



West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.31 February 2008

### Society Officers

**Chairman** – Mary Claydon Tel 01398 331731 email [mary.claydon@bopenworld.com](mailto:mary.claydon@bopenworld.com)

**Secretary** – Gary Green 3 Arch Cottages Gestridge Rd. Kingsteignton TQ12 3AH 01626 336603

**Treasurer** – Richard Wheeler 01271 813940 [richard.wheeler@telepuppets.com](mailto:richard.wheeler@telepuppets.com)

**News Co-ordinator** - Tony Smith 26 Ashleigh Rd. Honiton Devon EX14 1TD Tel 01404 46358

**Editor** - Jim Wigmore 20 Gilpin Close Dawlish EX7 9SZ Tel 01626 864844  
email [JamesWigmore@aol.com](mailto:JamesWigmore@aol.com)

**IN THIS ISSUE** – The Greatest Patriot, Dates for your Diaries, Eurothema Report, WETS Members in the press, Dates for your Diary, Who Said Stamps are Boring, The Evolution of Railways – The 1829 Rainhill Trials, WETS Subscriptions.

**THE GREATEST PATRIOT** by David Herry - Part 2 of a United States Indian Stamp Trilogy, Examines Crazy Horse (Tashunca Witco.) He was born a member of the 'Hunkpatila' band of the Ogallala Sioux about 1842, near present day Rapid City in the Black Hills of Dakota. Although photographs said to be of him exist, he was never photographed, nor did he ever sign a Peace Treaty. During this thirty-five year life, only the last four months were spent on a reservation, even there he avoided contact with the white man whenever possible.

During his manhood initiation ordeal, he is said to have experienced a spirit dream in which he rode unharmed through a storm of arrows and bullets, while his own people tried to hold him back, but he shook them off. During his lifetime he had no fear of enemies, believing that only the Sioux could cause his death. In 1865 his courage and integrity earned him the honoured position of 'Shirt Wearer' (Head Soldier). As was the Sioux custom, Crazy Horse offered his worldly possessions for his childhood sweetheart, but was outbid by No Water, a 'Bad Face' sub chief. A tug of war ensued for No Water's new bride, ending in Crazy Horse being shot in the jaw. To avoid reprisals, No Water fled to Red Cloud's 'Bad Face' village on the reservation. The affair outraged the 'Bad Faces' and lost Crazy Horse his honoured 'Shirt Wearer' position. This however did not deter his personal following of one thousand 'Hunkpatila'. They formed a new warrior society the 'Hailstones; recognising Crazy Horse as its 'Shirt Wearer'.

In 1874 gold was discovered in the Black Hills, sacred to the Sioux. The profiteering 'Indian Ring' claimed by



General Custer to include Orville Grant brother of the President, lobbied President Grant into ordering Generals Sherman and Sheridan to mount a campaign in 1876 to subjugate the Sioux, after

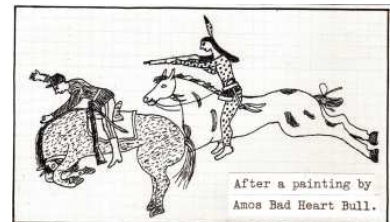
which they were to be moved eastward from their hunting grounds and reservations, to the Missouri River.

During eight days in June 1876 Crazy Horse played a major role in the defeat of General Crook and the Custer massacre, after which Sitting Bull wisely fled to Canada. Crazy Horse was forced to surrender on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1877 after being shelled by General Miles.

Although the 'Old Man' chiefs leading the various reservation bands respected Crazy Horse's bravery, they feared how his popularity amongst the warriors would affect their own position. Crazy Horse was now nearing the point where he might be elevated from Head Soldier to 'Old Man' chief. Urged on by No Water the chiefs spread wild rumours about Crazy Horse's intentions. They then fuelled the fire by encouraging a half-breed to misinterpret statements made by Crazy Horse and his blood brother Touch the Clouds. By the time that Touch the Clouds convinced General Lee of the falsehoods that were circulating, it was too late. General Sheridan author of "The Only Good Indian is a Dead One" seized the golden opportunity to remove his most dangerous potential objector to the planned reservation closures. He preemptorily ordered Crazy Horse's arrest and incarceration in the Dry Tortugas, Florida. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 1877 as partly prophesied in his spirit dream, the arrest ended in a wild melee with the Sioux Indian police holding his arms while a soldier bayoneted him. He died that night.

