

THEMESCENE

June 2018

In this issue we:

Tell the story behind the images

Tragic fire Captured in Postcards

With Brian Coates

Get canine!

Lunar New Year

With Neil Pearce

and

Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks

With Russ Walker

Catch up on some meetings

BTA Meeting on Open Philately

Joint meeting with Glasgow Philatelic Society

As well as information about our AGM and all the usual features



BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, No.2. Whole Number 131

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CONSCIENCE - Political Extremism in the 1930s

Radio Hjeltp.
Founded in 1928 in Helsingør, with the Danish arm of the (International Red Help). The label, produced in the 1930s, was to support the victims of fascism.

Mail til spanske Børn ("Mail to Spanish Children") was sold by DSU - Dansk Socialdemokratisk Ungdom (Danish Socialdemocratic Youth) during a large campaign in 1939 to help German socialist democratic refugees. The fund was named after the Italian politician (Giuseppe Matteotti), murdered in 1934 by Italian fascists.

Above and Right - During the 1930s political extremism flourished in Denmark, as elsewhere in Europe. *Aldrig mere Krig* is the Danish Abbreviation of *Angemædelsestjenesten Internationale Fælles*.

Above - Postcard 24 April 1937 to Copenhagen, produced by the **Women's Disarmament Committee** in Geneva, and with Danish translation of "Two Families" on the reverse.

Right - Cover 29 September 1937 to a Danish volunteer fighting with the **Thälmann Battalion** in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. The letter was routed via Helsingør to avoid German censorship; it was redirected from Alhambra, the headquarters of the International Brigades to Alhambra del Vayo, a convalescent centre, so presumably Jørgen Højberg had been wounded.

Far Right - Ernst Thälmann was a German Communist politician who died in August 1944 in the Buchenwald concentration camp. The 70th birthday commemorative enclosure sheet was issued by the DGB 18 April 1956.

Below - Label for a large box of matches proudly displaying the King's portrait.

Political extremism in Europe

CONFLICT - King Christian X, Alsang

The occupation inspired the Danish people to renew their love of their national song heritage in the form of **Alsang**, people from all walks of life congregating in open air places. This was also seen as a symbol of peaceful demonstration against the occupation. The first meeting took place in Alsang on early on 4 July 1940 when 1500 people turned up. In the following weeks numbers and places increased rapidly, and on 1 September a total of around 740,000 people gathered all over the country.

Right - Picture postcard of King Christian X riding through the streets of Copenhagen without any need for security. Seen as a Christmas card 17 December 1941 to Helsingborg in Sweden.

The King became a symbol of freedom and stayed in Denmark throughout the occupation. He was extremely popular and the variety of labels produced with his image bear witness to this.

Left - Label with a map of Denmark and the King's motto: GOD PRESERVE DENMARK.

Right - label with a youthful photo of the King and the Danish coat of arms below.

Below - Label for a large box of matches proudly displaying the King's portrait.

1912-1942
30-year Jubilee on the Throne

Pin with C and X
for Christian X

1870-1940
The King's 70-year birthday

"Kongemarken" was produced for King Christian's 70th birthday 24 September 1940 and was much used during the occupation to show Danish allegiance. The pin was produced in both silver and gold, in different versions, and the income was used for charitable purposes.

CHRISTIAN X
TENDSTIKKER

The King and the people

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REGULAR COLUMNS

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EDITORIAL

Wendy Buckle

It's the June issue, so it's AGM time, held as usual at Swinpex. Do come along if you can and let the Committee know of any ideas you may have to make the Society as relevant as possible to yourself. We want to make it work for you. Over the next few months we will not only be planning our 2019 Programme, but also the one for 2020. If you look at our annual accounts on page 60 you will see that we have already set aside some money to enable us to support the next big home international exhibition: London 2020. Then at Autumn Stampex we are planning a really big display of Pictorials - see the Editorial on the next page. Put the dates in your diary now!

A very pleasant task at every AGM is to present the winner of the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl, awarded each year to the person who in the opinion of the Committee had written the best article for *Themescene* the previous year. This year (by a margin of one vote!) the award goes to Chris Wheeler for his article "A day at Kew Gardens". In joint second places were Chris Yardley with "Stamps defining social history" and Owen Green with "From classics scholar to classical geologist". My personal thanks go to them and everyone else who contributes: without them there would be no magazine.

We have recruited no new members since our last issue, but we are pleased to welcome back one 'returner': Mr. Simon Moorcroft of London.

With great regret we have to announce the death of four of our members. Richard Wheeler and Peter Denly were long-serving members of the BTA Committee, and their obituaries are on pages 61-62. Martin Ellam was a great advocate of thematics and Chairman of the West of England Thematic Society. Sue Thatcher was a regular supporter of BTA meetings and had been our guest speaker at our meeting at Spring Stampex this year. We send our sympathies to their families. 

BTA WEEKEND 2018

5th - 7th OCTOBER 2018

Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel

It's not too late to book!

With three guest speakers, four sessions for attendees displays, and a chance to spend a full afternoon browsing thematic dealer David Griffith's stock (or take a break and explore beautiful Oxford) there is a full programme.

The full details and booking form are available in previous editions of *Themescene*, or on the web at

www.britishthematic.org.uk/kcfinder/upload/files/Weekend%20booking.pdf

Day delegates are very welcome: Saturday £15.00; Sunday £7.50; or join us for dinner and the evening session on Saturday for £37.00.

CHAIRMAN

Barry Stagg

Today is a difficult day for me. On the one hand I have been promising myself I should spend some time writing up some recent material I have bought, but on the other hand the sun is shining and the garden needs some work! The hard decisions philatelists need to make these days!!

But one thing I must do today is to tell you about the exciting agreement the BTA has made with the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS): the Autumn Stampex in 2020 will have a Pictorial theme. We will have between 60 to 160 frames in total of Thematic Philately, Open Philately and Postcards exhibits, some competitive, others non-competitive, on show. And each exhibit can be between one to five frames (and sometimes eight) so I'm sure we all have enough material to fill at least a frame! We are aiming to make it the biggest showing of Pictorial material in this country in a National show. All philatelists are welcome to show their Pictorial material but the BTA has also invited the Glasgow Thematic Society and the West of England Thematic Society to help us promote this event. There will be opportunities for publicising our Societies, having one or more meetings at Stampex and showing the philatelic community that Pictorial collecting is alive and well in the UK.

The event is in the early days of planning; however, we have already invited the American Thematic Association (ATA) to join us and send over some of their Pictorial material. These are exhibits which most of us have never seen and these, plus their Topical exhibits, will make for interesting viewing. I hope they decide to come.

I know many of you have never shown your collection to anybody, let alone exhibited it. I expect you are nervous about doing this for the first time. Please don't be. You do not need to qualify for any Stampex and you do not need to be part of the competition. You can show your material without fear of judgement and just for the pleasure of seeing your life's collection on display. You don't need a computer to lay out your entry as many entries are still hand written or typed. If you believe you could get your Pictorial collection on to at least sixteen sheets of A4, preferably telling a story, then you have over two years to prepare it! Please give it some thought and please give it a go as I know there are some great Pictorial collections out there and I'd love to see them. Future Themescenes will have more information about this event.

