



West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.22 MAY 2005

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"On Yer Bike"

took on a whole new meaning

when Brian Sole, President of the British Thematic Association gave a display of his "Go by Cycle" at the WETS Thematic Day on April 23rd 2005 at the Dartmoor Lodge Ashburton. After an initial welcome by our Chairman Mary Claydon, see the picture left, Brian introduced us to his exhibit about the bicycle and cycling in general. We were all stunned at the volume of philatelic material that had been collected relating to the subject, plus some interesting lateral thinking. The Penny Farthing was illustrated as shown right, but had been further illustrated by five farthing stamps and a single penny farthing value stamp, "all perfectly legal according to Brian".



The earliest stamps to feature a bicycle being shown by Brian were the Mafeking Cycle Stamps along with the Australian Goldfields Cycle Mail stamps. The Australian stamps were interesting in so far as they represented a private enterprise solution that could meet the need and able to change quicker than the official post office of the day to a fluid movement of people in a rapidly changing situation. We were shown how the cycle we now know evolved from a device with no pedals to the modern day machine along with the varieties of frame that have been used. Another piece of lateral thinking was used with a 535 numeral cancel being used to represent the Reynolds Tube number used in bicycle construction. Under Nazi rule it was necessary to requisition a bicycle or any spare parts required, Brian was able to show such a requisition and its translation from Norwegian. The cycle was also used by troops in the First World War and material was shown from the various cycle regiments. The cycle as a leisure or sporting device was also shown. Did you know that the reason why the lead rider of the Tour de France Cycle Race wears a Yellow Jersey is because the original sponsor was a newspaper proprietor who printed his newspaper on yellow paper?

There were many such gems during Brian's very extensive and informative display. We were also given a very good insight into the process or formulating a plan of the collection and how this changes as the collection grows. Perhaps the most important aspect of this display was the fact that very few stamps were actually used and a high degree of philatelic markings and postal history used. The manner in which this had been fitted to the pages on display was a lesson to us all, the degree of write up was actually quite small and mostly of a philatelic nature. There was a very clear message - "Let the philatelic material do the talking".



STAMPEX VILLAGE GREEN 22-26 February 2006

WETS have been asked to take part in this event which will be none competitive. We have been asked to provide thematic material to fill 12 frames each holding 16 sheets. Your committee have met and discussed this situation and feel that as a society we could meet this challenge. We have had to make the decision without full consultation with our membership in order to submit our agreement by March 2005. Various WETS members will be asked to consider submitting display material. WETS will get the material to the venue and collect the material once released after the event. It has been considered that we could use the November 2005 meeting to gather the material for display. Further details will be given to members at our next meeting. **THIS WILL AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE WETS NATIONALLY**, we will be able to produce and give out display material about who we are and what we do.



THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Following representation by WETS the British Thematic Association will be bringing their Roadshow to the South West on 24th September 2005. The venue will be the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton and will be open to all WETS Members, BTA Members and any other collectors who may be interested. The programme details are as follows:-

- 10.30 - 11.30 - Members Displays
- 11.30 - 13.00 - Speaker - Colin Mount "Pig in the Post"
- 13.00 - 14.00 - Lunch
- 14.00 - 16.00 - Workshop (with break for Tea).

There is no charge for attending, delegates will be required to pay for their lunch or make their own arrangements. The format of the Workshop will be advised to all delegates prior to the day.

All interested members should advise Mary Claydon as soon as possible please, we do need to advise attendee's in advance, see the head of the newsletter for Mary's details.

NEW ROYAL BRIDE WILL NOT REPLACE DIANA IN STAMP ALBUMS



Tony Smith writes - forget the arguments about whether Mrs. Camilla Parker Bowles should marry the Prince of Wales, are WETS happy with a Duchess of Cornwall and might she become the queen when her husband becomes king? Whatever you think or what will happen, one thing stamp collectors are certain of, she will never replace Princess Diana in thematic albums. She was first seen when

she appeared alongside Prince Charles on the 1981 GB wedding pair and from Aitutaki to Vanuatu her smile was then seen on Royal Wedding issues from over 100 Commonwealth countries. Surprisingly Canada perhaps knew something nobody else did. They had no wedding issue.

