



West of
England
Thematic
Society

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Society Officers

Chairman – Mary Claydon Tel 01398 331731 email mary@claydons.eclipse.co.uk

Secretary – Gillian Gray Tel 01752 661985

Treasurer – Richard Wheeler 01271 813940 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@talktalk.net

IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, WETS Roadshow 2012, Dates for your Diary, Mount only The Best, When Plymouth went to The Ball with Cinderella, Was Royal Mail worried about Jumping The Gun with 1st Olympic Issue?, Tutoring on Thematics only Partially Successful, Advertising, Wessex Federation 2012 Competition Entries, Snippets.

WETS NEWS by email –If you are not yet a recipient make sure your name and email address are given to the Editor. Look at our website www.wessexpf.org.uk/WETS to see some examples of the quality. Download time is very fast. **DON'T FORGET TO SAVE WHAT YOU GET.** It is suggested you create a file called WETS News to put them in.

The Wessex Federation are now distributing Wessex News by the same process. Did you know the Wessex website carries dates of all meetings and philatelic events in our region, these can be viewed at www.wessexpf.org.uk/events then open the integrated calendar of club meetings.

WETS ROADSHOW 2012 – Has started its rounds, we look forward to feedback from the clubs visited. If your club has not yet booked the roadshow contact Mary Claydon details above.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WETS DAY – Saturday 21st April at Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, when the Speaker will be Lesley Marley who will be showing her Gold Medal exhibit “A Whales Tale”. Tickets will be £6.00, members are reminded that subscriptions will also be due at the rate of £4.00/member. Early bookings and subscriptions to the Treasurer please. A copy of the Booking Form and Subscription Reminder is attached.

Thematix 12 – Will take place at The Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton TQ13 7JW on Saturday 27th October 2012 from 1000 hrs to 1630 hrs. In addition to Specialist Thematic Dealers there will be a WETS meeting to display this years John Hilsdon Trophy Entries. More on this in future News Letters.

MOUNT ONLY THE BEST by Tony Smith

American director Steven Spielberg probably realised when his film “War Horse” hit the big screen, Devon-based Michael Morpurgo would see his book quickly return to the paperback Top Ten. But did Spielberg know his Oscar contender might give encouragement somewhere else.

Thematics featuring horses?

Horses regularly feature as a leading stamp topic and it's easy to see why.

They featured in the ancient world with men riding them or pulling chariots. Searching catalogues Egypt, the Middle East and Greece, for example, show the pride men held in their horses in distant days.

Sadly, even then and through the centuries following, horses were used in war. Everyone can picture 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' with the army's four-legged allies sacrificed to get troops within sword distance of the enemy.

War Horse, partly filmed on Dartmoor, managed a happy ending but watching the battlefield scenes one has to know 'working' for both armies in World War I, eight million horses died.

Moving back to your catalogues one sees GB stamps have featured horses over many years. Heads of two horses are seen on 1912 higher value definitives followed by St George



mounted as fighting a dragon for a 1929 set.

Stamps realistically showing the true beauty of horses finally appeared in 1964 with George Stubbs' painting showed 'Mares and Foals'. An 1997 set of four featured 'All the Queen's Horses' a royal ceremonial connection as mounts of a Lifeguard, a Blues and Royals Drummer plus a groom with the Duke of Edinburgh's horse.

Looking for an earlier link with royalty one mustn't miss

the Australia issue to mark King George V Silver Jubilee in 1935. He is shown mounted on "Anzac" a horse named to honour the men of Australia and New Zealand who fought in the First World War.

Another royalty/horse connection came in 1972 when Princess Anne helped the Great Britain win a gold medal for the Three Day Events competition.

For many established 'horses theme' collectors artist Patrick Oxenham stands high. His 1978 paintings covered the wealth of horses in a four-set GB issue. The working horse was shown with a powerful Shire, the Shetland and Welsh Merlyn represented ponies and a standing tall



Thoroughbred appeared on the top value.

Having realised from the GB catalogue that horses are a perfect topic, newcomers can look around the world.