And talking about events and exhibiting your collection may I mention the BTA competitions at Ardingly in October. May I encourage you to take part. I appreciate that many of you live some way from Ardingly but you can post your entry to Steve, our competition organiser, or myself. I look forward to seeing them.

The sun is still shining and the weeds are still growing! But those stamps are still in the shoe box! What to do first? I'll think I'll have breakfast first and think about what to do later, . . . perhaps much later! 

A TRAGIC FIRE CAPTURED IN POSTCARDS

Brian Coates looks at the work of a local photographer

Frederick Downer was born in Watford in 1841, one of five children of a local stationer and hairdresser. Downer opened his first photographic studio in 1862 at the rear of his father's shop at 97 High Street. He went on to become Watford's most prominent photographer, recording the happenings of the small market town, as Watford was back then.

Downer's great advantage was his ability to record an event, and, within hours, distribute his photographic images, in the form of postcards, to the general public. In addition to happy events, Frederick Downer also recorded local disasters: postcards of floods, fires and funerals were all issued.

This article looks at four black and white postcards produced by Downer in 1908, recording the story of a terrible fire which started in a house at Bushey Heath on 23 June 1908, inhabited by the Scully family. It resulted in the deaths of Jeanette Scully, aged 26 (the wife of John Scully), and her three children: Joseph, aged three, John, aged two, and William, aged 3 months.

The Scullys had a grocery shop near the Foresters Arms public house. On the evening of 23 June 1908 John Scully intended to put a coat of tar on the hen house to the rear of the property. He placed a bucket of tar on the kitchen fire to heat. He then went upstairs to see his two oldest boys, who had previously been put to bed, leaving his wife downstairs with the baby. No sooner was his back turned than he heard screams from his wife in the kitchen. The tar had caught alight. John Scully rushed downstairs and tried to carry the bucket outside. The fire burnt his hands and he dropped the bucket. He then ran for water to douse the flames, but the only effect was to make the thick smoke more dense.

Thinking his wife and baby had escaped, John Scully tried to fight his way upstairs to save his boys. His efforts were foiled because the staircase was already in flames, and he was forced to try something else. He rushed to the front of the building, climbed on to the roof of the porch, and tried to enter the bedroom via the window. Despite his most heroic efforts, he failed to gain access to the room where his children were. Again and again the smoke and the flames drove him back. Eventually he fell unconscious and was taken to a neighbour's garden and then to hospital. His face and hands were black with smoke and his hair and eyebrows were singed.

Unbeknown to him, his wife had not escaped. She had climbed the stairs, but her retreat was cut off, and it is presumed that, blinded and choked with smoke, she and her two eldest children fell to the floor huddled together. The firemen later found her charred corpse, and those of her two children. The remains of the third child were not discovered until the following morning.

The tenants of the adjoining houses, shocked by the rapidity and fierceness of the fire, were powerless to assist the Scullys. All they could do was move their furniture into the street, assisted by many of their neighbours. The dividing wall to the building on the immediate right was burnt through in places. The whole row of buildings would have been gutted were it not for the efforts of the Bushey Fire Brigade, who, under Captain J. P.

Somers, did good work, though they were handicapped at first by the low pressure of water in the mains. Messrs. Sedgewick's Brigade were also summoned from Watford, but their services were not required.

The funerals took place on 26 June 1908. As can be seen from the postcards on the next page the event drew a large crowd from the local community and beyond. There was even a procession through the High Street. Bushey Fire Brigade were involved, both in the procession and at the graveside.

As the *Watford Observer* reported on Saturday 27 June 1908

“The catastrophe cast a gloom, not only over Bushey Heath itself, but the whole district. Sympathy with John Scully is widespread and his heroism, futile though it proved, will not soon be forgotten. Nor will the memory easily fade of the young mother who dared death and met it trying to save her children”.

Acknowledgement

This article was first published under the title “Behind the Lens: Frederick Downer of Watford” in *The Annual*, 2016, published by Watford & District Philatelic Society. 📖



The fire apparently in full force, though the flames have been hand-painted

*The aftermath
of the fire*



The funeral procession through Bushey Heath



At the funeral

QUERY CORNER

The following query was posted on the BTA website. Dieter Stein wishes to know if anyone has any information about the items illustrated, or whether there is any information on the Internet.

If you can help, please reply to him directly at P.Dieter-Stein@gmx.de with a copy to wendybuckle@btinternet.com for publication.

1:



These are overprinted "Hampshire Local Mail"

2:



3:



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Neil Pearce

The Lunar or Chinese New Year is an important event celebrating a turn in the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. It differs from the Western Gregorian calendar in that each lunar day averages 29.53 of a solar day. The Lunar Calendar may be anything from three to seven weeks behind the Gregorian Calendar, depending on the year.

In ancient China people used the ten Heavenly Stems and the twelve Earthly Branches to form a time-counting system which comprised a cycle of sixty years. Allocated to each of the Earthly Branches are twelve symbolic animals of the Zodiac, and the animal of a person's birth-year is regarded as their birth animal; the animals being snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit and dragon.

The celebrated Lunar festival is many centuries old and involves numerous customs and myths. The Lunar New Year may have originated in the Mesolithic Period in Europe, or even earlier, but is now essentially linked to the Chinese and their major migrations around the world. The event is celebrated in other Asian countries, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines, as well as neighbouring geographic areas.

Customs vary widely from country to country. Traditionally, the Festival was a time to honour deities as well as ancestors. Prior to a Lunar New Year's Day in China, families would gather in the evening for an annual reunion dinner. It was also customary for families to clean their houses in order to sweep away any ill-fortune, hopefully making way for incoming good luck. Doors and windows were decorated with red-coloured signs featuring popular themes such as 'good fortune' 'happiness' 'wealth' and 'longevity'. Other activities included lighting fire crackers and donating money in red paper envelopes.

Stamps issued to mark the Lunar New Year feature the specific animals listed above. It is only possible here to show a small selection of them. The Chinese Diaspora have settled in a large number of countries, and the Lunar New Year is a popular topic for stamp-issuing authorities. 📖



1998: Year of the Tiger

The Togolaise miniature sheet was drawn by a distinguished Chinese wildlife artist Liu Jiyu.



2001: Year of the Snake

Hong Kong shows four different species, including the cobra. Nevis probably has few Chinese descendants, but has taken the opportunity to issue a set likely to be popular with collectors.



2003: Year of the Ram
l-r: Argali Ram; Sheep; Tahr Ram; Gazelle Ram.

2004: Year of the Monkey
Canada depicts scenes from "Journey to the West" by the Chinese writer Wu Cheng-en.



2010: Year of the Tiger



2018: Year of the Dog
Dogs represent faithfulness, loyalty and hard work.



TEACHING OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS: CHINESE NEW YEAR AND ENCOURAGING STAMP COLLECTING

Russ Walker

As all collectors know, there is never any shortage of new issues from all over the world that celebrate Chinese New Year. At the Caledonian Philatelic Society in Glasgow, we thought we might use the occasion to target younger collectors to encourage them into the hobby.