But the Princess of Wales had a photographic smile to captivate anyone who wanted to increase their 'royalty' issues. For some reason Great Britain meant there were no 'mother and son' issues for the births of Prince William and Prince Harry in 1982 and '84 but many of the rest of the Commonwealth took a different view. The same had happened for her 21st birthday, Commonwealth aplenty but no GB. The arrival of the princes and the charity role she continued even after the royal divorce in 1996 produced issues from many countries.

Such was her appeal to the British public that the Queen and the Prince of Wales agreed a five stamps 'memorial' set in 1998. She still shines out from countless collections. Although she was already divorced her death in Paris shook the British and Commonwealth people.

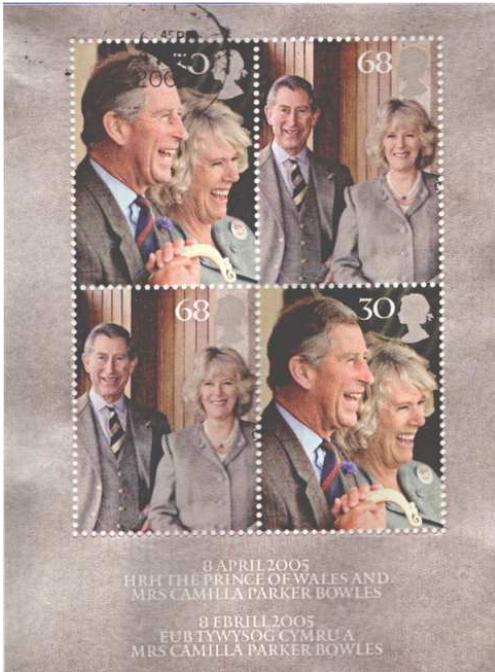


Numerous countries issued commemorative issues looking back on her life, though Sierra Leone perhaps went a little too far with a set of 18 stamps. Proof of the princesses philatelic appeal can be found in lists of national thematic dealers where three listed "Diane" as subjects for stamps, covers and special cancels.



POPE DELAYS ROYAL WEDDING

Something that could not have been foreseen, was the death of Pope John Paul II causing the date of the royal wedding set for 8th April 2005 to be altered by one day. This meant that the GB Miniature Sheet of Charles and Camilla stamps were all printed with the wrong date and likely to be top collector's items. Even more bizarre is the fact the Post Office did not advise all its issuing offices properly regarding the need to delay release by one day from that published. The net result of this was that some offices actually released miniature sheets on the 5th April allowing them to be posted and postmarked on the 8th April. Thematic collectors of anything to do with royalty will have something more to add to their collections. This will be one of the instances where the postally used version dated prior to the wedding will be permissible in your competitive entry. However you can get stamps that commemorate the wedding with the correct date of 9th April 2005 if you go to the Falkland Islands.



To the best of our knowledge these are the only stamps issued to commemorate the Royal Wedding that have the correct date on the stamp.



A ROYAL FIRST

On the 7th June 2005 the Royal Mail will be issuing a set of stamps featuring Trooping the Colour. These stamps will be of special interest to collectors on a Royal theme as they make a rare break from tradition. Three of the stamps stand out as they don't show a silhouette of the Queen but rather feature Her Majesty as part of the design. Jeffery Matthews who designed the stamps was presented with a Rowland Hill Award for his Outstanding Contribution to Philately

(What a pity that the Post Office produce such good quality stamps to sell to philatelists and then print those ghastly labels in the post office to stick on your mail rather than use proper stamps - Ed)



**THIS AREA IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
YOU FAILED TO SUBMIT ANYTHING TO FILL IT.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDITOR FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY LATE JULY 2005

