

THEMESCENE

June 2013

In this issue we:

*Are going Underground
Down the Tube
With Jim Wigmore*



*Get musical
The life of J. S. Bach
With David Barry Floyd*



*Look into the dark past
The Dreyfuss Affair
With Jeff Dugdale*

*Go back to the beginning
How I started: Go by cycle!
With Brian Sole*



*Admire some displays
Waterfalls
Scintillating Cinderellas*

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Volume 30, No.2. Whole Number 111

£2.50

www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron: **Brian Sole FRPSL**

49 Westcar Lane, Hersham, Walton On Thames, Surrey, KT12 5ER
Tel: 01932 220677 email: brian.sole@btinternet.com

President: **John Hayward**

18 Waverley Drive, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2DL
Tel: 01276 29246 email: ssasman@btinternet.com

Chairman: **Simon Moorcroft**

2 Ramparts Court, Bakers Lane, Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BJ
Tel: 01206 855260 email: simon.moorcroft6@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman: **James Etherington**

17, Berkeley Row, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1EU
email: jespeth@hotmail.com

Secretary: **Anne Stammers**

40 St. Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford OX10 6SW
email: annies1@btopenworld.com

Membership Secretary: **Peter Denly**

9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 2BY
email: peter.denly@uwclub.net

Treasurer: **Peter Wood**

21 Loftus Road, London, W12 7EH. email: peter.wood95@btinternet.com

Editor: **Wendy Buckle**

87 Victoria Road, Bournemouth BH1 4RS
Tel: 01202 302273 Email: wendybuckle@btinternet.com

Publicity Officer: **Simon Moorcroft** (See Chairman)

Advertising Manager: **Mike Blackman**

45 Kenwood Drive, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6QY.
Tel: 020 8658 0637 email: mblackmanwpi@tiscali.co.uk

Displays Organiser: **Gerald Lovell**,

Keston Ridge, 76, West End, Silverstone, Northants,
NN12 8UY. email: fdc.Silverstone@tesco.net

Committee members:

Charles Oppenheim, 8 Southwold Close, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire, LE16 9GU. Email: c.oppenheim@btinternet.com

Barry Stagg, 1 Naunton Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 7BQ
Tel: 01242 519245 email: bastagg@btinternet.com

Brian Sole (see Patron)

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Librarian: **Ron Backhouse** 10 Hoe Lane, Ware, Herts, SG12 9NU. Tel: 01920 484974

Web Master: **James Wigmore** email: jameswigmore@talktalk.net

THEMESCENE

Vol.30, No.2, Whole Number 111

JUNE 2013

THEMESCENE

Journal of the
British Thematic Association
which is a member of the
Association of British
Philatelic Societies

Copyright 2013

The features and articles in this
publication should not be
reproduced without the prior
permission of the Editor and/or
the authors.

The views expressed in the
articles, reports, reviews and
other contributions to
Themescene are the personal
views of the authors and do not
necessarily reflect the views of
the officers, committee or any
other member of the British
Thematic Association.

Editor:

Wendy Buckle
87 Victoria Road
Bournemouth, BH1 4RS

Advertising Manager:

Mike Blackman
45 Kenwood Drive
Beckenham
Kent, BR3 6QY

Printer and Distributor:

K.D.S.
Elder House,
Chattisham, Ipswich
Suffolk IP8 3QE

Website:

www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

CONTENTS

REGULAR COLUMNS

Committee members	IFC
Editorial <i>Wendy Buckle</i>	41
President's Page <i>Wendy Buckle</i>	42
Chairman's Page <i>John Hayward</i>	43
Membership Secretary <i>Peter Denly</i>	44
New Issues	54
BTA News	65
Here and There	70
Group News and Group Members	73
Handstamp Special	77
Exhibiting Page	75
Library Listing <i>Ron Backhouse</i>	78

SPECIAL FEATURES

Down the Tube <i>Jim Wigmore</i>	46
Life of J. S. Bach <i>Barry Floyd</i>	49
The Dreyfus Affair <i>Jeff Dugdale</i>	55
BTA AGM	59
Scintillating Cinderellas <i>Simon Moorcroft</i>	66
Waterfalls	69
How I Started <i>Brian Sole</i>	71
BTA Competitions	79

ADVERTISERS

Philangles	IBC
Stamp Insurance Services	63
ThematiX	76

EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

The BTA AGM will be held on 8th June. The Minutes of the previous AGM were published in September 2012 *Themescene*, and the Agenda, Constitution and Accounts are in this edition from page 59. Please note there is a change of speaker to that published with the programme. We are now very pleased to welcome ABPS Chairman and BTA member John Baron. Please read John's Chairman's Page for detailed information about the AGM (43). I do urge you to attend if you can. It will be my pleasure at the meeting to present the Francesca Rapkin Memorial Bowl to this year's winner. The Bowl is presented to the author of the best article in *Themescene* the previous year, as voted for by the BTA Committee.



Voting this year was very close, with Peter Denly "One Man's Marine Adventure" winning by a single vote. As Editor, I really appreciate all the work that authors put into preparing articles to send me. Not everyone can win, but I promise you, all your work is appreciated and enjoyed by the readers of the magazine. It is your efforts that result in such a wide range of topics covered in *Themescene*; in just this issue we have articles on the London Underground (p.46), J. S. Bach (p.49) and a slice of French infamy (p.55). Regretfully our usual "Just4Kids" page does not feature in this issue due to a family bereavement. This is only a temporary omission.



The BTA Committee was supposed to be meeting in London on 23rd March, but snow falls resulted in a very last-minute cancellation. So last-minute that three of us were already on our way. However it's a ill wind as they say, and finding ourselves in London anyway Brian, Anne and I went along to a meeting of the Postal Stationery Society (see page 69). We were all very glad we did. We were treated to a wonderful display by BTA member Jean Alexander, which inspired me at least to rush off to the official web sites of various postal authorities to find what they currently have on sale besides stamps. I didn't actually find anything for my subjects, but I do recommend it if you collect a popular theme and have time on your hands: there are some most attractive illustrated cards and envelopes out there.

On page 76 you will find details of the two Thematix fairs this year. And this time, unlike the March edition of *Themescene*, I do have both dates right. I do recommend these fairs as they are the only events in the UK which specialise in thematic dealers.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at our events this year. 📖

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Wendy Buckle


You will see from the Chairman's Page that the AGM will usher in some changes to the Committee. With John having to stand down as Chairman for health reasons I felt it only right he should resume the role of President. This is usually taken on for four years, but when John stepped back into the Chairmanship at short notice he had served less than three years. I feel the least we can do to acknowledge the immense amount of work and dedication he has shown to the BTA, and to thematic in general, is to ensure he fulfils his full tenure as President. His international gold medal winning collection is a testament to the skill and knowledge he brings to bear, and the BTA owes him a debt for the work he has done. Thank you John.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as President, and tried to get to as many events as possible. A few weeks ago I was the guest speaker at WETS: the West of England Thematic Society, a very enjoyable day in beautiful Devon, where I was delighted to meet up again with several BTA members. I was particularly pleased that Mary and Norman Clayden were able to attend, following their very nasty road accident. If any reader of this magazine living in that area is not a member of WETS (www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS/about.htm) I do urge you to join this friendly and welcoming society.



If only - the non-existent museum

Like many of us I always try and use the opportunity of a holiday to find out more about my interests. While in Normandy recently I was delighted to discover from my 2012 Michelin Guide (what better guide to use for France?) that there was a postal museum in Caen. Obviously it required a visit. All I can say, it's as well that Caen has other things to offer, since lengthy tramping around in the rain failed to find the Museum. When I got home and checked the Museum's website I discovered that it had closed in 2009. However I did have better luck in Avranches, where they have a museum holding the illuminated manuscripts originally from the monastery at Mont St Michel. This all fitted very nicely into my thematic collecting interests on written communications. Not only was the Museum very informative, it even had a few books for sale in English. An afternoon well spent.

Finally I am delighted to say that following the success of the BTA Weekend last October we are planning another weekend for Autumn 2014. Next year - as explained in the Chairman's Page - will be the BTA's 30th anniversary, and the Weekend will be a chance to focus on more informal celebrations. Full details will be published in *Themescene* and on the website and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. 


CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

John Hayward

You will see from the agenda for our Annual General Meeting (page 59) that there will be considerable changes in the officerships this year. This is because I have decided to step down as Chairman a year earlier than I originally intended. The illness I had in January this year and subsequent medical tests have shown that I have been overdoing things and need to reduce the amount of voluntary work I undertake. So Simon Moorcroft will be standing as Chairman, Jim Etherington as Vice Chairman, Wendy Buckle and I intend to reverse our roles as President and Gerald Lovell has agreed to become our Displays Organiser. My thanks go to the Committee for their great support in the past 18 months, and to the new Committee from June 2013 onwards may I record my best wishes. I feel confident that with all the new moves afoot the future of the BTA is in safe hands.

Whilst on the subject of the upcoming AGM, do please come along if you can. The added attraction of Swinpex with its many dealers and the BTA stand should make it a good day. There is plenty to discuss at the meeting as you will see from the agenda, particularly in relation to the way forward for the BTA which I mentioned in my page in the January edition of *Thamescene*. The Committee has decided to widen the BTA's remit, so we propose to amend the Constitution accordingly with some minor tidying up in addition. This is your opportunity to let us know what you think, just as you did last year. Following the meeting John Baron will be giving a display on Lotteries and Banking – a good mixture of thematics, social and open philately. My only regret is I will be unable to attend the AGM as I shall be on holiday in the Isle of Man at the TT Races. You have to book ferries and accommodation over a year in advance for TT week and I did this at a time when the date of the AGM was not known. I am sure Simon Moorcroft will run the meeting capably in my absence.

