexander *Supermarket Philately, part 1*. 24<sup>th</sup> April**

22 members and friends of the BTA watched a unique and fascinating Zoom presentation entitled 'Supermarket Philately' it was a look at popular household products from the 1970s onwards using free post office products as part of their marketing campaign.

In general terms it worked by the consumer buying tins/packets of a product such as beans, taking off the labels from the tins or packets and sending them off to receive a book of stamps, or a first day cover or even postal orders. Many well-known products tried the idea and Jean showed us many examples; from Heinz tomato soup to Kellogg's products, from Cadbury's chocolate fingers to Nestle's Nescafe coffee. Jean had the original packaging and the free gifts: postal orders, stamp books and in many cases writing paper and pre-stamped postal stationery.

As many of us will remember, the 1970s and 1980s were a period of rapidly changing interest rates and price increases. Jean showed that this caught out the marketing campaign on more than one occasion when the promised value of stamps to be sent to the consumer had to be increased as the Post Office had increased the cost of postage! Jean showed us examples of this.

Many of the brands that you and I will remember took part in this type of marketing and Jean's presentation was a trip down memory lane, from Quick Brew tea to Persil and Bold washing powder. Even a few postal orders to see (I have forgotten the last time I saw one!). Thank you, Jean, for a most interesting and fascinating presentation and I look forward to seeing part two later in the year.

The advertisement for Magnet Insurance features a central teal box with white text. To the left of the box is a collage of various coins and stamps. To the right is a collage of a model railway and more stamps. The text in the teal box reads: 'magnet insurance' at the top, followed by 'Looking to insure your collection?' and a list of items: '• Stamps • Coins • Medals • Postcards • Model Railway + many more'. Below this, it says 'We also offer Insurance for Clubs & Dealers' and 'Contact us for a quote today!'. At the bottom of the advertisement, in a grey box, is the contact information: 'Email: info@magnetinsurance.co.uk', 'Tel: 01636 858 249', 'Magnet Insurance Services Ltd', 'Newark Beacon, Calferte Way, Newark, NG24 2TN', and 'Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No.489225'.

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# EXHIBITING PAGE: BUCHAREST AND BACK AGAIN

*Andrew Millington*

**A**n impressive, light and airy National Library of Romania in Bucharest was the meeting point for philatelists in April. Romania's national library dates from 1859, but the building in which we assembled was officially opened in 2012.

It houses approximately 13 million items, but philatelists from around the world were interested in the over 2500 frames of 475 exhibits entered for EFIRO 2024 which ran from 17-19 April 2024. The first *expoziția filatelică română* (EFIRO) was held in 1932 (a miniature sheet commemorating it frequently appears on internet seller listings). This year it was the fifth EFIRO. They have occurred on a somewhat irregular schedule in the last nine decades, but Posta Romana still issue stamps to commemorate these exhibitions.

You will be most interested in the pictorial classes at this FIP Specialised World Exhibition, the statistics are:

Class	Exhibits	Participant countries	1 to 3-frame exhibits	Medal distribution (5 and 8 frame exhibits)						
				LG	G	LV	V	LS	S	SB/B
Thematic	43	25	5	2	8	12	7	5	2	3
Open	21	12	1	2	3	4	8	3	0	0
Picture Postcard	27	16	10	0	3	4	7	3	0	0
All pictorial classes	91	53	16	4	14	20	22	11	2	3

This exhibition allowed one-, two- and three-frame exhibits for those trying to progress to five frames (though unfortunately exhibitors with less than five frames did not receive medals). Six- and seven-frame exhibits were encouraged but none were forthcoming. The best exhibits per class were Yannick Delaey, Belgium, *The Motion of Mail Once, One of the Primary Functions of Railways*, 96 (Thematic); Rudiger Fritz, Germany, *Athens 1896 – Olympic Games in New Shine*, 96 (Open Philately) and Annett Matheus, Germany, *5 Noble Ladies – Tragic Fates in Glamorous Castle*, 91 (Picture Postcards). Four BTA members exhibited: me and Jan Nyeki in Thematic, Peter Wood in Open and Lawrence Fischer in Picture Postcards. Jan and Lawrence's exhibits were developed from entries in last year's BTA Annual Competitions. Radhika Shet from India, who has exhibited in our one-page competition, exhibited in the Thematic class.