Before railways boosted communication in nations with vast interiors horses were essential. The United States'

famous "Pony Express" riders began galloping carrying the mail in 1860 and Canada had a mail link between Quebec and Montreal from 1763. Both are remembered on stamps.

Horse racing is featured on the stamps worldwide, famous people in history are shown in the saddle and even circus riders appear. So why not take up the reins. And if you are already mounting this theme tell us how you cover it.



When Plymouth went to the Ball with Cinderella

The pantomime season is over but you can still find a Cinderella on centre stage in stamp collections. Once ridiculed by "serious philatelists", those who enjoy their hobby via tags, labels, posters or whatever they are called, now have an equal standing in many albums. They even have their own club, founded in 1959, plus well researched catalogues.

Six years before they reached that status Plymouth Chamber of Commerce's Junior Section produced this miniature sheet to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It told the story of the city and its seafaring history. It is believed the only other British city to produce a similar Coronation sheet was London.

Mr. Chris Chatfield from Bath in Somerset described "Cinderella" in his splendid 1991 catalogue as "a fascinating world" with "rarity,



beauty and a unique nostalgic flavour" his 1991 catalogue covers pre-1950 British commemorative items and underlines during both World Wars with many "patriotic, propaganda, military and charity labels". Although Cinderella's are often stuck on envelopes and postcards they are not postal issues. But they were often intended to raise morale during the times of conflict. And if you believe the value of something listed in any catalogue settles an argument just try to find, for example, a British Red Cross Society 1914 label or "Pro Patria et Libertate" showing how the French felt about 'Inghlterra 1914-1915'. Admire the Plymouth youngsters pride in their city long after the wars ended and instead honoured their new Queen.

Tell us about your interest in Cinderella stamps, don't forget to include pictures, we would love to print such information in a future WESSEX BULLETIN. If you need help to do this just ask the Editor.



Was Royal Mail worried about 'Jumping the Gun' with 1st Olympic Issue?

Londoners were dancing in Trafalgar Square on July 6th 2005 after hearing their city (and Weymouth!) was to host the 2012 Olympics. A six-stamp miniature arrived a month later but though the stamps read "London 2012 - Host City" they didn't carry the world famous Olympic logo and, in fact, looked a rather poor Royal Mail effort with no chance of winning a gold medal.



Happily, when the next stamps appeared in 2011 they carried the traditional five inter-linked Olympic rings with designs looking genuine medal contenders. And it

was good to see Paralympics remembered. More Royal Mail material will follow before the Olympic flame is ignited.



But why was the opening issue so disappointing?

Can one look to Australia's first pair of



stamps after Melbourne was chosen for the 1956 Olympics! Proud to be the first nation south of the equator to host the Games, their Organising Committee quickly printed over 35,000 small posters, not stamps, and sent them around the world with the Melbourne dates, Nov 22 - Dec 8.

It was then decided to create a pair of genuine stamps at 2s their international postage rate. Some worldwide members from philatelic officialdom protested at a host nation producing stamps two years before the Games began. The Australians were accused of "bragging" about their success. The Aussies had no such concern. Their Postmaster General supported them. The first stamps appeared on December 1st 1954, Four million were sold. Not surprisingly, in Dec. 1955 a reprint was allowed and another 3,500,000 were sold.



In the Stanley Gibbons' catalogue they are called "Propaganda Issues" so no host nation since has risked "jumping the gun" & fearing disqualification.



Australia issued more stamps for the XVI Olympiad. They underlined their place on the globe with a Southern Cross alongside the Olympic rings and torch. Two other commemoratives showed Melbourne ... a hint for Royal Mail and London's Organising



Committee perhaps!

There are bound to be many interesting philatelic items to appear during the 2012 Olympics we would appreciate copies and information about anything you come across on this subject.