Next year the BTA will be 30 years old and we have in mind to celebrate this appropriately. We have plans to put on a commemorative display of 100 faces at Spring Stampex and hold a members' meeting during that event. We last displayed at Stampex in 2006 to much acclaim so we have a lot to live up to, but I am sure my successor, Gerald Lovell, will organise another great display.

I was saddened to learn of the deaths in April of Alan Sabey, Dorothy Martin and Michael Berry. Alan was a founder member of the BTA and served on the Committee as Public Relations Officer from 1988 to 1997. His main passion centered on the Wembley Exhibition and he amassed a first class collection of stamps, cancellations, proofs, slogan postmarks and a definitive collection of Exhibition labels. He was a founder member and long time treasurer of the Exhibition Study Group and retired last year after being the President. His current collection was devoted to the Summer Olympics and he was asked to do a display last year at the British Library. Dorothy was also a long standing BTA member and a leading light in the early days of the eminently successful North East Philatelic Weekend. She had an extensive collection of Christmas material. Michael was a well known thematic dealer under the name of Healey and Wise who many members may remember at Thematica. Fortunately, his memory will continue in the shape of the Healey & Wise Salver which Michael donated some years ago for the best thematic exhibit by a Federation, an annual competition which the BTA will be running at Ardingly, Sussex, in October. 

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S PAGE

Peter Denly

Ordinary members	162
Family members	13
Junior members	2
Society members	13
Overseas members	13
Overseas Society members	2
Honorary members	3
Total number of members 208	(At 1st May 2013)

New Members joining since the March 2013 issue

Mr. J. Arnold of Southend-on-Sea
Mr. R. Sambell of Beacon Heath, Exeter

Mr. D. Little of Chippenham

Deaths advised since the March 2013 issue


Mr. J.E. Ager of Bookham, Surrey
Mr. D.J. Horgan of Milton Keynes

Mrs. D. Martin of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Mr. A. Sabey of Norwood Green, Southall

A quick look at the March edition of *Themescene* will reveal that there has been a sharp decline in membership during the subscription renewal period. Sadly we are recording the loss of four members who have passed away and a further number have not rejoined due to increasing years and general infirmity. The good news is that we have enrolled three new members who are most welcome to the BTA.

It has been mentioned before in these pages that the lifeblood of the Association is the support of its members, and what better recruiters than our members spread out right across the country. Our campaign to provide speakers to societies is bearing fruit with a large number of engagements recorded for the coming year. Hopefully these talks and displays will encourage folk to enrol and take advantage of what the BTA has to offer.

Collecting on the theme of ships and shipping, the recently published celebration of 75 years of collecting by the TPO Society illustrates some of those items that I would dearly love to be able to display. The covers shown are not just postal rarities, but the contents are totally fascinating. One example noted for its 'Serpentine' Ship Letter Mark accompanies a consignment of 40 pairs of elephant teeth. Or in modern day language – elephant tusks! Such reference material is quite invaluable when needing ideas of material to use, plus the access to good and reliable research information. With a number of major fairs in the offing and the BTA auction due later, the hunt will be on again for those illusive items for ones collection.

I take this opportunity to remind members, that when making changes to addresses whether postal or email, please be sure to inform the Membership Secretary, which will ensure your copy of *Themescene* is delivered correctly. 

DOWN THE TUBE

Jim Wigmore digs deep

The Metropolitan Railway (known as the Met) was the first Underground Railway in the world, opening on 10th January 1863. It ran from Paddington to link Euston and Kings Cross and terminated at Farringdon Street. The line was built to accommodate both



Standard and Broad Gauge tracks beneath local roads using the 'cut-and-cover' method between Paddington and King's Cross, and in tunnel and cuttings beside Farringdon Road from King's Cross to Smithfield, near the City.

The Metropolitan Railway was a passenger and goods railway when the line opened to the public, powered by steam locomotives designed to consume their exhaust steam with gas-lit wooden carriages, all supplied by the Great Western Railway (GWR). The miniature sheet of Cuba (left) gives a very good impression of how these first underground trains would have appeared.

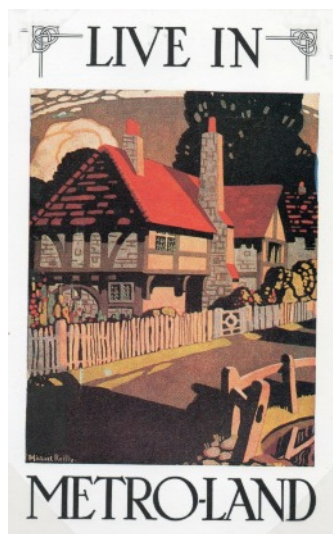
Other railway companies looked to make use of the tunnels for both freight and their own services, which very quickly led to a dispute between the Met and the GWR who gave one week's notice of their intent to withdraw their locomotives and rolling stock as of the 9th August 1863.

Archibald Sturrock, the Chief Locomotive Engineer of the Great Northern Railway (GNR) and an ex-GWR employee, stepped into the breach [the GNR was planning its own underground service to Moorgate and already had some suitable locomotives] supplying both locomotives and coaches for the service which continued uninterrupted as a result. The small tank engines supplied by the GNR were very suitable for the task and the design formed the basis of the first locomotives built for the Met.

The railway was extended from both ends in conjunction with the District Railway, reaching Hammersmith in 1864, Richmond in 1877, and completing the Inner Circle in 1884. It also extended northwards in its own right from Baker Street.



The Northwards extension became the Met's most important route out into the Middlesex countryside, where it stimulated development of new suburbs. Harrow was reached in 1880, the line eventually extended as far as Verney Junction in Buckinghamshire, more than 50 miles from Baker Street and the centre of London. Despite the line to Verney Junction being built the Met never actually ran trains there, it was part of an abortive scheme to link the Met to the Great Central with a view to running through trains via a Channel Tunnel to Paris.



Electric traction was introduced in 1905 and by 1907 electric multiple units operated most of the services, though electrification of outlying sections did not occur until decades later. The Met line to Rickmansworth and beyond was operated using steam locomotives and coaches; steam gave way to Electric Locomotives as far as Rickmansworth with steam beyond into the 1960's.

Unlike other railway companies in the London area, the Met developed land for housing, and after World War 1 promoted housing estates near the railway using the "Metroland" brand. John Betjeman provided the commentary for a short feature film about "Metroland". He also wrote a poem called *The Metropolitan Railway* which featured the Baker Street Tea Room, another Met venture to encourage travel by Met trains.

The introduction of electric power for trains, plus the means of deep tunnelling, led to the introduction of the deep tube lines starting with the South London Line in 1890 using the tunnel built by Brunel under the Thames. This set the size of trains much smaller than standard size. The Central London Railway and the Piccadilly & West Brompton, along with many others, soon followed.

On 1st July 1933, the Metropolitan Railway was amalgamated with the underground railways of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London and the capital's tramway and bus operators to form the London Passenger Transport Board.

All this construction of Underground Railways in and around London made significant improvements to travel for people both living in or outside the Capital.

On the 10th January 2013 the British Post Office issued six stamps and a miniature sheet to commemorate the opening of the Underground and tell its story.

The question is **"DO THEY TELL THE STORY WELL?"**.





There are of course many more items that collectors interested in the Underground can find, such as Railway Letter stamps from all the independent railways that formed the Underground. Also London Transport Share Certificates and Payment Remittances can also be found for the individual railway companies and the Power Generation Plant at Lotts Road.



METROPOLITAN DISTRICT & LONDON ELECTRIC RAILWAYS
LOTS ROAD POWER HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEE.

Proprietor JAMES GAMBLE, ESQ.,
5, ROYAL TERRACE,
216 BELFAST.

No. 291

Dividend on £ 2000 Joint Power House Rent Charge Stock at the rate of
£4 per cent. per annum for Half-year ended 30th June, 1913
Less Income Tax @ 1/2 in the £

Amount of Dividend.		
£	s.	d.
140	0	0
2	6	8
£ 37	13	4


ELECTRIC RAILWAY HOUSE,
BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER, S.W.
30th June, 1913.

I hereby certify that I have deducted from this Dividend the amount of Income Tax stated, and that the sum so deducted will be paid by me to the proper Officer for the receipt of Taxes.
W. E. MANDELICK, Secretary of the Joint Committee.

NOTE.—The Proprietor, if exempt, can retain the Income Tax, on sending the above Certificate to the Surrogate of Taxes.
N.B.—Any change of address to be specially notified to the Secretary of the Joint Committee by separate letter.



Today there are other Underground Railways in other cities both in this country and around the world, many like the London Underground are featured on stamps and no doubt on other philatelic material.

It could make a very interesting story. 



LIFE OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Barry Floyd reflects on a great composer



Portrait of J.S. Bach at the age of 63 attributed to Haussmann, as used on West Germany 1985 SG 2097

Thematic collectors interested in the study of music appreciate reviewing the life and times of great composers of the Western world whose images have appeared on stamps. Among them is the distinguished German organist and composer Johann Sebastian Bach.

