

BTA ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

Our competitions were again held as part of the South of England Stamp Fair and Convention, hosted by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies and held at the Ardingly Showground. As always we were made most welcome by the friendly and efficient organisers. It was pleasing to see a doubling in the number of competition entries over last year. They were all attractive to look at and interesting to read, and attracted many viewers during the day, providing the chance to promote the BTA and pictorial collecting in particular. The competition was judged by Barry Stagg.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS: PREVIOUS WINNERS OF BTA COMPETITIONS

Malcolm Gascoyne Lin Poh Chiang and Longhouse Photo Supply, Sibü 82 points

Lim Poh Chiang was born in 1924 in Lembangan, Sibü, Sarawak. He was educated in Singapore and began a career in banking but left this to set up the company Longhouse Arts and Crafts, trading in antiques and handicrafts at 19 High Street, Sibü. He had a deep interest in photography and spent much time exploring the Rejang River looking for photographic inspiration. Some rare early post-war black and white photos exist. The Longhouse Photo Supply company of Sarawak later produced proper postcards with a divided back. Colour photos were produced in the USA from the early 1960's using four-tone half-colour printing.

Grace Davies Towards United Nations 75 points

That history repeats itself is illustrated by three attempts to prevent war by international collaboration. The display covers the creation of the International Peace Bureau, the League of Nations and the United Nations. This is a story of optimism - but of course ultimately of failure.

Mark Humfrey Globalisation of vanilla 72 points

Vanilla is a member of the orchid family and its cultivation dates back as far as the Totonac people of Mexico. Later on it was grown by the Aztecs and used to flavour the drink we now call chocolate. The Conquistadors introduced chocolate - and vanilla - to Europe and we can them for the chocolate food and drink we enjoy today.

BTA CUP: THEMATIC PHILATELY

Mark Humfrey Orchidelerium 74 points

Orchidelerium is the name given to the obsession with all aspects of orchids. The concept was coined in Victorian times but this obsession seems to date back as far as the Romans. There is so much to study and admire: the varied and intricate shapes, the intense colours, and the mystery of pollination and flower production. Orchids even have a sexual connotation with 'orchis' derived from the Latin word for testicle (use your imagination). The mania for this plant has led to many species being threatened with extinction.

Heather Lawn The origins and evolution of parrots 70 points

A scientific study of the evolution of parrots, from superfamilies, families and subfamilies, to tribes and finally an overview of other genera and species.



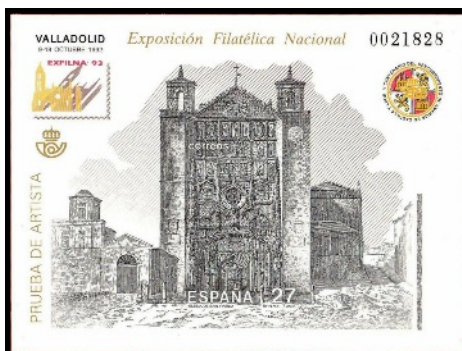
Vanda Miss Joaquim orchid



The first people to cultivate vanilla were the Totonac people of what is now Mexico



Glaucus and Lear's Macaws



Church of San Pablo, Valladolid, Columbus' original burial place



The Golden Hind, a successor voyage following Columbus

David Wiskin Christopher Columbus: the end of a journey 69 points

A different look at Columbus, starting the story after the return from his fourth voyage to the Americas in 1504. Compared with his treatment after his first voyage when he was lauded and feted by royalty, his final return went almost unnoticed. Queen Isabella died two months later and King Ferdinand made him wait a year before summoning him to court. Columbus continued to follow the court but his health was failing and he died in May 1506. But of course the legacy he left was enormous, and has ensured his enduring fame.

JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY: OPEN PHILATELY

Wayne Cox Pillars to post 87 points

When pillar boxes were first introduced to the British mainland in 1853 Post Office District Surveyors were given considerable freedom when choosing designs for their particular areas. All manner of shapes and sizes appeared, made by different iron foundries. Designs began to be standardised from 1857 and the first pillar boxes of uniform design were introduced nationally in 1859.

Andrew Millington *Falu Gruva*: the mine that changed a country 83 points

Operating for over a millennia the Swedish Falun Mine was for centuries Europe's largest copper mine. But it was more than a mine: it bankrolled the Kingdom of Sweden from its 16th century war of independence, through its period as a Baltic superpower in the 17th century, right up to the 20th century. The exhibit brought together key aspects of the geology, mining and metallurgy with the important political, economic and social developments.

Anne Stammers Copper: the first metal 73 points

The metal copper is a native element, which is to say it can occur on its own and not combined with another. It was the first metal used by man, being used by Neolithic people around 8000 BC. Four thousand years later the Egyptians were casting it in moulds and 500 years after that it was being mixed with tin to form bronze. It is mined throughout the world and today is used extensively in the space industry, electrical engineering, electronic goods and medicine.

Mark Humfrey Vanillin: the perfect substitute 70 points

Vanillin is a synthetic vanilla. Rising prices and the insecurity of supply of the natural product since the early 1800's made the synthesis of vanilla a priority in Europe and the USA. The chemistry, structure and production of Vanillin were shown, plus examples of food products.



Copper pyrites mine



Vanillin

BRIAN SOLE TROPHY: POSTCARD CLASS

Malcolm Gascoyne K. F. Wong and The Anna Photo Supply 79 points

Ken Foo Wong was born in Sarawak in 1916. He developed a passion for photography as a youth, focused on genre work. He established the Anna Photo Studios in Kuching in 1937, but as an ethnic Chinese his work was curtailed during the Japanese occupation of Singapore in World War II. After the war he returned to photography, producing postcards, photo-card sets and portraits covering a wide range of subjects. He has left a wonderful record of Borneo and Singapore during the colonial and early independence period.

Mark Humfrey Say it with an orchid 66 points

A selection of orchids shown on pre-paid postcards. The images were backed up with a slogan, the body of the text or an icon. The exhibit was arranged by the subject of the message, including Easter, Mother's Day, propaganda and advertising.



K F Wong postcard



*Wayne and Barry
with Fosbery trophy*



Andrew



Heather