TUTORING ON THEMATICS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL by Jim Wigmore – Having been asked to give a talk to Torquay & Teignbridge Club last year about how to prepare a Thematic Exhibit, I was especially interested to be asked to judge their competition entries, especially the thematic entries. Of the six 8 sheet entries submitted, only three had a plan. Of the three with a plan, two were by WETS members. The other three were all excellent topics and showed evidence that some of the advice given had been understood, with one of the entrants protesting that he had followed the advice given precisely. One of the major problems of the three without plans was the lack of understanding of the need to incorporate more than just stamps. So a partial success and hopefully at least one member who really has started to understand what is required and is keen to get it right. I look forward to the Wessex Competitions and a first attempt in the Thematic Beginners Class.

ADVERTISING – Tony Smith has been asked by members of the trade if they could advertise in WETS News. This advertising would of course be paid for and bring some revenue to WETS to help defray production and distribution costs. What is the general feeling about this? Would members like the opportunity to advertise their sales and wants at a nominal sum?

WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITION ENTRIES 2012 – Members will shortly be receiving the details for the 2012 Wessex Federation Competitions. We hope that experienced exhibitors as well as those who have yet to have a go, will put entries into this years competitions. This years entries will be shown at the **Dawlish Stamp Clubs – Exhibition and Fair** to be held at **The Strand Centre, Dawlish** on **Saturday 8th September** from 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs. More details about this and the dealers who will be present in the next newsletter. This information will also appear on the federation website www.wessexpf.org.uk.

Re: SNIPPET ABOUT BIRDS – Stephen Jackson writes, yes I collect bird stamps, I was introduced to thematic stamps (*as well as WETS, by Mrs Adele Gunn*), I collect West Palearctic birds and some shore and sea birds. I became increasingly disillusioned with collecting modern GB and was looking for somewhere to go with my squirrel instincts. I am at present accumulating stamps, I put a page or two up at the Falmouth & DPS and bore the audience once or twice each year but I like to have one or two items in my stock book just in case. I'm not heavily into varieties, errors etc as most of them appear no better than printer's waste, I am more of a birdwatcher who collects stamps rather than a stamp collector who has an interest in birds. Wearing one of my other hats I am the Regional Representative for Cornwall for the British Trust for Ornithology, a research group involved counting and mapping bird numbers and distribution in the UK. Kingfishers, yes I have one or two in my stock book my favourite is the Eire 10c illustrated by Killian Mullarney (*I hope that I spelled his name correctly*), his day job is illustrating field guides for birdwatchers. (*Thank you Stephen for your response and Thank You Adele for bringing WETS to Stephens notice.* – Ed)

SNIPPETS



THE BOBBY ON THE BEAT -

Exeter P.C. Charles Connell took pride in his role as part of one of England's widest-spread rural police forces, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, so he was happy to design this cancel to mark a "Law Enforcement Exhibition" on September 26th 1979. It was to be used on covers showing the four GB stamps just issued to feature police in different roles, with money raised going to Widows and Orphans Compassionate Fund. Does any reader know Mr Connell today? Is he retired? And how would he feel after recent cutbacks which mean the Devon & Cornwall force is now down to 3,312 officers after losing 213 in 2011?

LATE NEWS from STAMPEX – two of our WETS members got awards, Richard Wheeler submitted "The Evolution of Puppetry" which achieved a Gold Medal and Special Prize – Best in Show. Mark Humfrey submitted "Globalisation of Vanilla" which gained a Vermeil. Congratulations to both.

Special Police Cover from Devon and Cornwall

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary are celebrating the issue of the Post Office's Police stamps on 26th September by producing their own commemorative cover and special handstamp. The Devon and Cornwall Constabulary Widows and Orphans Compassionate Fund will benefit from the sale of the special covers which are designed by Exeter Police Constable Charles Connell and will bear the complete set of commemorative



stamps. Covers can be ordered from any police station in Devon and Cornwall or by post from Police Constable J. Simmons, Crime Prevention Department, Devon & Cornwall Police, 'J' Division, Heavitree Road, Exeter at the price of £1 each. A stiffened card inside the cover gives a brief history of the Force and a description of the Widows and Orphans Fund.