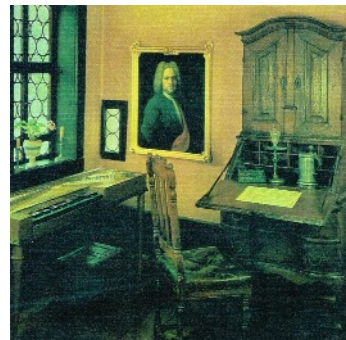
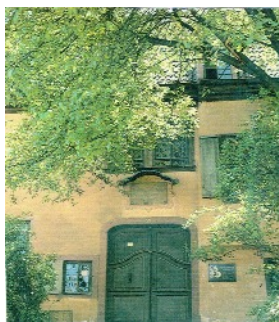
In this article an overview of the several commemorative stamps featuring J.S. Bach is undertaken, following a succinct account of his musical career.

The Life of J.S. Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach, organist, harpsichordist, violist and violinist, is one of the great composers and organists of the Baroque Period, if not of all time. His music is revered for its artistic beauty, intellectual depth and technical composition. Among his most famous works are the Christmas and Easter Oratorios, the St. John and St. Matthew Passions, the Mass in B Minor and the Brandenburg Concertos.



Eisenach and Wartburg Castle



Bach's birthplace

He was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685 and died at the age of 65 in Leipzig in 1750. The two-storied house in which he was born is now a museum. He was fortunate to have been born into an extended family of musicians and enjoyed participating in the family's music making. His father was a court musician and taught his eight year-old son to play the violin and harpsichord. Uncles and grandparents were also church and court musicians, cantors, composers and organists. It appears the Bachs were proud of their common interest in music. Each year members of the family would gather from all over the neighbourhood to

play and sing together. The music was not all serious and there would be much laughter as well as gossiping and exchanging of news.

But Johann's young days were shortly to be clouded by unhappiness. His mother died in 1694 when he was only nine and his father, though remarried, was dead within a year. Johann's step-mother sent him to live with an older brother, an organist in Ohrdraf, a neighbouring town and it was here, while still attending school, that he learnt to play the keyboard. Following further musical tuition, Johann travelled to Luneburg at the age of fifteen to become a choirboy at St. Michael's school. Shortly after, he had the opportunity of visiting the Court of Celle near Luneburg where Eleanore, the French wife of Duke Georg Wilhelm, had created a miniature Versailles. She employed French musicians who played in an elaborate style, far removed from the church tradition in which Bach had grown up. This experience was to influence some of Bach's own compositions in the years ahead.

Formal schooling completed in 1703 J.S. Bach took up his first appointment as organist at the New Church in Arnstad at the age of eighteen. During his tenure he was greatly impressed by the skills of the great organist and composer Buxtehude. Three years later, he progressed to become organist at St. Blasius in Mulhausen and married a cousin, Maria Barbara. But he only stayed in Mulhausen a year before being appointed the organist and chamber musician at the court of Duke Wilhelm Ernst of Sachsen-Weimar - more than doubling his income at the same time.

At first his duties were to look after the Duke's musical establishment and to conduct a select band of string players. In 1714, now 29, Bach was appointed Konzertmeister, second only to Adam Drese, the Kapellmeister or chief musician. In addition to rehearsing the orchestra and giving lessons to the Duke's nephews he now had to compose a new cantata every month. He became familiar with Italian music at this time.



Prince Leopold's Palace at Kothen

He was disappointed not to have been promoted to Kapellmeister on the death of Drese and decided to apply for the same post at another court, that of Prince Leopold at Anhalt-Kothen. This so annoyed Duke Ernst that he would not allow Bach to leave, even placing him under arrest for almost a month! Eventually and grudgingly, in 1717, Bach was set free to make his way north-eastwards to the new court.

Fortunately for Bach, Prince Leopold was a great lover of music and a skilled musician in his own right, and they became good friends. Often the lights of the palace were to burn late into the night while concerts and dances were performed. Bach was able to write freely for first-class musicians and this was the period of his greatest orchestral, chamber and keyboard music. But a tragedy struck in 1720 when his wife Maria Barbara died, leaving him with four children all under twelve (three had died earlier). Bach sought a new wife for his children's sake and a year later married a young singer at the castle, Anna Magdalena with whom he was to have a further 13 children, though only six survived into adulthood.

Unhappily Bach's new-found peace did not last. A week after his own marriage the Prince married a cousin with - most strangely - no interest in music whatsoever! She soon resented her husband spending so much time practising and playing. Within a year she had made life so difficult for Bach that he regretfully left the service of Prince Leopold. He moved to Leipzig to take up the position of Cantor at St. Thomas Church and School in Leipzig. Bach was now 38.



Bach lived and worked at St. Thomas from 1723 until his death in 1750. He was worked hard by church authorities: teaching, composing and rehearsing the choir. Nevertheless he was able to produce some of his greatest religious compositions at this time. In 1729 he conducted the first performance of his sublime St. Matthew Passion, sequel to the St. John Passion composed just prior to his appointment to St. Thomas. Musicians studying at Leipzig University were invaluable members of Bach's musical society. Other outstanding musical creations were to follow: his B Minor Mass, Christmas Oratorio, Goldberg Variations and numerous cantatas for the church boys' choir.

St. Thomas School In his final years Bach set to work on what was to be the last and most extraordinary instrumental opus of his life, The Art of Fugue. However the work was destined to remain unfinished, for Bach's eyesight was failing. Two unsuccessful eye operations in 1750 left him almost blind. At work to the end, revising and composing, dictating to his wife Anna Magdalena when he could no longer write, Bach died impoverished on July 28th 1750 and was buried at Leipzig without a memorial.

Bach Commemorative Stamps

As to be anticipated, most of the stamps honouring Johann Sebastian Bach have originated in Germany, both from the Western Federal Republic and the Eastern Democratic Republic. Very few portray him in his youth or as a young man. Among the earliest Bach stamps is one from 1926 which, like many subsequent issues, reproduces the imposing painting by Haussmann of Bach at the age of 63, just two years before his death.



1926
SG 411



1935
SG 571



1950
SG 1043



1950
SG E16

In 1935 a right-facing image of the composer appeared, again based essentially on the Haussmann portrayal. After the war, the Bicentenary of Bach's death was commemorated in the Federal Republic with a set of two stamps on July 28th in 1950. These featured Bach's seal rather than his visage and each value had an additional sum as a contribution to the Refugees' Relief Fund. The seal was used throughout his time in Leipzig. It contains the letters JSB superimposed over their mirror image and topped by a crown. In the same year, and for the same commemorative event, East Germany issued a set of four stamps featuring singers and young musicians with various instruments. The 24+6pf stamp apparently shows a girl playing a hand organ, although it might be possible to view the player as a very young version of Johann himself!

In 1961 Germany and West Berlin each issued a set of fifteen stamps featuring Famous Germans. Included in the series were two stamps honouring musicians: Bach (20pf) and Beethoven (70pf). The image of J.S. Bach bears a strong resemblance to that shown in the pre-war stamp.



1961
SG 1266



1971
SG B393



1973
SG 1675

A decade later West Berlin commemorated the life of Bach by marking the 250th anniversary of his celebrated Brandenburg Concertos. Unlike much of his instrumental work, the six Concertos are secular rather than religious. They were composed over several years while Bach was at the court of Prince Leopold at Kothlen. In 1721 they were presented to Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt (hence their name). They are widely regarded as the finest compositions of the Baroque era. The stamp bears a profile of the composer and the musical notation is from part of the second Brandenburg Concerto.

In 1973 West Germany issued four stamps featuring historic musical instruments: the set also raised funds for humanitarian relief. The 30 pf+15pf illustrates a piano which may well have been among Bach's collection of instruments. Not included in the set was a clavichord, popular in Bach's day and which responded well to his music.



1985
SG 2097



1985
SG E2641



In 1985 West Germany marked the 300th anniversary of the birth of J. S. Bach. The German Democratic Republic likewise celebrated his birth with two stamps in the same year. The first, on the occasion of the annual Leipzig fair, shows a statue to the composer in the historic city. The statue may be compared with that in the town of his birth: Eisenach. The second birth commemorative stamp bears another, by now familiar, portrait of Bach, together with a se-tenant horizontal label reproducing notation to one of his fugues: 'Die Kunst der Fuge', 1748/9 (SG MS E2643).



In 2000 Germany chose to mark the 250th anniversary of the death of J.S. Bach.



2000
SG 2976



1971
SG 1357

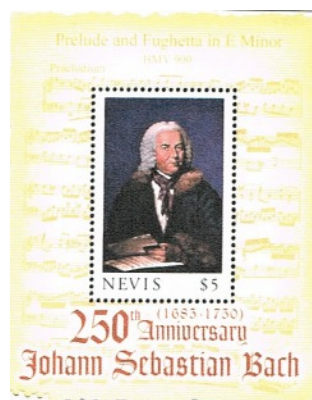


1985
SG 617

Apart from the various German stamps issued to honour J.S. Bach a number of foreign countries have also commemorated the famous composer. El Salvador sponsored the second International Music Festival in 1971 and chose to honour Beethoven and Bach on stamps. The 40c issue shows Bach against the background of a manuscript and a harp (in lieu of a harpsichord?). In 1985 Ireland noted a European Music Year with a three-stamp issue featuring composers. The high value 26p. stamp shows J.S. Bach. In the same year, India marked the 300th birth anniversaries of George Frederick Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach.



1985
SG 1176




2000
SG MS 1512

A final Bach commemorative stamp comes from the Commonwealth island of Nevis in the Eastern Caribbean. Issued in 2000 to mark the 250th anniversary of Bach's death the small miniature sheet has a \$5.00 stamp set against a faint background of the score for 'Prelude and Fughetta in E Minor' BWV 900.