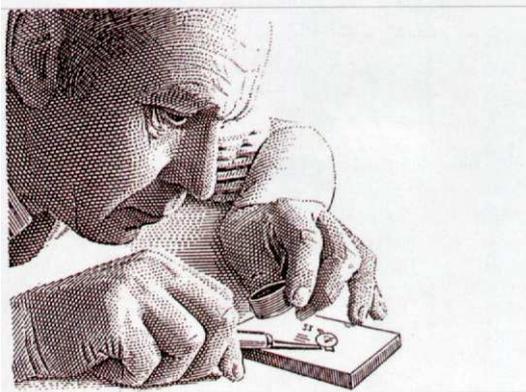


WETS 2005 AGM - 16th July at Emmanuel Church Hall, Western Road Exeter starting at 2.00p.m. **Please read the following letter from our Chairman Mary Claydon.** Dear Member - As you will see from this Newsletter the A.G.M. will be held this year on July 16th I would ask you all to attend. We have a great deal to discuss and the officers would like to hear the views of as many members as possible. I would add that belonging to a Society does involve, or should involve, every member. We welcome your views on the future of the Society and anything you would like included on the programme for future years. This year BTA is bringing

its Roadshow to the South West for the first time on September 24th - let us have a good turn out for that to back your officers who have pressed for these Roadshow's to be brought to our area. We need to know who will be attending (*there has to be enough chairs*). As this day is free and open to all comers why not bring along some of your other club members who have shown an interest in thematics? The day starts at 10.30 a.m. with attendee displays of 12 sheets until 11.30.a.m. At 11.30 our guest speaker Colin Mount will show his display 'Pig in the Post'. 1300-14 00 Lunch - 14.00 to 16.00 Workshop (with break for tea) No charge but you pay for your own lunch. Would those attending please send your name to me - Mary Claydon - 'Hazelhurst' Tiverton Road, Bampton, Tiverton EX16 9LJ. Please make every effort to attend both these events, and remember we shall have another meeting in November (date to be arranged). I ask everyone who brought their sheets for A B or C to last Novembers meeting to bring them to this years November meeting so that we can put together the 2006 WETS Roadshow for which WETS. Looking forward to seeing you all.



WETS 2006 ROADSHOW we need to put this together ready for display commencing January 2006. Could all members who submitted material at the WETS November 2004 meeting, and made promises regarding the availability of the material for the 2006 Roadshow please ensure their material reaches us in time. You are reminded that we will also require a short introduction to be used by the Roadshow presenter. The final date for material submission is the WETS November 2005 meeting, however if you are unable to attend this meeting you may pass your material to either Mary Claydon or Jim Wigmore at either the WETS AGM or the BTA Roadshow meetings, or contact either regarding collection/delivery.



DEATH OF A GENIUS

WETS members will be sad to learn of the death of Czeslaw Slania regarded by many as the greatest ever stamp engraver. He died on the 17th March 2005 in his native Poland at the age of 83. He was credited with the producing over 1000 stamps during his 53 years as a stamp engraver, the first of which was produced in 1951 for Poland (SG698), his last work was for the United Nations to Commemorate the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. He is reputed to have been a great wit and his designs should be looked at in great detail, some rather unusual things can be found such as the names of his friends and family. A number of thematic collectors such as Joan Burgess have put together complete

displays of the man and his work that also included Bank Notes. Slania was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Royal Mail in 2002, his first GB design being the 1982 Maritime Heritage set. As Slania produced designs for over 30 countries there is much for the thematic collector to look for if you decide to put together a display based upon his work.

YOUR PACKET NEEDS YOU - to submit lots of new books and don't forget those covers, cancels and other philatelic items that go to make up a good thematic collection. We have had some complaints about too many books in the packet from the same source. The Packet Secretary can only circulate what is received, **the quality and content of the packet depends entirely upon you.**

PLEASE NOTE - THE EDITOR HAS MOVED

As of 3rd of June 2005 our new address will be 20 Gilpin Close, Dawlish, EX7 9SZ all correspondence or articles for the next newsletter should be sent to the new address. Our telephone number will be notified in due course, our email address remains unchanged.