For some time we have had good contacts with Glasgow Museums and learned that they planned a celebration of Chinese customs and New Year celebrations in Glasgow's celebrated Kelvin Hall and at the Riverside Museum, home of Glasgow's world renowned transport collection. The event was widely publicised on city websites and visitor and tourism sites.

We were given the opportunity to come along with some colourful displays on dogs (Year of the Dog) as well as to bring along material that children could use. The youngsters saw examples of early stamp collage postcards which were commonly produced in China and Hong Kong in the 1890s for sale to visitors. They were encouraged to produce their own collages. We had also collected British stamps showing dogs and these were used by the children to send postcards to themselves, friends or family. Many children have received very little personal mail so this helps them realise how our mail systems operate. Our Society also produced a flier which was distributed to pupils at our school stamp club as well as other places.

Most of the events were organised by a Chinese – Scottish charity called Ricefield Arts and the team of over twenty volunteers started setting up in one of the Kelvin Hall's large sports halls on the morning of the event. They had even organised a Lion Dance with the "Lion" travelling between venues. This generated a lot of interest and excitement.

Children attending were issued with a sheet on which to collect stickers with each table or display providing a different sticker. This encouraged them to visit each display. At our table we had a constant flow of children and parents and our 100 "Year of the Dog" postcards ran out in the first hour or so. We estimate that in total several hundreds, perhaps up to 500, parents and children visited our display and activity tables. Many parents expressed interest and some were very enthusiastic about encouraging their children to start collecting stamps. Where we could, we provided starter packs for these children.

We are planning further events in collaboration with the Museum service and will target different groups including the retired. We would like to spread interest in the various aspects of our hobby and perhaps encourage new members to join a local society. Working with the local museum service seems a very good way of doing this and targeting suitable groups.

Caledonian Philatelic Society: www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk/

Ricefield Arts: <http://ricefield.org.uk/our-team/> 

EXHIBITING PAGE

Talk by Birthe King at BTA meeting 14 April

The meeting was entitled ‘Aspects of Pictorial Collecting’. Anyone who thought that meant Thematic, Open and Postcards was in for a bit of a surprise. While the “Big Three” are those classes, looked at from an international perspective, Pictorial classes encompass:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| ○ Thematic Philately | International FIP Class |
| ○ Open Philately | International FIP Class |
| ○ Postcards | FEPA (European) Class |
| ○ Cinderella | National British Class |
| ○ Ephemera | Britain, USA and Australia |
| ○ Topical Philately | USA |
| ○ Display Class | USA (Open Philately) |

Thematic Philately

Collection of stamps and other philatelic items that illustrate a theme. The term ‘theme’ has a dynamic meaning implying the personal elaboration by the collector, who develops a story around it. A collection consists of the widest possible range of philatelic material, from the widest possible range of postal authorities, without any time constraint. Every item selected should be relevant to the theme and arranged in the most suitable order to tell a story. The outline of the story is presented as a Plan, showing the steps of the development of the theme. It is similar to the Contents Page of a book and is normally organised in chapters and sub-chapters, making visible a logical flow of the story along a clear and consistent thread.

A thematic collection is fascinating because it allows for continuous improvement. The more you get familiar with the subject the more you discover new details for supporting your story and acquiring the relevant philatelic items. The more you know about the material from using philatelic literature, by browsing through auction catalogues and visiting the dealers, and by studying other collections on display at stamp shows, the more you can improve your development when adding new items.

Open Philately

This has no FIP Commission, but the FIP has issued Guidelines on Judging Open Philately. It began as something new, different and fun and was first recognised as a discipline by the FIP in 2012. Open Philately seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting and to allow philatelists to include objects from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop, an understanding of the philatelic material shown. It provides an opportunity to present the range of research undertaken by showing the philatelic material in its cultural, social, industrial, commercial, or other context and to show wider and deeper knowledge of the topic. By allowing an extended range of material Open Philately has the further objective of bringing new collectors to the skill and enjoyment of exhibiting and demonstrating its attractiveness as a hobby.

The Guidelines indicate that exhibits should show the dual aspects of philatelic and non-philatelic material. The exhibit must develop the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner. The philatelic material must be at least 50% of the exhibit, but may

be more. The wide variety of non-philatelic material is important as it will influence the judging of Treatment as well as Material.

OPEN PHILATELY MARKING SCHEDULE			
Treatment and Importance			30
Knowledge and Research			35
	Philatelic Knowledge and Research	20	
	Non-Philatelic Knowledge and Research	15	
Material			30
	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	
Presentation			5
Total			100

There has been a very recent change to the marking schedule. Until now Treatment and Importance was split up into Title and Plan (10 marks), Philatelic Treatment (5), Non-Philatelic Treatment (5), Philatelic Importance (5) and Non-Philatelic Importance (5). From now it will not be broken down; there will be a single category of Treatment and Importance 30 points. It is important to understand what is meant. Treatment is the relationship between the title of the exhibit, the scope of the story, and the structure of the exhibit. Importance can be difficult; indicate to the judges what is important and say why. To get good marks for knowledge and research you must show a thorough knowledge of the subject through the choice of material and use of brief but sufficient text.

Under Material, all philatelic material must be original. All non-philatelic material should be original where at all possible. This can be difficult. Where an original item is owned by, say, a museum, then it is permissible to request a scan of the item and show that. But make it very clear why the original is unobtainable. If you want to use an illustration from a book you can scan that and include it with a note "book is owned by the exhibitor". Don't cut books up!

All material - philatelic and non-philatelic - should be in the best possible condition. Give an indication of the rarity of all material.

Postcards

These are governed by FEPA Special Regulations which are still under review, but unlikely to change in the near future. A Picture Postcard must have an illustration. Furthermore Picture Postcards (circulated through the postal service or in any other manner treated postally) must show that they have been through a postal service. If a card is sent at the normal postal rate this only need to indicated once; but any unusual route or rate should be written up. Unused (non-postally treated) Picture Postcards must have printed text or printed address lines, for example a postage area, which indicate that the card is meant to

be posted without an envelope. Where possible include information about the production of a card: publisher, date, series etc. If you cannot find any information say so: it indicates that you have done the research. Look analytically at a postcard to see what it illustrates; even a topical view can contain for instance buildings, people or methods of transport which may be relevant to your topic. Early postcards are preferred over more recent ones. Be careful if your exhibit covers a very long period: more modern cards use printing methods which produce loud colours and sharp images which do not always sit well with earlier cards. The exhibit must be able to be displayed in exhibition frames of the standard international format of 16 A4 pages per frame or equivalent.

Ephemera

Great Britain has the Ephemera Society, devoted to the collection, conservation, study and educational uses of handwritten and printed ephemera. The term 'ephemera' covers a wide range of documents including leaflets, handbills, tickets, trade cards, programmes and playbills, printed tins and packaging, advertising inserts, posters, newspapers and much more. In the words of the Society's founder Maurice Rickards "the minor transient documents of everyday life". Essentially produced to meet the needs of the day, such items reflect the moods and mores of past times in a way that more formal records cannot. Collectors of printed ephemera vary in their approach. Some focus on the ephemera of a particular trade or profession, others are interested in its social or graphic history. Other ephemerists collect documents simply as evocative reminders of the past.