Here is a conundrum, there was a Maximaphily class, which to me is highly pictorial. So, I will report that Romania's Raoul-Ioan Iancovici's *Ethnographic Journey in Exotic Colonial Empires, 1900-1930. [1st Part, The French Colonial Empire] Study of Secondary*

*Image Concordances* was the best of the 14 entries. Fittingly a reading room was provided for the library of philatelic literature exhibits.

A few minutes' walk away a magnificent display of Romanian stamps was made available at the Museum of Romanian Records. That moves my description beyond what was to be seen in the National Library. A bonus to me of exhibiting internationally are explorations beyond philately. Bucharest is very easy to get around and modestly priced. I purchased a three-day pass and used the metro, trams, buses and trolleybuses, as well as shank's pony (my step count was well over the 10,000 every day!), to explore the city, visit the Natural History Museum and watch a rugby match. I failed to find a stamp fair laid on by the Bucharest Philatelic Association, but never mind, Facebook directed to me to a stamp shop, alas when located I found it was out of business! When EFIRO comes around again enter and take time to visit Bucharest! 📖



# BTA NEWS

## PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2024

This year's Congress will be held at Southampton from 11 - 14 July. On the 14 July BTA Chairman Barry Stagg has been invited to deliver a paper "The British Thematic Association explores a new approach to one-page thematic competitions – where "thematic" includes postcards or open philately".

Full details of Congress will be found on the [ABPS website](#).

## ROLL OF DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS

BTA member John Davies FRPSL has been announced as one of five people invited to be the new signatories to the Roll, recognising achievement, research, publication and service in many areas of philately. He has been actively involved in youth philately since 1988, and was very much involved in creating the youth organisation now called the Stamp Active Network. In his own collecting interests John has focused on his exhibit *A Jubilee Reminiscence: the 1890 Penny Postage Jubilee* which he displayed to the BTA at our residential weekend in 2018.

International Thematic Philately judge Bernard Jimenez of France has also been invited to sign the Roll.



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# HERE AND THERE

## LONDON SPRING 2024 NATIONAL COMPETITION

With Spring Stampex this year ‘virtual only’ the Royal Philatelic Society London stepped in and hosted the competitions which would normally have been held at Stampex. 163 frames were filled in three rooms. It may have been unavoidable, but it was a shame that the entries were not arranged with all entries of any class adjacent to each other. But on the plus side, as is its wont the Royal offered free tea, coffee and biscuits throughout each day; you don’t get that at Stampex!

There was only one thematic philately entry, and only one picture postcard, but both achieved a gold medal. The three open philately entries had a range of marks, and it was very pleasing to see BTA member Wayne Cox get gold with “Pillars of the Community”. The 3-D category was not judged, but did provide some lovely displays of objects: “Philatelic toys and games”, “GB postal scales”, “Development of travelling inkwells” and “Exploring Grandpa’s attic”.

The success of the event - nearly 500 people visited it - has led to a decision to repeat it in 2025 as the ABPS Spring National Exhibition; to be held 27th February to 1st March. There will again be over 160 frames available, plus five or six dealers.

## MASTER CLASSES ON EXHIBITING

In March The Philatelic Congress of India held a series of Zoom ‘Master Class on Exhibiting Techniques’ on six different philatelic areas, each delivered by a renowned expert in their field.

Search on YouTube for Philatelic Congress of India; or go to the BTA website and click on Displaying Thematic Collections - Rules and Guidance: Links to Useful Sites to click through to the Thematic and the Open Philately classes.

(There is rather a long introduction, they start in earnest about four minutes in).

## VOTE FOR THE MOST POPULAR MUSIC STAMP OF 2023

Stamp collectors from all over the world are invited to vote for the most popular music stamp 2023. The designer of the winning stamp will be awarded the Yehudi-Menuhin-Trophy 2024 by Motivgruppe Musik, the International Philatelic Music Study Group. There are 66 candidates from world wide. The vote runs until 31 July 2024.

To vote, go to the [Motivgruppe Musik website](#) and click on “Most popular music stamp 2023”.