Summary

It is hoped that this review of the life and times of Johann Sebastian Bach, and the selection of commemorative stamps issued in his honour, will encourage collectors to pursue musical themes focusing on the great composers of classical music over the ages. Comment on or corrections to the text will be welcome from readers who are already dedicated to this aspect of philately.

Acknowledgments

Illustrations and information in support of this article were acquired from a study by Major Bill Shepard, with thanks. The entry on J.S. Bach in Wikipedia also provides useful information on the composer's life. A further authoritative source is Wolff, Christoph, John Sebastian Bach : the Learned Musician (N.Y., W.W. Norton & CO., Inc., 2000). 

NEW ISSUES

*The stamps below are reproduced with the kind assistance of Harry Allan,
P O Box 5, Poole, Dorset, BH12 9GF*



THE DREYFUS AFFAIR

Jeff Dugdale uncovers a scandalous piece of French history

Few people need a reminder of the very long history of persecution visited upon Jewish people. The following is a particularly nasty example, and the first well publicised case in modern times of racial as opposed to religious prejudice towards Jews. In its day The Dreyfus Affair was big as the Profumo Affair in Britain in 1963 or the Watergate Scandal in the States a decade later, in which public confidence in the government was thoroughly shaken. Although no one was killed, the honour of “an officer and a gentleman” was impugned mercilessly, public outrage and protest were massive and in the end a disgraced government fell. However, over a hundred years later we can see that this affair did not prove that French people were generally anti-Semitic, but that the highest echelons of French Army were institutionally so.

In late 1894 French Army Captain Alfred Dreyfus, of Jewish origin, who came from Alsace, a formerly German region, was suspected of offering a range of top secret information to the military attaché at the Germany Embassy in Paris. Dreyfus was a secular Jew who had risen to high rank, yet was immediately fingered as disloyal. He was accused of being ready to pass details of one particular artillery piece which could fire rapidly and accurately to a previously unachieved standard - hence high treason. Within ten weeks he had been tried, found guilty and sent to a penal colony - the evocatively named Ile de Diable, off the coast of French Guyana.



Israel 1994 SG 1262, shows an officer tearing off Captain Dreyfus' sash and epaulettes of rank in the cobblestone courtyard of the École Militaire, Paris, shortly after his summary conviction on January 5th 1895. Then within two years, from handwriting evidence known to major officers right from the start, it came to light that Major Ferdinand Esterhazy was probably the source, but scandalously the new evidence was not presented at Esterhazy's trial by a military court, and he was acquitted quickly. Moreover the Army now charged Dreyfus with further crimes, which were trumped up, as leaks to the press suggested, with rumours of cover-up and interference with justice running wild.



At this point Émile Zola the already famous and wealthy novelist - no ally of the state yet with friends in high places - made a bold and controversial move. He wrote a newspaper feature with the headline “J’Accuse” blowing apart the establishment’s case against Dreyfus and playing a very significant part in the exoneration of the victimised defendant. Zola’s open letter to the French Head of State in *L’Aurore* accusing the government of anti-Jewish prejudice, viz.: “Dreyfus is a victim in the hunt for the

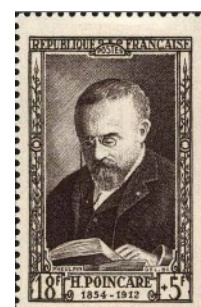
‘dirty Jew’ which is a disgrace in our day and age” was published on 13th January 1898.

By promulgating this letter accusing the Army top brass of prejudice and of obstructing justice, Zola deliberately offered himself up, as a major celebrity, to “publish and be damned”. In fact he sought to be indicted for libel, which he hoped would allow much suppressed evidence to be revealed in a subsequent trial he fully expected to have to face, and which followed within a month of the newspaper's publication.

The Dreyfus Affair had exercised French society for two years already and was a frequent topic of discussion at dinner parties with opposing factions calling themselves Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards.

Many articles and caricatures appeared in newspapers and a large numbers of postcards (see end of article) lampooning personalities in the case appeared on street corners. The choice of postcard (pro- or anti-) and the message written on it openly indicated the sender's feelings about the case.

In solidarity with Zola, not only through friendship but on account of the strength of his argument, and wishing to distance themselves from the impression that the French establishment was beginning to appear to the world to be thoroughly anti-Semitic, were a large number of prominent citizens including several intellectuals, many of whom have been commemorated philatelically.



Gorges Clemenceau, a prolific French journalist with an already established reputation as a dangerous dissident but who would be a future Prime Minister of France, became the founding owner and editor of the Paris daily *L'Aurore* in 1898 and readily published Zola's "J'Accuse" on the front page.

Journalist and future World War II Resistance leader Georges Mandel began his working life on Clemenceau's *L'Aurore* and took a strong position in favour of Dreyfus.

In the early 1890's Theodore Herzl - later described as "The Seer of the State of Israel" was the Paris correspondent of the Vienna based *Neue Freie Presse*, the leading liberal newspaper. He observed and wrote about the Dreyfus affair extensively, witnessing the trial at first hand. This experience strengthened his resolve as shown in his *Der Judenstadt* (1896) which outlines his idea of Political Zionism and the creation of a Jewish State somewhere in the world, possibly in South America.

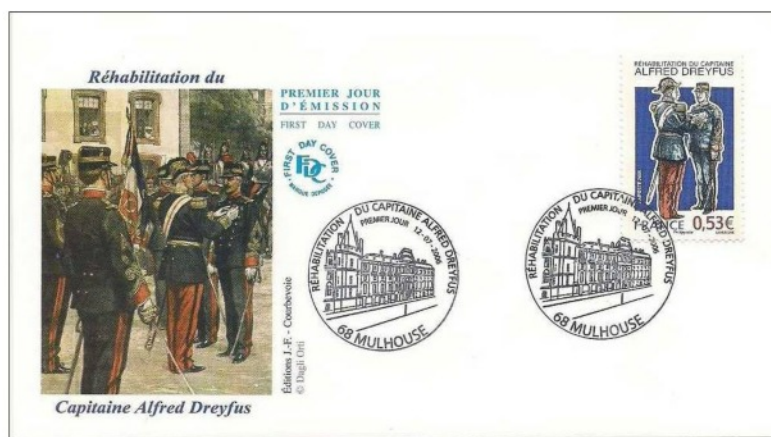
Other celebrities who stood with Zola included writers Charles Péguy, André Gide, Marcel Proust, Anatole France and scientist Henri Poincaré. However speaking for the opposing camp the novelist Maurice Barres did not mince his words, declaring his belief in Dreyfus' guilt, "That Dreyfus is guilty, I deduce not from the facts themselves, but from his race".

Zola did have his days in court and was found guilty but fled to England where he exiled himself for over a year until pardoned and permitted to return to France, at which point to his delight the corrupt government fell. Ironically, though he had begun to produce a major

change in French politics with this letter, he did not live to see Dreyfus rehabilitated, dying from asphyxia from a defective flue in his Paris apartment in 1902.



Zola's letter did lead to enormous pressure on the government to act, but their response was sluggardly and it was the following year before Alfred Dreyfus was returned from Devil's Island to be retried - and found guilty! However he was soon pardoned and allowed to re-join the Army in 1906 when he was fully exonerated and "rehabilitated". A hundred years later France issued a stamp showing the ceremony at which he was taken back into the fold of the French Army.



This FDC for the anniversary of the Dreyfus rehabilitation is tied with a cancel which includes an illustration of the École Militaire, Paris, in front of which Dreyfus had been so shamefully humiliated a decade before.

Curiously he was the only major personality in the story who fought for his country in the First World War, gaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Alfred Dreyfus died at the age of 75 in 1935.

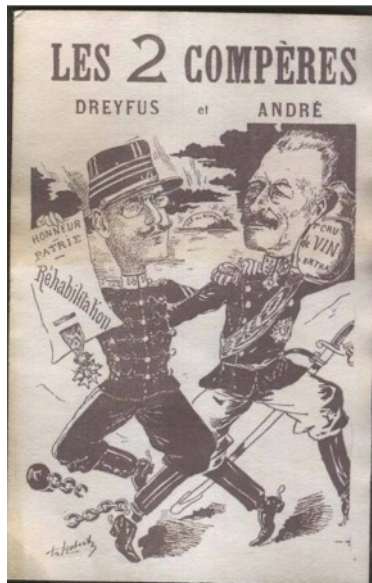
The ramifications of this long running affair upon French society have been considerable. The Far Right who had been exposed as racist were pushed to the fringes and only today are becoming a little more mainstream. Many anti-Dreyfusards played a significant part in the Nazi puppet Vichy government during World War II. A sculpture commissioned by President Mitterand 50 years after Dreyfus' death was denied a place at the École Militaire despite his exoneration, and stands instead outside a metro station at Notre-Dame-des-Champs in the 6th arrondissement.



Israel FDC referencing three major personalities in the story: Dreyfus (shown at his trial), Zola and Herzl.

Footnote:

The Tour de France is one strange consequence of the Dreyfus affair. The daily sports paper *L'Auto* was born in 1900 as a counter to *Le Velo*, the Dreyfusard major sporting journal. Three years after its birth *L'Auto* suggested and sponsored the Tour in order to raise its profile. The yellow jersey worn by the daily leader in the tour is apparently a tribute to the colour of the paper on which *L'Auto* was originally printed. It was reborn as *L'Equipe* in 1946, but it was too expensive to continue on coloured paper. 📖



1900 card: the “two accomplices” Dreyfus and Louise André, the Minister of War, who was also a Freemason



1904 card entitled *The New Ministry of War* suggesting the influence of Freemasonry in the Army prejudice against Dreyfus



Caricature of a French revolutionary figure again suggesting Masonic influence in the Dreyfus case.