Topical Philately

Supported by the American Topical Association, who say 'Topical stamp collectors develop themes or story lines based on images or subjects of the collected stamps. They assemble their collections according to themes or topics instead of by country'. The ATA sell checklists on individual subjects.

Recording all this in the magazine gives the appearance of it being a serious and intensive presentation. Far from it! Very sensibly Birthe provided four handouts which allowed people to revisit and read in their own time while she spent the time giving an overall view, followed by observations on her own collection. She also allowed plenty of time for questions, eagerly taken up by the audience.

It was an informative morning, much enjoyed by everyone present. Those exhibitors who could not make it missed a real chance to boost their collecting.

SPEAKER & MEMBERS' DISPLAYS

Following Birthe King's talk

Following her seminar, Birthe King showed the first two sections from her international award-winning Open exhibit *Denmark: Conscience, Conflict and Camps 1932 - 1949*. The third part - "Camps" - is currently being developed into its own eight-frame display. Conscience looked at political extremism in Europe in the 1930s. Conflict covered the Occupation of Denmark from 1940 until 05 May 1945. The title page was in itself an exemplar of what to include, and outlined:

- Aim: To illustrate the lead up to World War II, developments and events during the occupation, and its aftermath exemplified in refugee camps - all in relation to Denmark. It will provide a taste of the vast amount of material available, through pictures and ephemera, but particularly through the philatelic items, each of which tells its own social-philatelic story.
- Structure. The structure of the exhibit is mainly chronological, but material or particular topics have been grouped, and some cross-referencing has been included to tie the information together. The title divides the exhibit into three main sections: Conscience, Conflict, and Camps, consisting of a number of sub-sections.
- Choice of Material. Both the philatelic and non-philatelic material has been chosen to reflect the best possible examples to illustrate the story, not only from a postal history point of view but also to make the exhibit as attractive as possible. Although the exhibit is objective in as far as it includes different sides of the story, the choice of individual items will necessarily be subjective, and this is particularly poignant in the last section on refugee camps.
- Plan [not reproduced here]
- Bibliography [not reproduced here]

After lunch members displayed their own material:

- Grace Davies 'From one international organisation to another' was a history of the League of Nations through to its successor the United Nations. The display included a letter from the League of Nations, photos of major players and stamps issued by the United Nations, whose first meeting was in London.
- Brian Sole described his display on the early philatelic congresses of Great Britain as 'a mixture of Open and Cinderella'. The very first was held in Manchester in 1909, followed by London in 1910, Birmingham in 1911, Margate in 1912 (delegates received tickets for free entrance to the Pavilion and beach entertainments), Edinburgh in 1913, London 1914, resuming after the War with Newcastle in 1920 and Harrogate in 1921, where the Role of Distinguished Philatelists was started
- Graham Boutle showed a display on the oil and petroleum industries with a whole range of material, some of it very colourful, including covers, cards, invoices, price lists, bank notes and meter marks.
- Mike Blackman displayed extracts of items from his collection on Umbrellas, including postcards, trade cards including ones printed on kaolin coated paper known as 'porcelain cards', invoices, poster stamps and Mulready caricatures. Did you know that France has its own equivalent of St. Swithun? St. Medard is their patron saint of umbrella sellers, and has a similar mythology to Swithun.
- Lesley Marley showed her one frame exhibit on Baleen, a keratin substance found in the mouths of whales which acts as a filter when feeding. It was a product much sought after during the days of whaling for its many uses including corsets and stays and parasol ribs.
- Wendy Buckle showed 'Liepaja: Latvia's second city' which told the story of Latvia's main seaport from the early nineteenth century, when it was part of the Russian Empire, through invasion and occupation in World War I, its role as part of an independent country between the wars and finally its situation as part of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Latvia after World War II.

- Jim Etherington told us about The British Expeditionary Force, 1940, showing postcards, embroidered postcards, covers, letters and flyers telling the story of the BEF and the evacuation of Dunkirk.
- Peter Weir also had a military theme, but this time how wounded soldiers were rescued and treated in World War I, starting from the wounded still on the battlefield through to treatment in hospital. As well as ambulance men, animals including horses, dogs and camels first reached the wounded. From the front line they were taken by field ambulance to railheads to be transferred to ambulance trains and then either to a hospital in France or by ship to the UK. A range of material was shown including postcards published by the Great Western Railway.
- Anne Stammers showed a display described as an Open “work in progress” on copper, one of the first metals to be mined. It has been in use since 8,000 BCE. Bronze - an alloy of copper and tin - has been used since the Ancient Egyptians. Another alloy is Bell Metal, a form of bronze but with a higher tin content. Malachite is an ore of copper which has long been used for jewellery.
- Peter Wood has started a “potential” Open display on “A Holiday in Ireland”: a tour round the country via vignettes from Victorian letter headings, postcards, hotel labels and leaflets. 

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Other Collectables £5,000 cover - £35 p.a.* £10,000 for £60 p.a.*

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GB Philatelic Congresses



*Petrol advert
and logo*



*Postcard made of stamps,
with umbrella theme*



Baleen: final drawing for Niue 1983 bowhead Whale



*Copper kettle: the
coppersmiths' craftsmen's sign*

JOINT BTA / GLASGOW THEMATIC SOCIETY MEETING

Charles Oppenheim

On 21st April, as part of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Annual Congress, a meeting of thematic collectors took place in one of the rooms at the Dewars Centre, Perth. It was an open event, with attendees invited to display up to eight sheets on any thematic topic. The event, which lasted 90 minutes in all, was chaired by Bob Henshilwood, Chairman of the Glasgow Thematic Society. The format required each person who displayed to provide a very brief introduction to their topic. There were three rounds of displays, with twenty minutes for viewing and chatting after each one. About 25 people attended from various societies, and there were fourteen displays. And what a range of topics were covered! They included the history of flight (balloons and



aircraft) from Bob Catto, birds, things that help people travel on and in the water (ranging from logs, the earliest method of river transportation, via the first submarine, to various ships). One display, from Ken McChlery comprised “bottom drawer” material, including airships, items related to Jail Square in Glasgow (the place where public hangings took place for many centuries) as well as some items relating to the village of Anderson which was swallowed up by Glasgow many years ago. Maureen Mathieson of Glasgow Thematic Society, who helped organise the event with me, first (there was another one to follow) displayed material on the Bayeux Tapestry. Other displays included one entitled “That’s Entertainment”, covering TV, sports and stamp collecting and my display of patent-related advertising Mulready envelopes, plus two tobacco silver foil wrappers relating to patents. Margaret Morris displayed some fascinating examples of design errors on astronomy-related stamps, whilst there were two different displays of polar exploration. Others showed the Royal Yacht Britannia and its travels, and Charles Dickens. There was an amazing display of “interesting numbers” by George Henshilwood, including booklets whose face value came to 100, and examples of stamps showing prime numbers and whose numerals totally 2016. Not surprisingly, he has won many awards for his thematic displays including the ASPS Congress display this year.