### THE BTA NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for a **Publicity Officer** to join the Committee of the BTA. It’s not an onerous job - just keep the philatelic press abreast with our activities, either to advertise in advance or report on after the event.

Our ever-popular **Zoom presentations** always attract interest. Would you like to contribute? We are looking for talks of around 30 minutes in length, supported by a PowerPoint presentation or by pdf images.

For more details of either of these please contact BTA Chairman [Barry Stagg](#) on [chairman@britishthematic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@britishthematic.org.uk)

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# BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION 2024 ONE-FRAME COMPETITIONS

**The South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention, Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly, RH17 6TL**

**SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2024 10.00am – 4.00pm**

*Competition categories are:*

## **BTA CUP**

16-sheet One Frame competition subject to the Rules and Regulations for National **Thematic** Philately competitions

## **JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY**

16-sheet One Frame competition subject to the Rules and Regulations for National **Open** Philately competitions

## **BRIAN SOLE TROPHY**

16-sheet One Frame competition for **Picture Postcards** subject to the Rules and Regulations for National Picture Postcard competitions

## **BTA CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS**

16-sheet One Frame competition for **Pictorial Classes**; open to previous winners of the BTA's annual competitions. Subject to the Rules and Regulations for National Pictorial Class competitions.

*See next page for Rules*

**Please complete the Entry Form and send it to –**

Andrew Millington, Flat 4, 87 Shurdington Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0JQ.  
Tel: 0770 8356757. Email: [competitions@britishthematic.org.uk](mailto:competitions@britishthematic.org.uk)

**Closing date for receipt of entry forms: Saturday 30th September**

Please send sheets to Andrew Millington:

- From Saturday 30th September (or earlier if you notify him) but **no later than Tuesday 8th October or deliver them to the Fair** (first floor) by 10.00 on 12th October. Scanned entries from overseas members (see Rule 3) to be sent by **Tuesday 8th October**.

## **RULES**

### **All classes**

1. Every exhibit must have an Introductory Page as the first sheet. All sheets must be enclosed in protectors and the pages numbered at the foot of the page.
2. There will be an entry fee of £10 for each competition. A receipt will be issued and must be produced if collecting the entry after the Exhibition has closed.
3. We accept entries from overseas members. These should be sent as scans (300 - 400 dpi, pdf format) to:  
competitions@britishthematic.org.uk (deadline as per instructions for this year's competition).
4. Judges will be appointed who are qualified in judging Thematic Philately and/or Open Philately and/or Picture Postcard exhibits at Federation or National level.

### **Thematic, Open and Postcard Class**

The winner of any of these competitions will not be allowed to enter the same exhibit in the same competition at any time in the future.

### **Championship Class**

1. The Championship Class will cover all aspects of theme-based philately: i.e., Thematic Philately, Open Philately, and Picture Postcards.
2. The Championship Class is open to past winning exhibits of any of the BTA's competitions: The BTA Cup, The John Fosbery Trophy and The Brian Sole Trophy. Exhibits will be based on previous winning exhibits but can of course be modified. Past winners who are exhibiting new subjects should enter the other classes in the BTA's Annual Competitions.
3. Entries will be one frame (16 sheets), regardless of whether the qualifying winning exhibit was one or two frames.
4. A person may only enter one exhibit in The Championship Class.
5. All entries will be judged to national standards using the appropriate marking schedule (Thematic, Open, Picture Postcard) on the next page. There will be one winner and that will be the entry with the most points.

*All previous winners of all competitions can be found listed on the BTA website at*

[www.britishthematic.org.uk/kcfinder/upload/files/Composite%20winners.pdf](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk/kcfinder/upload/files/Composite%20winners.pdf)



**AWARDS.** The Minimum points required to achieve LARGE GOLD level is 90.

For Gold level is	85	For Silver level is	65
For Large Vermeil level is	80	For Silver Bronze level is	60
For Vermeil level is	75	For Bronze level is	55
For Large Silver level is	70	For Certificate of Participation below	55

### **MARKING Thematic Philately – BTA Cup**

Treatment	Title and Plan	15	
	Development	15	
	Innovation	<u>5</u>	35
Knowledge, Study & Research	Thematic	15	
	Philatelic	<u>15</u>	30
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	<u>20</u>	30
Presentation		<u>5</u>	
TOTAL		<u>100</u>	