Theodore Herzl

BTA AGM

AGENDA

**For the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held
on Saturday June 8th 2013 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at St Joseph's Catholic College,
Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting published in *Themescene* September 2012
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012
6. Election of Officers

The following Officers have been nominated or are willing to stand for re-election:

Simon Moorcroft	Chairman
Jim Etherington	Vice Chairman
Anne Stammers	Secretary
Peter Wood	Treasurer

7. Election of Committee members

The following members have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election:

Currently	Peter Denly FRPSL	Membership Secretary
Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor <i>Themescene</i>
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Brian Sole FRPSL	Committee member
Currently	Gerald Lovell	Committee member
Currently	Charles Oppenheim	Committee member
Currently	Barry Stagg	Committee member

There is one vacancy on the committee

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of
Ron Backhouse Librarian
Grahame Boutle Examiner

9. Motion for Discussion

This meeting agrees to amend the Constitution as published in *Themescene* June 2013

10. Topic for discussion - 30th Anniversary in 2014

11. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by June 5th 2012 or will be taken from the floor
The meeting will be followed by a display on Banking and Lotteries by John Baron,

Signed: *M. Anne Stammers* (Hon. Secretary) dated 23rd April 2013

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

1. Title

The Association shall be known as “The British Thematic Association” (BTA)

2. The membership of the BTA will consist of :

- a) ordinary members
- b) family members i.e. a second adult and all children under 18 years of age in the same household
- c) junior members i.e. under 18 years of age
- d) Societies, i.e. any National. Specialist, Federation or local philatelic organisation with an interest in thematic collecting. Members of such Societies are not themselves full BTA members and services which are provided must be requested through the Secretary of the Society.
- e) Honorary members, who may be elected by the committee from time to time for outstanding services to thematic philately.

3. Aims and Objects

- a) To promote, encourage and assist the study and development of thematic philately and to promote the wider understanding of thematic philately within both philatelic organisations and non-philatelic clubs, societies and other organisations.
- b) To provide the means to record the thematic collecting interests of ordinary family and junior members and to endeavour to put members in touch with other collectors with similar interests.
- c) To encourage the formation of new specialist thematic Societies or Groups.
- d) To publish and distribute the magazine "Themescene" a number of times per year and to issue any other publications whenever considered appropriate by the Committee.
- e) To provide:
 - i. a library service for members, with the option to borrow items or to purchase photocopies of articles.
 - ii. an auction service for members so long as appropriate material is available.
 - iii. a panel of speakers willing to visit Societies.
 - iv. for the training of judges at Local Federation and National level by means of workshops.
- f) To organise from time to time thematic exhibitions and meetings.
- g) To affiliate to other philatelic organisations as decided by the Committee.

4. Business Organisations

- a) The business of the BTA shall be conducted by an Honorary Committee consisting of its Officers and elected members.
- b) The Officers elected by the membership shall consist of:
 - a Chairman who shall act as chief executive of the BTA and take the chair at meetings of the Committee; in the absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman the Committee shall elect an acting Chairman for each particular meeting. The term of office of Chairman shall be limited to a maximum period of 4 years.
 - a Vice –Chairman: the term of office of Vice –Chairman shall be limited to a maximum of 4 years
 - a Secretary who shall be the Chairman's principal assistant in dealing with day to day matters and shall have particular responsibility for the agenda and minutes of Committee meetings, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings.
 - a Treasurer who shall be responsible to the Committee for the management of the financial affairs of the BTA, shall keep proper books of account and once a year as soon as possible after the close of the financial year submit all books and vouchers to the examiner. He shall prepare a set of audited accounts for the presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

Such additional officers as the committee may deem it necessary to appoint. Such appointments shall be submitted to the next Annual General Meeting for ratification by the membership.
- c) Members of the Committee shall hold office for 12 months, and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Casual vacancies within the committee may be filled by the committee by co-option. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next AGM but shall then be eligible for election.
- e) The Committee shall:
 - i meet not less frequently than half-yearly, and Committee members shall be given not less than 14 days notice by the Secretary. Four members shall form a quorum.
 - ii decide on the acceptability of applicants for membership of the BTA and lay down procedures for applications, membership and resignation of members.
 - iii have the power at its absolute discretion to suspend or terminate the membership of any member whose conduct is considered prejudicial to the BTA.
 - iv delegate any of its powers (other than those in c II and e III) as it may think fit. In carrying out its duties it may appoint such committees, sub-committees and working parties as it may deem appropriate.

4. Business Organisations (cont.)

- v have the power to elect a President for a maximum period of 4 years. The President shall not be entitled to a seat on the Committee by reason of that office.
- vi submit a report of its activities during the year to the AGM
- vii have the power to fix the subscription rates.
- f) An Examiner of the BTA's accounts shall be appointed at the AGM. No member of the Committee shall be examiner
- g) The BTA's Financial Year shall end on 31 December
- h) All members of the committee and co-opted Members of the committee shall be entitled to re-imbursement of expenses incurred on BTA business subject to individual items in excess of £50 requiring authorisation by two of the Officers.
- i) In case of the BTA ceasing to exist, any residual funds will be vested in the Association of British Philatelic Societies or any such other philatelic ruling body having similar objectives which may be in existence at the time.

5. Annual General Meeting

- a) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year not later than ten months after the end of the financial year on 31 December.
- b) Resolutions proposed and seconded for inclusion on the AGM agenda must be received by the Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- c) Nominations for election to the Committee must be received by the Hon Secretary at least 8 weeks before the AGM.
- d) The Secretary shall give notice of the AGM to all members at least 4 weeks in advance.
- e) All members are entitled to speak and command one vote at the AGM. A family membership will command one vote. Societies may nominate 2 delegates in advance, to attend and speak at the AGM by each Society will have only one vote. No voting by proxy will be allowed.

6 Extraordinary General Meeting

- a) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by the Committee by giving members four weeks notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- b) A minimum of 20 members may by notice in writing instruct the Secretary to call an EGM. The Secretary shall send the notice required by rule 6a, within 28 days of receiving such instructions.

7. Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the 1st February each year and are to be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 30th April will be deemed to have resigned from the BTA and shall cease to be entitled to the benefits of membership.

8 Amendments to Rules

These rules may only be amended at the AGM of the BTA, or an EGM called for the purpose.

S.A.F.

1-7.95 (adding President and 4 year limitation of office)

M.A.S.

24-6-2000 (Clause 4h inserted, committee expenses)

26- 6- 2004 (Clause 4b and 4f (twice) change auditor to examiner)

M.A.S.

09-6-2012 (Clause 3d removed 'publish other booklets, newsletters' inserted 'issue any other publications' instead)

INSURE Your Collection

- It costs less than you think !

ALL RISKS - NO EXCESS

Stamps and Postcards £ 6,250 cover- £25 p.a.*

£10,000 cover- £37 p.a.*

All other Collectables £ 5,000 cover - £30 p.a.*

£10,000 cover - £55 p.a.*

* plus Insurance Premium Tax

Includes Exhibition & Accompanied cover in Western Europe

PUBLIC LIABILITY for COLLECTOR SOCIETIES

premiums from £20 p.a. for £5,000,000 cover

CIRCULATING PACKETS: CUPS & TROPHIES:

AUCTIONS: EXHIBITIONS etc.

SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES

includes Public & Employers Liability

DEALER'S COMBINED POLICY

Special rates for duplicating - programmes etc.

Conservation Quality leaves available

Please write, telephone or fax. for a quotation

STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

C G I Services Limited [dept 54]

29 Bowhay Lane, EXETER EX4 1PE

tel: 01392 433 949 fax: 01392 427 632

www.stampinsurance.co.uk

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

2011	INCOME	2012
3,406	Subscriptions	3,586
0	Donations	510
80	Sales of donated items	214
-	Weekend	246
0	Other income (inc. ATA)	21
3	Bank Interest	3
<u>3,489</u>		<u>4,580</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
2,766	"Themescene" - Printing + Distribution Expenses	2,826
- 696	less : Advertising Income (net)	<u>- 548</u>
71	Meetings (inc. AGM)	142
74	BTA Cup expenses	31
- 60	less: entry fees	<u>- 15</u>
223	Committee Meeting Expenses	247
178	Publicity and Web Site	169
-	Introduction to Thematics CD	163
-	Less: sales	<u>- 74</u>
240	NPS Initiative (Ideal Home Exhibition)	-
- 220	less: committee (personal) donations	<u>-</u>
119	Insurance	119
411	Affiliations	434
228	Administration expenses	116
11	ATA costs (net income for 2012)	-
52	Sundry expenses	38
<u>3,397</u>		<u>3,647</u>
92	SURPLUS	<u>933</u>
<u>3,489</u>		<u>4,580</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Accumulated fund	
4,793	Balance at 1.1.2011	4,885
92	add : Surplus for the year	<u>933</u>
<u>4,885</u>		<u>5,818</u>
	Represented by:	
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	4,890
2,497	Current Account	2,629
157	Stock of publications	154
0	Amounts due and Payments in advance	<u>45</u>
7,544		7,718
- 1,542	less: Subs received in advance	-786
- 1,117	less: Amounts due or Received in advance	<u>-1,114</u>
<u>4,885</u>		<u>5,818</u>

Hon. Treasurer: P. J. Wood

Hon. Examiner: G. C. Boutle

BTA NEWS

BTA AUCTION

Thank you to those members who responded to Auctioneer Jim Etherington's notice in March *Themescene* requesting lots for an auction. The closing date is now past and the catalogue is in preparation. It will be published in time for the BTA AGM on 8th June. All members will receive a copy of the catalogue either by email or by post. It will also be published on the BTA website.