Maureen Mathieson closed the event with a second display, this time on the theme of “Christmas Dinner”.

A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. I never cease to be impressed by the range of themes, and the imaginative use of materials by thematic collectors. I suspect we have set a precedent for such joint events in the future, maybe every year at the Scottish Congress . . . I took a few, unfortunately very poor quality photos of the event. Alas, photography and I don’t get on that well.

HERE AND THERE

LONDON 2020

The next World Stamp Exhibition to be held in London will be at the Business Design Centre, Islington (where Stampex is held) from Saturday 02 May to Saturday 09 May 2020. Competitive classes will include Thematic and Open Philately (but not Postcards). There will be about 3,000 frames available and to enable as many exhibitors as possible to be accepted, the frames will be used twice during the week with exhibits being swapped on the evening of Tuesday 5 May. The closing date for applications will be the end of February 2019, which means that effectively if you are not already eligible to enter then this Autumn's Stampex will be your last chance to qualify.

But even if you don't compete you will not want to miss this major philatelic occasion. The BTA will have a presence, more details on that to follow.

ITALIA 2018

Italia 2018" will take place in Verona between 23 and 25 November. As well as an exhibition of Philatelic Literature there will be a competitive exhibition focusing on World War I: "La Grande Guerra". It is open to international exhibitors who wish to display material from World War I, including its causes and effects. Each exhibit should be between 5 and 10 frames (each frame 12 sheets) and it should have been granted at least 75 points in a national exhibition. The exhibits can be registered up to 31 July. The cost of each frame is 40 euro. Thematic Philately is the only Pictorial class included.

MUSEUM OF THE YEAR 2018

The Art Fund has announced its five finalists for the prestigious "Museum of the Year" award. All stamp collectors must be delighted that one of the finalists is the Postal Museum. The Art Fund describes its award as "The biggest museum prize in the world, which seeks out and celebrates innovation and exceptional achievement in museums and galleries across the UK". The winner will receive £100,000 and each finalist will receive £10,000 "to support future activity". The winner will be announced on 5th July.

RPSL ENCOURAGES YOUNG PHILATELISTS

The Royal Philatelic Society London is to organise a philatelic visit to London for young philatelists aged between 18 and 35. London is still regarded as the philatelic capital of the world and the programme aims at proving this claim. The visit will include the following philatelic highlights:

September 12: Guided Tour of Autumn Stampex and in the evening attending the RPSL President's Dinner

September 13: Guided Tour of the Royal Philatelic Society London where a part of The Royal Philatelic Collection will be exhibited by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen.

September 14: Guided Tour of the British Library Philatelic Collection and The Postal Museum London

Continued on next page

HERE AND THERE continued

RPSL ENCOURAGES YOUNG PHILATELISTS *continued from previous page*

The costs of travel, accommodation and attendance at the dinner will be sponsored in full. Other expenses (meals, etc) will have to be paid for by the delegates.

Unfortunately, the number of participants is limited to maximum 20. The selection of the participants will be based on their philatelic CV.

All participants must be members of the RPSL or should apply for membership. For those still full time students, there is 'associate membership' with an annual fee of only £10. All others should apply for full membership. More information is available from John Davies FRPSL, Council Member of the RPSL, who has arranged the programme (davies1890@btinternet.com).

WHEN BROWSING THE DEALERS

Here's a tip I have been asked to pass on from thematic dealer Bob Lee. When you have a checklist to take to fairs put your name and phone number on it. If you forget and leave it at the Thematix stall Bob will happily call you and if necessary post it back to you. No-one wants to lose valuable information.

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HOW I STARTED

Ray Brown combined career and collecting

An ingrowing toenail! Probably not the answer you might expect in response to a question as to why I became interested in philately. Like many youngsters, I was fairly active and keen on sport, so the news that I would have to rest my foot as much as possible after the nail had been removed was not well received and caused my parents some concern. To keep me sitting down, my dad came up with the idea of introducing me to stamps. A friend he knew had an old collection which was kindly passed on, so instead of playing cricket during the school summer holidays of 1942 or 1943 (I cannot be certain which), warm sunny days were spent looking through a genuine old-time accumulation of stamps, which I vaguely recall were mainly from Germany and other European countries.

The ploy worked. My interest was aroused, and though not yet a teenager, I became curious to know more about other countries generally. No travel to foreign countries in those days, as many were involved in the Second World War. When the new school term started, I recall swapping some marbles (including a rare red Alley-bonker) for a similar number of stamps (also red) but definitely not rare. Not a plate 77 or even a 225 in sight! To foster my interest further, Dad bought a Whitfield King catalogue and he too became hooked. We lived in a picturesque old cottage on the edge of Windsor Forest, and because of his knowledge of birds, he began collecting stamps on that subject. A very early thematic collector - he loved the first Angolan bird set which took him ages to complete.

Now there were two enthusiasts. Dad took me to join the Windsor and Slough Philatelic Society, a relatively young club, who during those wartime years held meetings on Sunday afternoons in the Windlesora Cafe opposite the castle. There, many helpful members and a very friendly dealer known to all as 'Sammy' offered advice to us both on ways of developing our collections. Mine began to concentrate on British colonials, as I found the King George VI issues attractive, and usually provided an insight into their country. Occasionally the Society held a small auction in which a mixture could be bought at a reasonable price. Then Sammy suggested Aden would be a good country to collect as it had only started issuing its own stamps a few years previously in 1937. Prior to that, Indian stamps were used there. He kindly let me have the 'Dhow' set at only a little over face value, also some Indian stamps with Aden postmarks, and the search for these still continues today.

My banking career started with National Provincial Bank at Windsor, and after working in several branches I eventually moved from Portsmouth to Bedford in 1962. And of course joined that stamp society. At one of their meetings I bought a mixed lot which contained a First Day Cover featuring the Bank of Norway; and this gave me the idea of forming a collection with banking and finance as its theme. So, tongue in cheek, I wrote to the Bank asking for information. Within a week I received a lengthy and detailed response in perfect English setting out its history from 1816 onwards, how capital was raised initially, and how despite being neutral during the War it was forced to fund the German occupation. My next find was an Austrian stamp commemorating their National Bank. Another letter, the same helpful response - unfortunately in perfect German.

As the collection developed occasionally these enquiries produced more surprises. One bank did not know its own country had issued a stamp on its anniversary, another thought I was applying for a job, but eventually sent a specimen of its seal which was the subject of their stamp's design; and a third wrote about the artist in the Middle East who, unable to find a camel to draw, copied one from a cigarette packet. And there's more ...

One problem with choosing an unusual theme: no stamps on the topic existed, so many hours were spent going through *SG Simplified* noting those featuring banks, stock exchanges, mints, lotteries, bankers, banknotes and other financial subjects. Though only modest at that time, this listing is now approaching 2,000 items. Plenty of material to look for, and then there are relevant postmarks, meter marks, perfin, postal history items etc. which can also be included.