In late October, while the Sioux were being sent eastward to the Missouri, the Hunkpatila' charged through their escorting soldiers fleeing north to rejoin Sitting Bull in Canada. Along the way they secretly placed Crazy Horse's bones in a cairn at his birthplace in the Black Hills. Despite offers of monetary gain not one 'Hunkpatila' ever revealed the site of his final resting place.

In 1934 a Government Agency belatedly erected a Monument on the site of his death. His life had been the stuff of legend, authors and Hollywood Directors. In the 1950's Rock Hudson and Victor Mature both starred in films about him. Latterly a huge representation of Crazy Horse has been carved in the Black Hills.





## Eurothema Exceeds All Expectations!

From 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the much publicised international thematic exhibition Eurothema was staged in London by the British Thematic Association (BTA). Much anticipation was present on the day the show opened and as was expected the show was a fantastic success. Large numbers of people travelled to visit on both days, with a considerable number coming from the continent. All visitors received a free Eurothema brochure and a specially designed miniature sheet by Jeffery Matthews MBE. They were also able to view first class thematic exhibits and a host of dealers offering excellent thematic material. In total twenty five entries were submitted by the five participating nations. The standard of the entries was extremely high with many rare items and varied themes being featured. All entries were judged according to international standard marking schemes by a judging panel of five members, one from each participating country. Each country's three highest marked entries were then taken to decide the final result. Third place went to Great Britain; second place to Belgium and in first place, the Netherlands.



On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> an informal buffet was held to officially welcome overseas visitors and exhibitors. This was followed the next night, by the Palmares Banquet. During the reception John Hayward, the main organiser of Eurothema, along with Margaret Morris, Patron of Eurothema, presented to all the judges a special Eurothema Medal in recognition of their efforts. A delicious three course meal was then served after which toasts and speeches were made. Following this the presentation of the special prizes, which were donated by the participating countries, took place. A special prize, for the best music exhibit, was donated by the now defunct Philatelic Music Circle (PMC). This was presented to Koenraad Bracke by Irene Lawford, former PMC President. The Eurothema

Trophy, for the best individual entry in the competition, was awarded to Danny Jimmink, of the Netherlands, for his entry "Step by Step". The Eurothema Team Trophy was presented by Margaret Morris to the Netherlands team shown above.

The evening was a huge success and allowed thematic philatelists and guests to meet and socialise in a friendly and informal atmosphere. The BTA, whose committee, and especially John Hayward, worked for months to plan the show, would like to thank all those who exhibited, visited and helped or supported Eurothema. The show ran smoothly from start to finish and has had the effect of once again strengthening thematic philately in the UK and Europe. For more a more detailed write-up of the show, full listings of results and photographs visit [www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/eurothema.htm](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/eurothema.htm)

## WETS Members in the Press

Both Lesley Marley (Whales) and Richard Wheeler (Puppets) had significant articles published in the November issue of Stanley Gibbons Stamp Magazine. This was in conjunction with the publicity of Eurothema.

## Dates for your Diary

**Spring Thematica 2008** will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June at Carisbrooke Hall Seymour Street London. All the details can be found on the BTA website [www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/eurothema.htm](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/eurothema.htm) Details of how to enter the various competitions can be found along with the Entry Forms which can be downloaded and printed. WETS will be entering a Thematic Entry in the Federation Competition on behalf of the Wessex Federation. We hope that WETS members will be entering some of the other competitions and we wish them every success.