If you are considering sending lots to the next auction please let Jim know, ideally by email to jespeth@hotmail.com.

2013 WORLD STAMP EXPO, Melbourne

A full report will appear in the next issue of *Themescene*, but stop press news is BTA member Lesley Marley has won Large Gold with her exhibit "A Whales Tale". This is a wonderful result which has repaid an enormous amount of hard work and dedication. Congratulations from all of us.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THEMATIC PHILATELY, Essen

This event is run every two years, and with 78 entries seems to be getting more and more popular. Congratulations to BTA members who took part:

Section 1: Arts and Culture

Richard Wheeler	Evolution of puppetry	86% (LV)
-----------------	-----------------------	----------

Section 4: Sport and Leisure

Ron Backhouse	Anyone for tennis?	86% (LV)
---------------	--------------------	----------

Section 6: Medicine and Science

Peter Weir	Liquid of Life	87% (LV)
------------	----------------	----------

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

8th June	BTA AGM, Swindon	Guest speaker: John Baron "Lotteries and Banking"
6th July	Midpex	BTA stand
12th - 13th July	ThematiX	BTA Stand
18th - 21st September	Autumn Stampex	Check the BTA website for BTA events
12th October	ASPS Convention	BTA Competitions

SCINTILLATING CINDERELLAS

Simon Moorcroft enjoyed the BTA meeting

On 20th April the BTA held a Member's meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London. The invited speaker Stuart Henderson, who made a point of emphasising that his collection was theme-based but included philatelic items, Cinderellas, revenues and postcards as well as ephemera and non-postal items. Indeed his display included many of these items. It was therefore a perfect illustration for the BTA's new approach of encompassing open and social philately and postcard collecting.



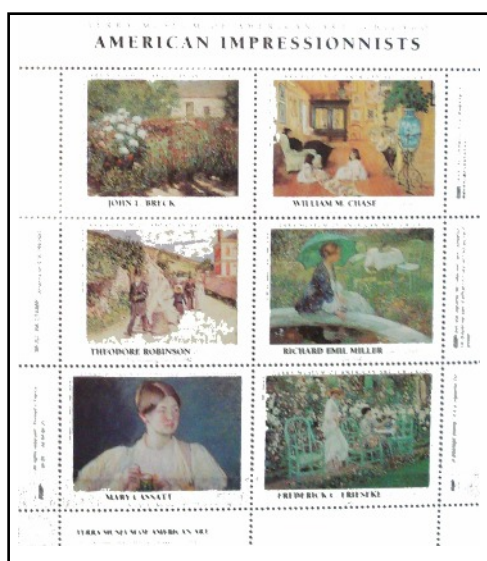
Stuart's display contained a huge variety of labels and advertising stamps which were issued for a wide variety of purposes. He displayed poster stamps, which were popular to collect and which showed the same image as a large advertising poster but much reduced in size, and labels and stamps issued by manufacturers of everyday products such as Tango drinks and ladies hats. Items were also issued by charities, such as the RNLI or the Greater London Society for the Blind to raise money, and a set from the US promoting health and safety at work.

The display contained a set of stamps from Canada issued to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI but wrongly produced, as they were issued at the time of the 1937 visit to the country by the King and Queen. A set of labels from the Isle of Wight were purchased from a shop window and Stuart has never seen any other examples so pondered if they were a special "one-off" printing. *The Children's Newspaper* was illustrated by Stuart, a publication first issued in 1937. It was a more intellectual read for children than other publications such as the *Dandy* but was not popular and often considered dull and boring. The display included a Jersey and Isle of Man set of publicity labels which are very scarce.

Next up was a set of publicity stamps issued by the US Great Northern Railway although Stuart wondered how they could be classed as promotional given the design showed Red Indians attacking a train! He then showed a huge number of very colourful labels with some beautiful designs issued by one Gaston Fontanille who was a fraudster par excellence! Beginning with forging stamps, share certificates, land securities and noble titles he

progressed to producing bogus labels for each of the French Army regiments during World War I. His work was prolific with over 10,000 label designs, a small selection of which were in the display.

Greed however was Gaston's downfall when he was commissioned by the French Red Cross to design labels for fundraising purposes. While he dutifully designed the labels he embezzled the money and the Red Cross received none. For this he was sent to prison where he officially died. However, it is widely believed he managed to fake his own death by forging a death certificate and passing himself off as someone else! He then escaped and fled to the South of France where he continued his criminal ways until committing suicide in 1923. Whatever the truth, a true crook until the end!



Stuart then showed material pertaining to numerous themes. Ships were illustrated including on stamps given out with cigar boxes in Holland and Belgium; early pioneer aircraft including illustrations of pleasure aircraft and early kites which were primitive and very dangerous; and fine art with French and German labels showing art, architecture and Paris street scenes, purchased by Stuart from a market stall. Included in the concluding part of the display were also labels from the Low Countries issued for health and safety purposes. After World War I there was an influx of non-Flemish speaking refugees who worked in factories, but the language barrier meant they did not follow procedures and many suffered injuries or death from machinery. In response stamps were issued to the workers which illustrated procedures and safety techniques pictorially, resulting in a fall in the accident rate.

Patron Brian Sole gave a vote of thanks, pointing out the variety of material on show and how he especially loved the poster stamps at the beginning saying that they were extremely popular during the 1930s and many had beautiful designs reflecting the popular art deco style of that age.

After lunch, which a majority of people took at the King's Head pub, came members displays, beginning with John Leathes who showed U-boat labels and tigers pictured on advertising stamps, including a part of pamphlet issued by the London 2000 philatelic exhibition. Ron Trevelyan showed material from various exhibitions and trade fairs illustrating how the first fairs were in Roman times and how the French influenced the British in the 19th century with their grand fairs, leading the Prince Consort to spearhead the Great Exhibition held in 1851.

Wendy Buckle showed a selection of material from her collection on the history of writing, starting with the earliest written records - cave paintings - of which the ones found in the Dordogne area of France are a particularly fine example. She then told the story of some early writing systems which began in the Middle East and which were developed to enhance commercial activity. Grace Davies showed material illustrating hotels with the name Hotel de la Paix, part of her collection on Peace. While many of the hotels were grand in scale and appointed in luxurious style there were small boutique hotels adopting the name as well.



Barry Stagg's display concentrated on arrows and archery and illustrated the killing of birds by arrows and how arrows were used to draw. Stamps showing San Sebastian, the patron saint of archery, were included and the world's fastest arrows were shown: the Red Arrows; also the Soviet dog sent into space Strelka (translates to "little arrow"). Peter Wood showed a hybrid of Irish related material including a label advertising book showing George Bernard Shaw and illustrating Irish literature. Peter explained that he had got

into collecting Ireland as a theme after beginning with Irish stamps and postal history.

Brian Sole showed material from pre-World War II philatelic exhibitions including the 1890 London Philatelic Exhibition, explaining that the remainder of a set of Mauritius stamps were overprinted by the then President of the Royal Philatelic Society! Stamps from an exhibition were also used to commemorate the first trial flight of a rocket, in June 1934. Anne Stammers' display showed how broad the material one can collect as part of one's theme can be. She illustrated the big bang and the early geological history of the earth and how these produced minerals, later extracted by man from rock. Included in the material illustrating extraction was a lovely postmark from the Premier Diamond mine in South Africa tying the first Union of South Africa stamp, issued in 1910.

Peter Weir concentrated on the Red Cross and how it came to be founded with Henri Dunant, observing over 40,000 casualties on the first day at the battle of Solferino in 1859, realised a politically neutral organisation to relieve suffering from war and conflict was needed. He explained how Florence Nightingale helped form the UK Red Cross society and the work famous people have done over time to support their work, including Princess Diana. Graham Boutle showed Captain Cook's exploration of the Pacific illustrating the different voyages and routes which his ship took in his journeys, his early days as a Royal Navy officer and how he became a navigator and explorer.

John Hayward concluded the Members displays showing aspects from his collection on motorcycles. His opening page showed modern Japanese stamps which illustrated mopeds/courier delivery bikes by way of tiny cameo dispatch riders in the corner of one stamp on a much larger sheet. His display went on to show postal delivery by motorbikes which included some delightful material including 1949 Chinese stamps overprinted the same year that the Communists overran the mainland regions of China. John included one on cover which is very rare.

President Wendy Buckle concluded the day by thanking everyone who attended and commenting on the huge breadth of material which had been shown. 📖

WATERFALLS

Jean Alexander shows the range of material which can be collected

On 23rd March BTA member Jean Alexander gave a stunning display to the Postal Stationery Society. An audience who more usually concentrate on post office issue details, rates and other philatelic aspects were treated to a show featuring the illustrative part of the card. Both the range and quantity of material were quite outstanding. Perhaps no-one in the audience could have anticipated how much we were going to see:

272 pages of postal stationery cards from all over the world;

16 pages of airletters;

16 pages of postal stationery envelopes;


16 pages of registered envelopes;

16 pages of Australian letter cards from eight different series;

16 pages of Argentinean letter sheets;

Plus stamped telegraph cards and forms, and newspaper wrappers.

Each section was divided up into those that featured waterfalls on the stamp, and those that featured waterfalls on the illustration but not the stamp, with a brief description of the postal features of each, demonstrating the breadth and depth of philatelic research needed to put this collection together. Rare and early material sat side by side with modern covers, all given equal weight in telling the story of the world's waterfalls.