In 1969, the neighbouring Luton Society staged the first U.K. National Thematic Stamp Exhibition. Having never entered a national competition before, and with no idea of what was required, this seemed a good opportunity to get other peoples' views. Pages were written up, and fortunately comments were favourable. At the viewing, one humorous suggestion was that I could include the Ceylon 2 cent 'rubber tapping' stamp to illustrate 'bouncing cheques'. Light-hearted yes, but it did give me an idea. I had an attractive penny black on cover lettered RD, originally obtained simply because these were my initials. In banking terms, they stand for 'Refer to Drawer' the endorsement banks put on cheques when the drawer had insufficient funds to meet them. This cover has since been mounted with a letter about bankruptcy, and makes an interesting item (*see next page*). Perhaps stretching the boundaries a little, but after all, doesn't the world's first stamp deserve a



It all started with the Bank of Norway

BANKRUPTCY

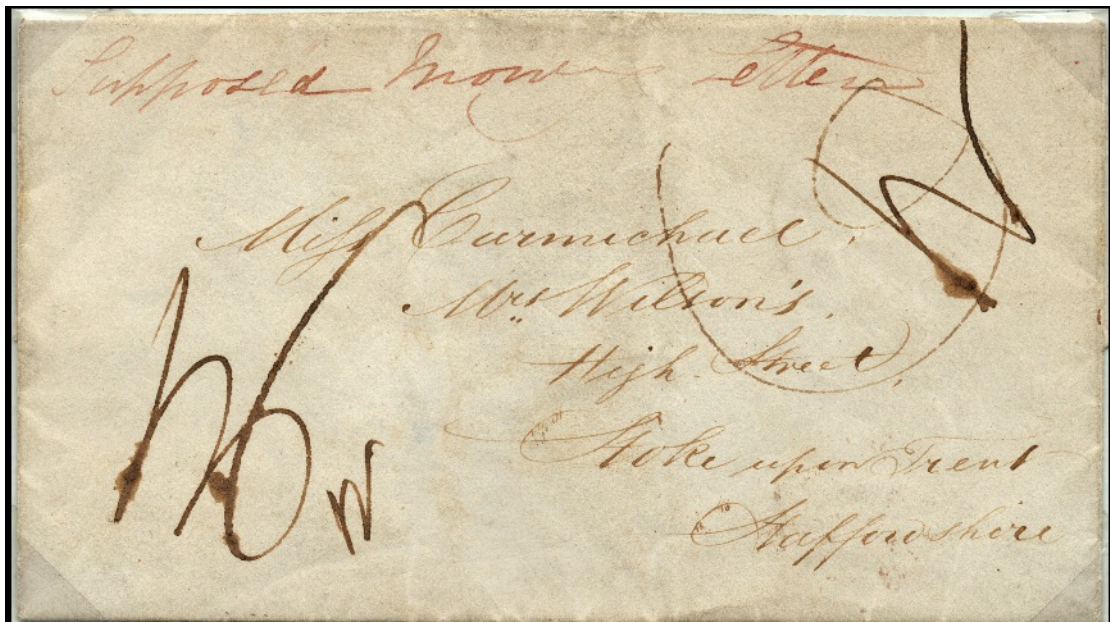
The word 'bank' is derived from 'banco', Italian for bench. Merchants would trade from these, but their bench would be broken if they could not meet their obligations. Cheques which cannot be met for lack of funds are endorsed 'R.D. -Refer to Drawer'.



"Id Black", the world's first stamp, lettered "RD"

This letter from Sheffield to Rotherham Bank states:

"The dividend due to the name of Carmichael from Brunel's (?) Estate is 2d in the £ on a deff y.a/c £8..2/-, the amount being 1/4d, less the postage of your letter 10d. Leaves 6d due to you, which you will find under the seal of this letter 11.2.1837."



*Unusual Post Office endorsement in red "Supposed Money Letter"
Charge of 9d deleted by initial, and double rate of 1/6d applied*

The authorities were aware of this illegal means of sending small sums through the post, but still handled this as a valuable package even though it was only "supposed" it contained a coin. Money Letters were packets containing valuables, for which receipts were obtained on delivery.

AGENDA

For the 27th Annual General Meeting of the British Thematic Association to be held on Saturday June 10th 2017 at 2.30 p.m. at Swinpex at St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting published in Themescene September 2017
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017

6. Election of Officers

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

Barry Stagg	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	Charles Oppenheim	Membership Secretary
Currently	Wendy Buckle	Editor Themescene
Currently	Michael Blackman	Advertising Manager
Currently	Steve Cross	Displays Organiser
Currently	Lesley Marley	FIP Representative
Currently	Jon Matthias	Webmaster

8. Ratification by the membership of appointment of

Grahame Boutle	Examiner
----------------	----------

9. Any Other Business

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and any other motions for discussion should be received by the Secretary by June 3rd 2018.

The meeting will be followed by a display by Grace Davies: *Alfred Nobel & his Legacy*.

Signed: ***M. Anne Stammers*** (Hon. Secretary)

Dated: 28th April 2018

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION
Account for the year ended 31 December 2017

2016	INCOME		2017
3,421	Subscriptions		3,166
393	Legacy (2016)		0
38	Sales and other income		78
612	Weekend net receipts in advance - (surplus 2016)		270
<u>4,464</u>			<u>3,514</u>
	EXPENDITURE		
1,835	"Themescene" - Printing and distribution expenses	1,636	
-360	less : Advertising Income and Donation	<u>590</u>	1,046
64	Meetings (incl. AGM)		15
144	BTA Cup expenses	114	
-15	less : entry fees	<u>-167</u>	-53
0	Committee Meeting expenses		316
88	Publicity		65
0	Web Site		124
124	Insurance		125
213	Affiliations		205
170	Administration expenses		174
132	Binders (book value written off)		0
<u>2,395</u>			<u>2,017</u>
612	to London 2020 Reserve (2016)		-
-	to Weekend events reserve		270
1,457	Surplus		1,227
<u>4,464</u>			<u>3,514</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Accumulated fund		
6,930	Balance at 1.1.2017	8,387	
1,457	add : Surplus for the year	<u>1,227</u>	9,614
710	Weekend Events Reserve		980
612	London 2020 Reserve		612
46	Website Development Reserve		-
<u>9,755</u>			<u>11,206</u>
	Represented by:		
4,890	Cash at Bank: Deposit Account		4,890
6,206	Current Account		7,554
11,096			12,444
-944	less: Subscriptions Received in advance		-1,058
-397	less: Amounts due or Received in advance		-180
<u>9,755</u>			<u>11,206</u>



Hon Treasurer, P.J. Wood



Hon. Examiner, G.C. Boutle

18/2/2018

OBITUARY:

RICHARD JOHN DUDLEY WHEELER

Richard had a lifelong passion for puppetry, entertainment and theatre. Aged nine, he gave his first paid puppet show, and at fourteen, wrote and appeared in his first pantomime. Following school, Richard wanted to join RADA. However, his father refused, so he studied Catering and Hotel Management at Westminster Hotel School. He then joined the RAF as a Catering Officer.