**WETS SPRING MEETING** - The **WETS Thematic Day Speaker** will be **Brian Asquith - Subject – "Faster than a Bullet – The Concorde Story"** - at the **Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton** on **Saturday 26th April**. The charge for the day is £5.50 Members, and £6.50 non-members, this includes the cost of Tea/Coffee on arrival. The presentation starts at 10.30 a.m. Entry Form enclosed with this newsletter – **BOOK EARLY numbers limited to 30.**

## WHO SAID STAMPS ARE BORING? By Richard Wheeler

Hercule Poirot refers many times to his little grey cells. I find that involvement with stamps keeps them ticking over nicely and any signs of rust are slightly oiled. 2007 has been a great year as far as I am concerned.

Such is my interest in the collection of stamps, particularly thematics, I was pleased when Chris Earle in late 2006 invited me to an open day of the Royal Philatelic Society in London which was a most interesting experience, particularly the work of the Expertising Committee. I was impressed by the size of the library and the reference material available on all aspects of philately. It did not take me long to apply for membership being proposed by Chris Earle and seconded by Brian Sole. Three months later I was elected. I have made use of the library and attended a couple of occasions including a thematic day when International gold medal exhibits were being displayed. Regional days are held in the West Country and I took the opportunity to attend one.

In April WETS had it's day at Dartmoor Lodge when it was great to meet up with fellow like minded members and visitors interested in more horticultural leanings – my wife Cynthia included! In May I was elected Chairman of the Taw and Torridge Club in Barnstaple and with the help of an active committee set about creating an awareness of the club in North Devon. Our numbers attending meetings over the previous season had sunk dramatically. We advertised in the newspapers, National stamp magazines, posters fortnightly in the libraries with details of meetings and speakers, wrote articles in local journals – even in a Church Magazine of which I am a member in the choir, got plugs on local radio, etc.. We tackled it from the point of “You may have collected stamps as a youngster, but they now reside in the loft or a cupboard. What's it worth? How about reviving an interest.” The result was a number of phone calls saying that they didn't know there was a club in the area. Attendances have doubled and extra chairs are brought out.

In June, Thematica was staged for its annual exhibition in London. Being on the committee I attended both days and helped where required and met up with many collectors, some from WETS. This year it appeared that there was a greater number of children's entries which was good to see. If you have never been, take the opportunity to go on June 28/29. As many of you know, Lesley Marley one of the founder members of WETS is Chairman of the BTA. During the summer I also attended the second part of the course for Judges at Federation and Local level and was accepted.



October was a highlight as I had entered my exhibit “Masks, Myths, Mimes and the Evolution of Puppets” (see left) in the thematic class at Stampa in Dublin. Cynthia accompanied me on an eventful trip. On a foggy morning we arrived early at Exeter Airport to find all flights were delayed and I could not contact the Exhibition Organisers to say I would be late. However we eventually took off and on our arrival at the Exhibition Centre, we received a great welcome. Whilst I was assembling the exhibit, I was somewhat harassed by a lady trying to see it and check that it complied with the rules. She even asked if it was a proper thematic exhibit and



didn't include beer mats! I discovered later that she was one of the International Judges (shown left, John Lennon, Dr Peter McCann and Heloise Mitchell). The results were announced the following afternoon, and I was over the moon to have been awarded a gold medal. It was very gratifying to know that the competition had been judged by a Vice-President of FIP from America, Dr Peter McCann. I



was presented with my medal at the awards dinner by the Chairman of the Stampa Organisation whose name is John Lennon. I also received the Charles O'Neill Memorial trophy – a bronze statue on a granite base (see right), which was so heavy Cynthia said my knees buckled when I received it. We had to take a taxi to get it back to our hotel. Overnight we decided that the excess baggage cost on the plane home and to return it next year would have been too much!. We returned it next day after the exhibition closed, but not before it had to accompany us in a suitcase on wheels when we visited the Anglican Cathedral for morning service where we had to convince the usher that it was not a bomb!