As Jean pointed out, this material is ideal for the thematic collector as many cards have full size pictures of your chosen theme. The display was a great demonstration of what can be achieved thematically by someone truly dedicated. 



Airletters

HERE AND THERE

SPRING STAMPEX 2013

It was good to see such a large number of dealers, filling the front part of the hall, the mezzanine and all of the gallery area. The competitive theme of the event was Cinderellas and Revenues, but I do think it's unfortunate that these days the display area, previously known as the Village Green, has been moved from the entrance of the exhibition back to the rear of the mezzanine. That was a shame because there were some very entertaining exhibits on show, some of the Cinderellas in particular being of interest to Thematic and Open collectors. Two BTA members put in entries. Congratulations to John Leathes for two entries: "U-Boat Labels of the First World War" which got a large vermeil, and "Tyger Tyger Burning Bright" which won gold. BTA member Derek Connell got silver for "Exhibitions of the Aggie" a display showing the history of the Royal Agricultural Hall.



*Tyger Tyger Burning Bright and Book
Trade and Graphic Arts Exhibition 1914*

BRITISH YOUTH STAMP CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

The British Youth Stamp Championships 2013, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, will take place at Autumn Stampex from 18-21st September. Anyone up to the age of 21 can enter but entry forms must be in by 9th August. The finished entry must be sent in by 20th August. All the details for the competition can be found by accessing the competition page of Rocket News on the www.planetstamp.co.uk website of Stamp Active Network, and an entry form is also available for downloading.

So why not give it a try – if you don't enter, you will never win!

HOW I STARTED

Brian Sole cycled, then collected

I had a stamp album from about eight years of age and inherited my father's World Album at ten. Collecting ended whilst in my teens and re-started when I was 29, just after I married, in 1967. When I moved into a flat with my new wife, my mother was pleased to hand me the Strand Album and one other Nubian album amongst other items she wanted taken away.

From the age of 16 I had been a keen cyclist and had ridden on most Sundays, and some weekends, with the Richmond Cyclists' Touring Club Section. When I married it became difficult to cycle off each Sunday and my wife refused all suggestions that she could ride with me on the back of a tandem. I continued to act as District Social Secretary and to organise slide shows and the Annual Dinner but I rode my bike less and less. It did mean that I opened up my stamp albums in my spare time and began collecting back GB issues.

At work, my Superintendent was a stamp collector, and from time to time strangers would walk into the Department and deposit Brown Boxes on the Superintendent's desk. When I admitted to having been a collector as a child, the Superintendent began showing me the contents of these boxes. Each box contained a selection of booklets filled with priced stamps from all over the world. He encouraged me to select any stamps I wanted. When I passed him the cash, he added his signature, or a rubber stamp with his name, to the blank spaces from which I had removed stamps. It was my introduction to 'the packet'. It appeared that other colleagues also received the packet and I was persuaded to join "The Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain". My name was added to the circulating list and I began to receive these brown boxes in my own right, and to receive the quarterly Newsletter. I delayed attending any of the meetings held at a nearby office of the Legal & General because I thought I had to be an advanced collector to take part. I was assured this was not a requirement and when I did pluck up courage to attend my first meeting I was pleasantly surprised at how friendly everybody was. At the end of the meeting I joined most of the members when they adjourned to a nearby public house. Over a pint of beer, or two, I made some new friends and confirmed that I would come again!


After attending two or three monthly meetings there was a request for entries into the annual competitions. Newcomers were welcomed to take part, so I extracted nine pages from my GB QEII collection, neatly written up, and took them to the next meeting. We stood around chatting whilst a well-known collector judged the dozen or so entries and when he had finished we were asked to assemble in front of the frames. On reaching my entry, he was quite brief, commenting that this was all modern material and implying that it was hardly worth collecting. I picked up my entry and vowed I would never enter a competition again. However I continued to attend the meetings and to enjoy the various different displays that other members put up.

I continued to buy back issues of GB from stamp shops and to attend Stampex and the occasional Stamp Fair. Quite often I would spot a stamp with an illustration of a bicycle and also the odd bicycle stamp on a First Day cover. These items reminded me of the great pleasure I had had whilst riding with the cycling club. Most items cost a few pence although one or two were over a pound and they were all impulse buys. It must have been a year later that a colleague enquired if I was going to enter the competitions. I told him about my unfortunate experience and asked him if he was entering. "Oh yes", he said "I will enter the

thematic class". What's that I asked, in my ignorance. "It's easy", he replied, "you think of any subject which appeals to you and you fill up nine pages with stamps on that subject". He had put together pages on boys and girls names. That started me thinking. I could not enter GB again but I had acquired a number of cycle stamps. I went home and pulled together as many cycle items that I could find. It seemed to make sense to separate the material into the history of the bicycle; the utility use of the bicycle; the bicycle and the post and the bicycle in sport. Looking back, I added far too much writing up. I was keen to explain everything I knew about cycling, but I had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed searching for the most appropriate stamps, from quite a small collection. I did not win the competition but it did encourage me to continue.



On my next visit to Stampex I began to ask dealers for stamps on cycling. Most turned up their noses and said they did not deal in thematics. At one stand however, the dealer said he had a brother who got up early on Sundays and took part in cycle time trials. He also had customers from France who collected bicycles on stamps. He pulled from a stock book a Cape of Good Hope Mafeking 1d stamp of 1900, with the boy cadet on a bicycle, and a pair of blue stamps of 1896 issued privately for the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company during the gold rush in West Australia. I admitted that I did not have these three stamps and enquired the price. I took a deep breath when he told me, and said that it was only a sideline collection and I could not afford them. "No problem" said the dealer "Suppose I ask you for four monthly payments on post-dated cheques and you simply pay me the first instalment!" Well, suddenly a request for a quarter of the price seemed very reasonable and I agreed to buy the three stamps!

With this purchase, I decided that I had to take my bicycle collection more seriously, and it has continued to grow ever since! 



GROUP NEWS

ALBA STAMP GROUP

At the AGM long-serving Secretary Stanley Brown stood down. The new Secretary is Mrs Elizabeth Nairn, 4 Strenaby Avenue, Burnside, Rutherglen, G73 5DL. The forthcoming programme is



2013

14 September	Isle of Skye	(Falkirk)
12 October	The letter 'J'	(Motherwell)
14 December	Clydesdale	(Falkirk)

2014

11 January	Scottish Power	(Motherwell)
1 March	AGM	(Falkirk)
26 April	Guest Speaker: Colin Caskie	(Motherwell)

MASONIC PHILATELIC CLUB

The Herald, Monday April 15 2013

www.thisisplymouth.co.uk

Trevor's got stamp collecting licked

Exhibition at library

STAMP collector Trevor Fray has set up a fascinating exhibition showing off his stamp collections. The event at St John's Library, located on the corner of Brunswick Street, will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Mr Fray, 75, has been collecting stamps since he was a child. In 1971 he started to collect stamps, initially in the Falklands. "Stamp collecting can be a very interesting, relaxing and educational hobby," he says. "It's a hobby that can be done on any subject. I've collected stamps from all over the world, including the Falklands, and I've also collected some very rare stamps." He has a large collection of stamps, including some from the Falklands. He has also collected some very rare stamps. He has a large collection of stamps, including some from the Falklands. He has also collected some very rare stamps.



Trevor Fray, a member of the Masonic Philatelic Club and of the BTA, recently arranged for a display of his freemasonry exhibit to be shown at his local library. It provided some good publicity for the hobby via the library and via the interview he gave to his local paper *The Herald* - even if the paper did manage both to spell his name wrong and caption an image of Guernsey stamps as being Falklands Islands.

Themescene is always pleased to publish news from Group members. Just email a few lines to the Editor

GROUP MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

Mrs. Elizabeth Nairn, 4 Strenaby Avenue, Burnside, Rutherglen, G73 5DL

Astro Space Stamp Society

Mr. B. Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 4RE

Web: www.astrospacestampsociety.com

Bicycle Stamps Club

Mr. B. J. Sole, 49 West Carr Lane, Hersham, Walton On Thames, Surrey, KT12 5ER

Web: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~bicyclestamps/>

Bird Stamp Society

Mr G. Horsman, 23a East Main Street, Blackburn, West Lothian, EH47 7QR.

Web: <http://www.birdstampsociety.org>

Captain Cook Society

Mr I. A. Peel, 13 Caudry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF12 0LW.

Web: <http://www.captaincooksociety.com/ccsul.htm>

Concorde Study Circle

Mr B. L. Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey,

SM5 4PQ. Web: http://www.concorde-jet.com/e_concorde_study_circle.htm

Glasgow Thematic Society

Mrs M. Mathieson, 17 Hairmyers Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 8SS.

Guild of St. Gabriel

Rev. D. C. Hague, 16 Filder Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 8SY.

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. M. Beazley, 216 West Dyke Road, Redcar, N. Yorks, TS10 4JS

Web: <http://www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk/>

Scout and Guide Stamp Club

Mr. T. Simister, 1 Falcon Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8AY

Web: <http://www.sgsc.org.uk/index.shtml>

Ship Stamp Society

Mr. T. Broadley, 10 Heyes Drive, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0PB.

Web: http://www.chez.com/philateliemarine/phil_mar_e/SSS.htm

West of England Thematic Society

Mrs. G. Gray, 6 Compton Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 5BZ


Web: <http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS/>

EXHIBITING PAGES

Where would a GB Machin definitive stamp feature in a thematic exhibit you may wonder? Somewhere under the theme of pottery perhaps, because Machin's royal bust is a plaster cast. Or is some more lateral thinking necessary as is urged upon all thematic exhibitors? How about in an exhibit of precious stones or jewellery? How is that possible you may ask? Well, have a look at these two illustrations of Machin definitives which include the sheet margins. The words ruby and emerald are printed in ruby and emerald also which helps. These are just the items to place on the relevant pages of a thematic exhibit of such precious stones.