### **MARKING Open Philately – John Fosbery Trophy**

Treatment	Title & Plan	10	
	Treatment	<u>20</u>	30
Knowledge and Research	Philatelic	20	
	Non-philatelic	<u>15</u>	35
Material	Condition	10	
	Rarity	<u>20</u>	30
Presentation		<u>5</u>	
TOTAL		<u>100</u>	

### **MARKING Picture Postcard Class - Brian Sole Trophy**

Idea, Plan and Treatment of the Topic	Idea and Plan	10	
	Treatment	<u>20</u>	30
Knowledge and Research			35
Condition and Rarity	Condition	10	
	Rarity	<u>20</u>	30
Presentation		<u>5</u>	
TOTAL		<u>100</u>	

## British Thematic Association Competitions 2024 Entry Form

*I wish to enter*

- A. 16-sheet BTA CUP  
Thematic Philately Competition (please tick) ☐

*AND/OR*

- B. 16-sheet JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY  
Open Philately Competition (please tick) ☐

*AND/OR*

- C. 16-sheet BRIAN SOLE TROPHY  
Picture Postcard competition (please tick) ☐

*AND/OR*

- D. 16-sheet CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS  
Thematic, Open or Picture Postcard (please tick) ☐

Name .....

Tel No.....

Address.....

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Postcode.....E-mail.....

Title of Entry (A ).....

Title of Entry (B).....

Title of Entry (C) .....

Title of Entry (D) .....

*Please indicate* ☐ Thematic ☐ Open ☐ Picture Postcards

The material is submitted entirely at my own risk and I undertake to make my own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my possession; this includes all transit risks, temporary housing of the entry and its display at Ardingly Showground. I confirm that all information on this form is correct.

I am transferring £10 per entry to British Thematic Association, Sort code 40-03-29, Account 71157701 by BACS. Overseas competitors to pay by PayPal: peter.wood95@btinternet.com

*Please tick to indicate how your entry will be delivered:*

☐ By post beforehand ☐ Hand in on the day

Signed.....

Date.....

# BTA PROGRAMME 2024

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 08 June<br>13.00                | <b>Annual General Meeting and guest speaker</b><br>Guest speaker: Jan Nyeki<br><i>Tell me, please, why was Sudan is the last one?</i><br>To be held as part of Swinpex 2024.<br>The Grange Leisure and Community Centre, Stratton St. Margaret,<br>Swindon, SN3 4JY  |
| 26 June<br>19.00 for 19.30      | <b>Zoom meeting</b><br>Les Ashton-Smith<br><i>Alphonse Mucha, his life and work</i><br>The story of Mucha's journey from humble beginnings to international acclaim, and his profound impact on the new country of Czechoslovakia in terms of stamps, currency and cultural legacy, is told using various images, stamps, and covers. This presentation tells the story of Mucha's life and the evolution of his artwork and style, and the legacy he has left behind. |
| 20 July<br>10.30                | <b>Members' meeting at York Stamp and Coin Fair</b><br>Guest speaker: George Henshilwood<br><i>Having fun with numbers</i><br>York Racecourse.   |
| 16 July<br>19.00 for 19.30      | <b>Zoom meeting</b><br>Steve Gerrard<br><i>The Berlin Olympic Games</i><br>A display of stamps, miniature sheets, postcards and photographs of the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics and of the 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen Winter Olympics.   |
| 18 September<br>19.00 for 19.30 | <b>Zoom meeting</b><br>Dr. Jean Alexander<br><i>Supermarket philately. Part 2</i><br>In the second of a four-part series of presentations Jean will show how Royal Mail promote their own products with special offers.  |
| 12 October<br>10.00 - 16.00     | <b>BTA One-Frame Competitions</b><br><i>At South of England Stamp Fair &amp; Sussex Convention</i><br>Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL.   |

*Please note:*

Our Zoom programme will feature a talk most months of the year. Please check our website under Events - BTA Zoom Presentations - Upcoming Programme for the latest updates and descriptions of the talks.





**BTA WEEKEND, OXFORD, APRIL 2024**