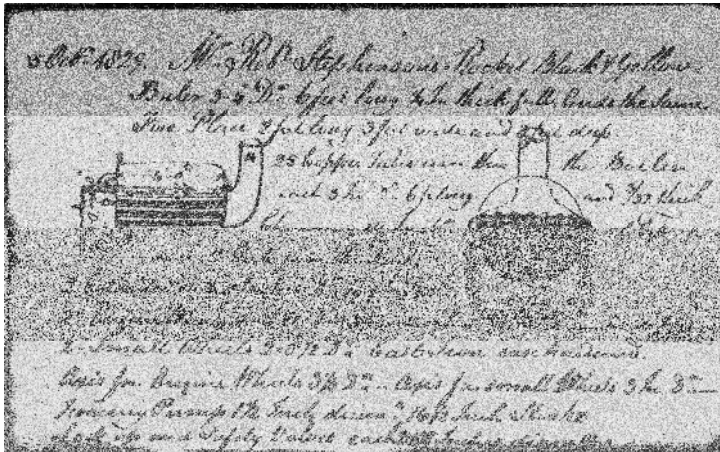
November came round very quickly for Eurothema where I felt honoured to be one of the participating team representing Great Britain in competition with four other Nations. It was a great and most successful event and doubly so seeing other exhibits from abroad. There were five International judges and it was a most friendly and helpful occasion. Although we didn't win as a team, I was presented with an Art Glass Bowl from Denmark. I also picked up a couple of rare items from the dealers present which was a bonus. See the internet site [www.brit-thematic-assoc.com](http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com) for fuller details.

Over the course of the year, I have presented my display at a number of clubs and this year will be going further afield - Glasgow and Swindon are already in my diary. My next venture is abroad to exhibit Internationally at Essen. I have also been asked locally to help set up a stamp club at a private school and asked by a Federation if I would join their team of judges! It looks like being an eventful year. To get the most out of our hobby, get involved. In addition to Societies I belong to in this country, I joined the American Topical Association which produces a great deal of thematic information and collecting lists and have contacted many overseas Philatelic Organisations. The internet has been a great help. Apart from eBay, if you haven't heard of it, try <http://www.delcampe.net>  
Happy Hunting and Enjoyment with your collection in 2008.

**LATE NEWS** – Just prior to going to press we heard that both Richard Wheeler and Leslie Marley have been accepted for Vienna there being only 13 UK entries were accepted out of 34 entries offered. Well done Richard and Leslie.

## The Evolution of Railways by Jim Wigmore

**THE 1829 RAINHILL TRIALS** - Were set up by the Directors of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway to establish if steam locomotives could be proved reliable enough to operate their proposed railway. There was much interest from locomotive engineers, however only three locomotives actually made the trials. The three locomotives being "Novelty", "Rocket" and "Sans Parrel". Only "Rocket" completed all the tasks laid down by the directors as mandatory, running for a period of over 6 hrs during the day and being declared the winner. The fact that "Rocket" was able to complete the tasks set, was due to some important design features not immediately obvious. "Rocket" had been entered as a joint venture between Henry Booth and George Stephenson and incorporated an idea suggested by Henry Booth of the use of multiple fire tubes to improve the generation of steam. It was this feature that enabled "Rocket" to complete its tasks and was to lead to the overall success of the steam locomotive. The page from a Mr Rastricks notebook shown below gives the details.



Most philatelic reproductions of "Rocket" show the locomotive as it ran at the Rainhill Trials.



The locomotive was quickly modified with the cylinders lowered – see right and that is the form it entered service and formed the basis of all the locomotives to follow.

**THE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE HAD NOW BEEN PROVED TO WORK.**  
More on the Evolution of railways will follow.

**WETS SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE** – Your Invoice is included along with the booking form for the WETS Day, with this newsletter. **PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY**

(Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. You are all reminded that this is your newsletter and we want to hear about "Your interests and stories". Has anyone been inspired to pick up on some of the ideas outlined in WETS News? What are you currently working on that may interest others.

I look forward to collecting your contributions to the next newsletter at the WETS Day in April. – Ed)