Those budding exhibitors amongst you who want to test the water beyond national exhibitions have apparently lost the opportunity to compete in Eurothema, the inter-country thematic competition, which has sadly disappeared from the scene. In addition the European Thematic Championship held every two years may be a bit too high powered and a qualification is usually necessary to compete. All is not lost though – how many of you know of Exphimo, a European-wide thematic exhibition held in Luxembourg every year in May? A different thematic category is exhibited once every ten years and judged to FIP standards. 2013 is the turn of motorised transport and the writer will be attending as it coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Motorised Transport Thematic Group. It is not only a great place to exhibit but also to meet up with like-minded thematic exhibitors and groups. Those of you who belong to such groups as Railways, Ships, Flora & Fauna etc, should be aware through your group of this event and know in which year your theme will be rotated. If you don't, then you should be asking questions as to why your group is unaware of the exhibition, or have a word with me and I will put you in touch with the organisers.

Another way of testing the water at national and international competition level is for potential exhibitors to have an informal appraisal of their exhibit by a suitably qualified thematic judge outside of a formal competition. We used to do this in the UK until about eight to ten years ago. The BTA believes this is worth resurrecting and is looking to run such an appraisal at Autumn Stampex 2013. The objective would be for potential thematic exhibitors to bring along their 32, 64 or 80 page exhibit they are thinking of entering in Stampex or internationally and have it appraised so that they can improve it and hopefully do well in real competition. It may be possible to run a seminar at the same event. Stampex dates are 18th - 21st September, so please watch the BTA website and the usual stamp magazines for more details. The possibility of doing such an informal appraisal for exhibits at Federation level is also being explored. 

ThematiX '13

Britain's National Thematic Stamp Show

Friday 12th & Saturday 13th July 2013

Friday 10.30 to 17.00, Saturday 10.00 to 16.00

King George Field Indoor Bowls Club

Jubilee Way, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1TR

Ample free parking & admission, Outside of the London congestion zone.

Nearest Railway Station is Tolworth (from Waterloo)

Bus K2 (Kingston-Epsom) stops at venue

By road M25 Jt 10 ~ A3 ~ A240

Light refreshments available

Organisers Paula & Philip Cant 01256 415699

paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk

Bob Lee 020 8397 2332 boblee@ThematiX.co.uk

For the latest updates see www.thematix.co.uk

WEST OF ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY

in association with

ThematiX

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL THEMATIC STAMP SHOW

Present a thematic stamp day on

Friday 25th October 2013 1000 - 1600

Haytor Room

The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel

Ashburton

Devon

TQ13 7JW

WETS Thematic Competition plus specialist thematic stamp dealers

Ample free parking and free admission

Refreshments available

Contacts

WETS: Mary Claydon (01398 331731) mary@claydons.eclipse.co.uk

Fair: Paula Cant (01256 415699) paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk

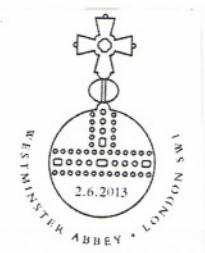
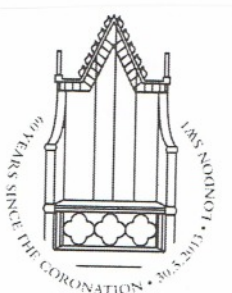
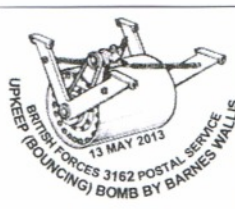
Hotel: Dartmoor Lodge Hotel (01364 652232) www.dartmoorlodge.co.uk

HANDSTAMP SPECIAL

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



LIBRARY LISTING

If you would like to receive a list of articles on your topic(s), send a stamped sae to the Librarian (contact details page 2). To assist, he will quote the current postal rates when he sends the list.

If you are interested in borrowing any articles then give him a ring and he will advise how to proceed.

Members asking to borrow books and catalogues are not required to pay the cost of outward posting, only the return cost.

		Butterflies	
6	Marren, P.	All of a flutter (butterflies)	Stamp Magazine 2/2012
		Churches	
2	Nuttall, R.	St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna	Gabriel 4/2011
		Communications	
3	Vegter, W.	Cyber Heroes of the Past - Konrad Zuse	ThemNews 2/2011
3	Vegter, W.	Cyber Heroes of the Past - Herman Hollerith	ThemNews 8/2011
6	Beenham, J.	From Magnet to Multi-Media	Orbit 3/2012
		Falkland Islands	
18		Falklands: Wild Rocks, Thick Fogs, Everlasting Snow	Cook's Log 1&2/2011
		Famous People	
5	Winchester, J.	Maid of sterner stuff (Joan of Arc)	Stamp Magazine 2/2012
3	Dhungat, J. V.	Napoleon at St Helena	MediTheme 2/2012
		Nursing	
2	Land, B.	The Nurse Anaesthetist	MediTheme 2/2012
		Post Offices	
4	Eastern, L.	Grand Central (Post Office)	Stamp Magazine 2/2012
		Red Cross	
2	Mackett, J.	1915 Tahitian Red Cross Stamp Scandal	MediTheme 11/2011
		Space	
2	Dugdale, J.	The Naming of Craters : Mars	Orbit 3/2012
5	Hammond, P.	Close Encounters	Stamp & Coin Mart 3/2012
		Stamp Engravers	
2	Keppel, A.	Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005)	Stamp & Coin Mart 3/2012

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

2013 COMPETITIONS

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

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2013 10.00am – 4.30pm

We want to provide something for ALL thematic collectors.

The John Fosbery Thematic Trophy competition requires 16 sheets inside protectors and is for collectors who have never won a thematic medal in a National competition. It has NO OTHER RULES! The entries will be judged by visitors to the Exhibition.

The BTA Cup Competition is judged to National Thematic competition rules and requires 32 sheets, any theme, inside protectors, to fill 2 frames. This competition is intended to be a stepping-stone towards entering a National thematic competition. The entry fee is £15.

The Inter-Federation Thematic Competition for the Healey & Wise Salver is a team event, judged to National Thematic Rules. It requires a 16-sheet entry from 3 individual members of the Federation. This competition will also be judged to National Thematic Rules.

Please complete the form on the next page and send it to -

Brian Sole,
BTA 2013, 49
Westcar Lane,
Hersham,
Walton-on-Thames, KT12 5ER

Telephone: 01932 220677; e-mail: brian.sole@btinternet.com

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY FORMS:
FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Receipt of the sheets by FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2013
Details will be sent to entrants.**



British Thematic Association Competitions 2013

Entry Form

I wish to enter

A. The 16 sheet JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY Competition ☐ (please tick)

OR

B. The 32 sheet BTA CUP competition..... ☐ (please tick)

OR

C. The INTER-FED Thematic Competition..... ☐ (please tick)

AND

enter the NAME of the Federation/Association.....

Name (If "C", name of contact).....Tel No.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

E-mail address.....

Title of Entry (A or B).....

Names of Exhibitors and Titles of exhibit in C) Inter- Federation Thematic Competition

Entry 1).....

Entry 2).....

Entry 3).....

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY competition -

I have not won a medal in the Thematic Class of a National or International Exhibition.

Re: entry to the JOHN FOSBERY, the BTA CUP or the INTER-FED Thematic competitions -

I/We accept that the material is submitted entirely at my/our own risk and I/we undertake to make my/our own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my/our possession; this includes all transit risks, temporary housing of the entry and its display at Ardingly Showground. I/we confirm that all information on this form is correct and, if entering the BTA CUP competition, enclose a remittance of £15, payable to the British Thematic Association.

Signed.....Date.....



PHILANGLES LTD

International postage stamp & postal history auctioneers

ESTABLISHED 1990



SELLING?

Philangles constantly requires interesting and unusual material, perhaps material you don't readily have clients for. We also require high value single stamps, collections and entire dealer stocks.

Contact Simon Carson directly, home visits can easily be arranged. Simon Carson has been a professional philatelist for over 25 years and is a member of PTS (London) and ASDA (New York)

WWW.PHILANGLES.CO.UK

Carson House, 44 Legh Street
Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1UJ

Telephone: 01925 231151 Facsimile: 01925 232204

Email: philangles@btinternet.com



BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME 2013

February 20th - 23rd	Spring Stampex Specialist Exhibition Cinderella and Revenue (no meeting)
April 20th	Members' Meeting Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY. Speaker Stuart Henderson; Members displays; Bring & Buy
May 2nd - 4th	ECTP 2013 European Championship for Thematic Philately. Essen, Germany. International competitions and stamp fair (no meeting) www.ectp.de/home-englisch.htm
June 8th	BTA Annual General Meeting at Swinpex St Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR. AGM and display by ABPS Chairman John Baron
July 6th	Midpex Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN. BTA Table (no meeting) http://midpex.co.uk/
July 12th - 13th	ThematiX 13 King George Field Indoor Bowls Club Jubilee Way, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 1TR BTA Table; specialist thematic dealers (no meeting)
September 18th - 21st	Autumn Stampex Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London, N1 0QH Full National Exhibition all classes (no meeting)
October 12th	Fosbery Trophy and BTA Cup South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL. Competition entries (no meeting) www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php