Demobbed in 1959, Richard entertained professionally, appearing as John Dudley. He was head Puppeteer on “The Telegoons” TV series, and was a Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star. He promoted many top musical acts at Bishop’s Stortford Rhodes Centre, and as Chairman of the Concert Artists Association, made great friends with the cast of Dad’s Army.

As theatres closed, Richard turned to toastmastering, later becoming President of the Society of London Toastmasters. He met many Royals, and appeared on Blue Peter.

During the 1970s, Richard performed puppet plays in the Royal London parks as The Dudley Telepuppets. He took his puppet theatre to stately homes, Cheltenham Race Course and even the Palace in Amman, Jordan, to entertain King Hussein’s family.

He balanced his performing with a career lecturing at catering colleges and at 55, he restarted full time children’s entertainment, finally retiring at 66.

In retirement, Richard returned to his boyhood hobby of philately. A WETS Roadshow at the Taw and Torridge Stamp Club first introduced Richard to thematic collecting, and he enthusiastically started a collection first exhibited as “Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets” and later as “Evolution of Puppetry”. Between 2006 and 2015 his exhibit was shown worldwide, winning many awards and reaching Gold in Essen in 2015. His contribution to the BTA will be long remembered. Joining the Committee in 2006 he became Chairman two years later and was a member of the GB Team at International competitions: Eurothema, held in London in 2007, and Planete des Timbres in Paris in 2010. He was a great contributor to *Themescene*, publishing four major articles one of which won the Franceska Rapkin Memorial Bowl.

Richard was always happy to combine philately and puppetry. In 2010 he attended a BTA meeting in Perth where he wowed adults and children alike with Mr Punch and a favourite cat character. In 2014 he was the first ever guest speaker at a BTA Weekend, again combining philately, puppetry and conjuring. He will, as they say, be a hard act to follow. 📖



OBITUARY: PETER DENLY

Peter's early career was in the Merchant Navy, rising to the rank of Captain. It was this that inspired his main thematic collection *Man's Marine Adventure*. The exhibit looked at the ships themselves, the uses they have been put to and the various aids and equipment which have been developed to increase safety and navigation at sea, from early days through sail power, to steam and then nuclear propulsion. A small excerpt from this won the BTA Cup in 2006 and he presented the full display at the BTA AGM in 2007, a wonderful exhibit enlivened with personal stories, experiences and memories. The same year Peter was a member of the British Team taking part in Eurothema; his exhibit was part of the team that came third in the competition. In 2010 he accompanied Brian Sole and Richard Wheeler to the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies annual congress in Perth.

Peter joined the Committee of the BTA in June 2004, taking over the job of Membership Secretary. His first challenge was to replace the membership database with more current software, choosing Access. This was no easy task and required a lot of patient data inputting to set it up and migrate the records. The benefits soon paid off with detailed information and ease of data sharing where necessary with Committee members. He finally resigned from the Committee because of ill health in 2016.

Like many philatelists, Peter had more than one collection. He was a member of the Exhibition Study Group, serving as its President in 2007; he had a collection on the 1940 centenary of the Penny Black, and had a specialist postal history collection on the Scottish Additional Halfpenny. Excerpts from these were shown at the BTA Weekend in 2016: the idea for this regular event having first been proposed by him. He worked tirelessly for our hobby. As well as all his work for the BTA he was heavily involved in his local society and local Federation and will be sadly missed by many people.



GROUP MEMBERS

Alba Stamp Group

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

Astro Space Stamp Society

Mr. J. Dugdale, Glebe Cottage, Speymouth, Mosstodloch, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7LE

Web: www.astropacestampssociety.com

Bicycle Stamp Club

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

Email: brian.sole@btinternet.com

Bird Stamp Society

Mr. A. Statham, Ashlyns Lodge, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 2ST

Email: tony.statham@sky.com

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

Captain Cook Society

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

Web: <http://www.captaincookssociety.com/ccsu1.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

Exhibition Study Group

Mr. D. Knight, 2 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN4 9RF.

Email: donaldrk@btinternet.com Web: www.exhibitionstudygroup.org

Glasgow Thematic Society

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

Guild of St. Gabriel

Rev. Derek West, 35 Wallasey Crescent, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8SA.

Masonic Philatelic Club

Mr. K. J. Elston, 21 Copperbeech Close, Harborne, Birmingham, B32 2HT.

Email: masonicphilatelicclub@yahoo.co.uk

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. R. E. Robertson, 17 Whitehall Road, Northburn Park, Cramlington,
Northumberland, NE23 3QW

Web: <http://shipstampssociety.com/>

West of England Thematic Society

Mrs. S. Ellam, 101 Dunraven Drive, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 6AT

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

BTA NEWS

BTA MEMBERS HONOURED

We are very proud to announce that two of our members have recently received awards. Vice Chairman Jim Etherington receives the ABPS Award of Merit, given in respect of services to local, federation and/or national philately. Erene Grieve receives the ABPS Congress Medal. She has worked tirelessly promoting stamp collecting to schools and young people for twenty years.



Erene will be presented with her medal at Congress at Gateshead in July



Jim receiving his award from Yvonne Wheatley, Chairwoman of the ABPS Awards Committee

GROUP NEWS

GUILD OF ST GABRIEL



The Guild has a new website: <http://stgabrieluk.org/> Among other features it includes scanned pages from collections, one of each on: William the Conqueror; A Tour of Israel; Protestant Reformation; Popes; Palestine; Joan of Arc; Israel; The Bible; Angels. They hope to expand this section.

BTA WEEKEND 2018

5th - 7th OCTOBER 2018

Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel

It's not too late to book!

The full details and booking form are available in previous editions of *Themescene*, or on the web at

www.britishthematic.org.uk/kcfinder/upload/files/Weekend%20booking.pdf

Day delegates are very welcome: Saturday £15.00; Sunday £7.50; or join us for dinner and the evening session on Saturday for £37.00.

BTA AND THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

Any individual has rights under the GDPR in respect of the BTA, and we are developing a policy statement in the matter, which will appear in the near future on our web site. This article summarises the main points of our policy. Your rights include:

- The right to see the personal data we hold about you;
- The right to rectification if any personal data we hold about you is inaccurate or incomplete;
- The right to ask us to delete any data we hold about you that is out of date or inaccurate;
- The right under some circumstances to prevent the processing of your data;
- The right to object to us using your personal data for particular purposes, in particular marketing.

What Data Do We Collect?

Depending upon your interactions with us, we may collect some or all of the following personal data about you:

- name;
- date of birth;
- gender;
- contact information such as post, email addresses and telephone numbers;
- collecting interests;
- subscription payment details;
- receipt of the magazine in print or by email

How Do We Use Your Data?

All personal data is processed and stored securely, for no longer than is necessary in light of the reason(s) for which it was first collected. We will comply with legal obligations at all times. Our use of your personal data will always have a lawful basis, either because you have consented to our use of your personal data, or because it is in our legitimate interests.

