

JOINT MEETING: BTA AND RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP

Stampex 16 September 2017

This was the first time the two societies had held a joint meeting, but an interest in railways was clearly demonstrated by several BTA members showing relative material.

Sue Thatcher. BTA

Railways are an important element in her collection on the “Industrial Revolution”, starting with the development of the static steam engine and then steam locomotion, with pioneers such as James Watt, George Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Stamps and covers were shown, plus documents from the Birmingham and Gloucester, the Eastern Counties, the Taff Vale, Vale of Rheidol and Talyllyn Railways.

John Hayward. BTA

From his new collection on the most northerly railway line in the world, the Iron Ore Line, from Kiruna to Narvik, which opened in 1903, John told the stories of the workmen, many of them Irish navvies, who built the line. There were many deaths during its construction, including during a cholera outbreak in 1901. Workmen were employed 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, building on permafrost. While it was built to carry iron ore freight trains, it was also an efficient means of carrying mail, the alternative being by sea.

John Bathard. RPG

With Stampex celebrating the 175th anniversary of Hungary’s first postage stamp, John showed a few pages from his thematic collection on the history of Hungarian railways. His display starts in 1864/5 when the government reconstituted a bankrupt railway as the Magyar Északi Vasut, the Hungarian Northern Railway, continuing its projected construction to Salgótarján and developing collieries and steelworks in the area. In 1869 the government founded the Magyar Király Allamvasutak to operate the nationalised railway.

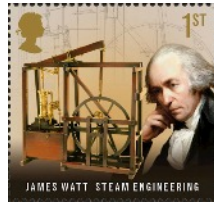
Brian Sole. BTA

“Wish You Were Here: by train to tourist resorts for the sun and sea” is a collection inspired by railway poster stamps issued as promotional items in conjunction with mapping competitions for the *Children’s Newspaper* in 1935 and 1936. The tour took us along the South and South West coasts (with a detour to Canterbury), to the North East and East coasts, and the Isle of Man and Jersey. Luggage labels and slogans were shown as well as stamps.

Lesley Marley. BTA

Lesley’s home town is Havant, on the south coast, and she showed a display on railways of Havant and Hayling Island. The first station at Havant was built in 1847 by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, but a dispute with the London and South West Railway over access to the tracks resulted in the “Great Battle of Havant”. Despite lurid stories, in

fact the only damage or injury was a torn jacket owned by a railway official. A variety of material was shown, with illustrations of several stations and halts. Perhaps predictably, the line to Hayling Island was closed by the Beeching cuts in 1963. 📖



Railway pioneers



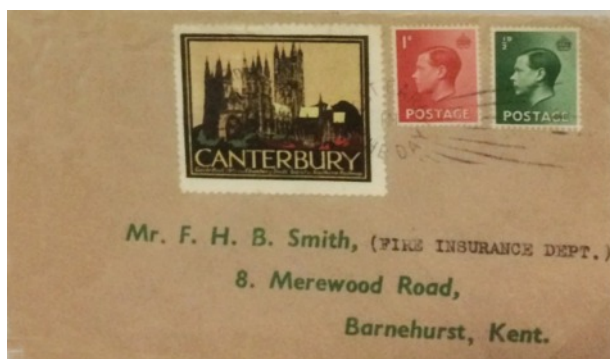
2-4-0 operating on the Tisza district



Monument to workers on the Iron Ore Line



MAV 114 Class in Hungary



Canterbury railway poster stamp



Havant Railway Crossing



Lesley displaying