We do not keep your personal data for any longer than is necessary in light of the reason(s) for which it was first collected and/or for as long as we have your permission to keep it. Your data will only be stored in the UK.

We will not share any of your data with any third parties for any purposes without your express written permission. However, we may be legally required to share certain data e.g., when we have to comply with legal obligations, a court order, or a governmental authority.

How Can You Access Your Data?

You have the right to ask for a copy of your personal data held by us. We will provide this free of charge. Please contact the Membership Secretary Charles Oppenheim by email at c.oppenheim@btinternet.com for this, or if you have any other questions regarding BTA and GDPR.

Just4Kids by Lise Whittle

(Adult readers, please photocopy these pages and pass them on to a youngster you know, and perhaps include a few nice stamps to encourage them. When you photocopy, please enlarge each page to A4 size - enlarge to 141% - Thank you.)

IT'S COMPETITION TIME AGAIN!

YOU CAN ENTER 'MY FAVOURITE THINGS' COMPETITION

With the Summer Holidays approaching, there will be plenty of time to think about entering a stamp competition. Why not have a go at entering the Stamp Active Network's one-page stamp competition about your **Favourite Things**?



You could choose anything you like as your one-page theme, so you can start thinking about something now. Perhaps you could choose your favourite hobby or sport, your favourite famous

person, or your favourite holiday place or building, or your favourite Royal Wedding. Or maybe you could choose stamps to illustrate your favourite



author, story, poem or song; or maybe



your favourite wild animal or pets, flowers, trees, sports or transport; your favourite season of the year, Disney characters, a musical or film, or even your favourite colour ... in fact it could be *anything* that you like to do or see or places you like to go to.

The possibilities are endless! You could choose to focus on one area - like tennis or trains or Beatrix Potter - or you may wish to cover a range such as Sports or Transport or Children's Books.



Full details of this competition and other stamp competitions are at www.stampactive.co.uk/competitions

What you need to do is choose your 'Favourite Things' theme, and collect about 6 - 12 stamps or other philatelic items that go together or that tell the story.

Then arrange your stamps on a page, and mount them neatly, writing something beneath the stamp to tell the story or give more information.



Ask your parent/carer's permission to enter. Anyone up to the age of 12 (on 1st September 2018) can enter. Entries should be on good quality paper (A4) or a similar size album page, and placed in a clear protector. The entries can be either hand-written or prepared using a computer.

The page must have a title, and either captions or a short write up that tells the story or gives information. Your full name and address (home or school) should be on the back of the page, also your age on 1st September 2018. ***Entries will only be returned if a stamped-addressed envelope is enclosed with the entry.***

There will be three age groups - Up to 7; 8-9; 10-12 - with stamp prizes being awarded for First, Second, and Third in each age group, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins to the value of £25 (1st), £20 (2nd) and £15 (3rd). **The best overall entry will receive a prize valued at £40.**

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ENTRIES IS 1st SEPTEMBER 2018. Only one entry per person is allowed. UK entrants only.



Spring Stampex 2018

Winners will be announced in the philatelic press and on the Stamp Active Website. The best entries will be on display at Stampex at the Business Design Centre in London. Send entries to: Stamp Active Network, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, OX16 9LB. See more information about other competitions on the Stamp Active website www.stampactive.co.uk

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION 2018 COMPETITIONS

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

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018 10.00am – 4.30pm

Competition categories are:

BTA CUP

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

JOHN FOSBERY TROPHY

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

BRIAN SOLE TROPHY

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

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

Every exhibit must have an Introductory Page as the first sheet. All sheets must be enclosed in protectors and the pages numbered at the foot of the page.

There will be an entry fee of £10 for each competition. A receipt will be issued and must be produced if collecting the entry after the Exhibition has closed. All three competitions will be open to all and not restricted to BTA members.

Judges will be appointed who are qualified in judging Thematic Philately and/or Open Philately and/or Picture Postcard exhibits at Federation or National level.

Please complete the Entry Form and send it to –

Steve Cross, 3 Huish Barns, Huish Lane, Washford, Somerset TA23 0NY.

Telephone: 01323 840323; e-mail: steve_cross58@hotmail.com

Closing date for Receipt of entry Forms: Friday 28th September 2018.

Please send sheets to the same address between

Monday 8th to Thursday 11th October 2017, but no later.

Or hand in at the BTA Weekend 5th - 7th October

Or hand in to the Chairman by arrangement.

AWARDS. The Minimum points required to achieve LARGE GOLD level is	90.
For Gold level is	85
For Large Vermeil level is	80
For Vermeil level is	75
For Large Silver level is	70
For Silver level is	65
For Silver Bronze level is	60
For Bronze level is	55
For Certificate of Participation	below 55

MARKING Thematic Philately – BTA Cup

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

MARKING Open Philately – John Fosbery Thematic Trophy

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

MARKING Picture Postcard Class - Brian Sole Trophy

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

British Thematic Association Competitions 2018

Entry Form

I wish to enter

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

AND/OR

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

AND/OR

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

Name

Tel No.....

Address.....

.....

.....

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

.....

Title of Entry (A).....

Title of Entry (B).....

Title of Entry (C)

I accept that the material is submitted entirely at my own risk and I undertake to make my own arrangements with regard to the insurance of the entry whilst it is out of my possession; this includes all transit risks, temporary housing of the entry and its display at Ardingly Showground. I confirm that all information on this form is correct and I am enclosing a remittance of £10, per entry, payable to the British Thematic Association.

TOTAL REMITTANCE enclosed £

Signed.....

Date.....



BTA PROGRAMME 2018

- June 9th **Annual General Meeting and guest speaker 14.30**
Guest speaker: Grace Davies *Alfred Nobel and his legacy*
At Swinpex, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic College
Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR
<https://sites.google.com/site/swindonphilatelicsociety/swinpex>
Swinpex has over 40 dealers, free parking, and refreshments
on sale all day.
- October 5th
to 7th **BTA Weekend**
At Oxford Spires Hotel
*Please contact Anne Stammers annies1@btopenworld.com if
you wish to book. Day delegates are very welcome.*
- October 13th **BTA Competitions**
At South of England Stamp Fair
Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TL
[www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.
php](http://www.sussexphilately.org.uk/South_of_England_Stamp_Fair.php)
*Details on pages 69-71. If you are not able to attend there are
multiple ways to get your entry to us:*
 - *Hand in to Ardingly on the day;*
 - *Post to Competitions Organiser Steve Cross beforehand.
Steve Cross58@hotmail.com;*
 - *Hand in at the BTA Weekend;*
 - *Hand them to our Chairman at Cheltenham
bastagg@btinternet.com.*

MEMBERS' DISPLAYS ON OPEN PHILATELY, page 51



*The wounded soldier.
Two Postcards from a set of five, produced by GWR Works, Swindon, showing
continental ambulance trains.*



LUNAR NEW YEAR, page 44



Year of the Dog 2018

TEACHING OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS, page 46



*Sandy Kerr, President of the
Caledonian Philatelic Society*

