



West of
England
Thematic
Society

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IN THIS ISSUE – WETS News by email, A Royal Record, Is There Anything Else, Wanted, WETS Roadshow, Spring WETS Day, Reflections, WETS AGM & Competitions, Thematic Auction Material, 2015 Europhilex, A Deluge of Material for the WETS Newsletter?

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A ROYAL RECORD!



For someone who didn't appear on a single stamp when she married into the British Royal Family in 1923, the Queen Mother has gone on to win a very special place in philately as well as in the hearts of the British people.

Her 100th birthday issues in August 2000 - close to 100 of them throughout the Commonwealth - make her the oldest person to be featured on postage stamps while still alive. Do you know a rival contender? The popularity of the former Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon shows no sign of declining in the stamp album, or elsewhere.



Her whole life story was told via the sets of for her 80th and 90th birthdays, now we have even more. And all this for someone who when she married the Duke of York had no idea she was to become Queen. The Duke of Windsor's abdication changed her whole life plan and she made her stamp debut on the 1937 Coronation issue of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.



The Netherlands Queen Mother, Juliana is probably the nearest person age wise still featured on stamps. She is 92.

Juliana first appeared on Dutch stamps in 1948 when she succeeded her mother Queen Wilhelmina and was on the definitives of Holland and its overseas territories until she stepped down from the throne in favour of her daughter Queen Beatrix in 1980.

In 1990 Juliana appeared on a commemorative honouring the House of Orange which also showed

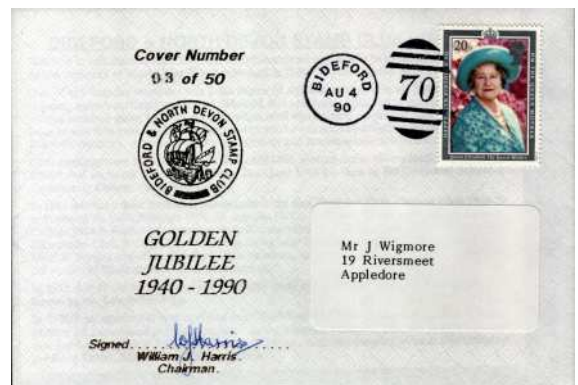
her daughter and her own mother Wilhelmina who had lived to be 82.

Ask anyone over 60 to name the Queen who won the affection of so many at our own Queen Elizabeth II coronation, and they are sure to remember Queen Salote. For many none stamp collectors she put her island of Tonga on the map before dying in 1965 aged 65.

Our own Queen Victoria was 82 when she died in 1901 and is best remembered by many for her place in philately, the worlds very first postage stamp. Now we have another royal record holder for the album.

The year 1990 was doubly important for Devon "Royal" collectors. It was the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and it was the 50th Year of Bideford and North Devon Stamp Club's existence.

Since the Queen Mothers Birthday was on a Saturday this was the date chosen by Bideford Club to have their Annual Exhibition and 50th Birthday Celebration.



To mark the occasion the Bideford Club in conjunction with the Post Office had produced a replica of the original Bideford Duplex cancel. Each member of the club was to receive a commemorative cover printed in gold with the Queen Mothers Commemorative stamp and duplex cancel applied by the Post Office, and all covers were signed by the then chairman Bill Harris.

One of the gold printed covers is reproduced above (*the gold leaf has not shown up too well*). A little known fact outside Bideford Club is that one of these gold covers was offered to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and accepted for the Royal Collection.

Other covers were produced at the time printed in blue, and there were 6 limited issue varieties all carrying stamps of the day, and cancelled with the Bideford Duplex by the Post Office. The Post Office bought a full set of all the varieties for their own reference collection.

I feel sure these unique covers would fit into a number of thematic collections, but did you know of their existence, and more importantly, have you ever seen them?



by Jim Wigmore

This is the question that should be on the lips of every thematic collector. Despite the rise in interest in thematics, it is still not fully understood by collectors that thematics should be making use of all philatelic based material, and is not just a collection of stamps on a theme.

Please note. Modern computing tools allow excellent presentation of subjects to be made, and the incorporation of scanned images of covers, markings etc. reduced in size adds to this process.

Those who use such tools, **should however take note**, that the marks for presentation in competition are very small, and what really matters is the idea, the validity of the idea, and the quality of material to support the story being told.

The same arguments apply to mounting methods which are designed to go beyond the process of protecting our material and allowing easy transfer without damage, to actually enhancing presentation.

The bottom line for any thematic collection is a good idea, a story with a plausible title, a well thought out plan for the collection, and good philatelic material which sits well within both the story and the plan.

If it's that good, presentation does not matter, unless of course you know differently.

WANTED - If anyone has any pre- 1975 Stamp Magazines, Bulletins, or Leaflets (*even ones where you have removed the articles that interest you*), I would be more than happy to collect them or pay the postage to get them sent to me. Tony Smith Contact details at the head of this News Letter.

(Good Hunting Tony – Ed)

WETS ROADSHOW

The current Roadshow has been received by clubs with a great deal of interest. The concept of Aspiration to Achievement seems to be something most collectors can relate to. The process of selecting the correct title and how you can drive yourself into a corner is well known to all. How this process has been tackled and the manner in which a story can be opened up and expanded seems to have been well understood. The display has provoked many very sensible questions and discussions on the manner in which Thematics is tackled. Normally quite quiet and docile clubs have been positively animated. We can only hope that some of this interest will manifest itself into exhibits at both club and federation level. The WETS Roadshow was the last presentation given to Exeter Club before it wound up, we would have much preferred that it was the first presentation to a new club.

SPRING WETS DAY – Members gathered at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel Ashburton on Saturday 12th April. The slightly depleted audience were given two excellent displays.

The first by Barry Stagg on “Parachuting”, Barry covered all aspects of his subjects including his own amusing attempts to use a Parachute resulting in him landing amid a football match, much to the annoyance of a goal keeper. This episode was the last time he was allowed to jump before he was banned. It was interesting to learn that the use of Parachutes goes back a lot further than most people



Just looking for clips for the next WETS Newsletter

believe, plus the evolution of the technology for use today for Military, Sport and in the Aircraft and Space Industries. This brilliant and well developed display went way beyond most peoples expectations. The second display was by our Vice Chairman Jim Wigmore who showed "Along Lost Lines" the story of how Britain's Railways evolved from Rope and Horse Drawn Wagonways to operation by Steam Engines and how the small initial railway companies merged to form bigger and bigger concerns, up to the Modern Day and the Preserved Railways. Much of the material has been written about in previous WETS Newsletters. This was a very expansive and interesting display that has come a very long way from where it originally started with a totally incorrect title of "The Evolution of Railways".

REFLECTIONS - We are including in this edition a look at some of our editorial from the past, this item comes from Edition 10 of WETS News to see what has happened.

SOCIAL PHILATELY – Will it Catch On?

Not so long ago Thematics – or Topicals if you were on the other side of the Atlantic – was the controversial newcomer to stamp collecting. Now another "new boy" is about to enter the fray – Social Philately! It was included in the recent Glasgow 2000 get together of collectors and is said to be a bridge between Postal History and Thematics.

Many things which cannot be included in a thematic collection, display or competition entry can, it seems, be kept under the Social Philately banner.

WETS Chairman Mary Claydon looks back after reading a leaflet written by a specialist in the new field Pat Grimwood-Taylor (*of Cavendish Auctions*), and quotes from it at length.

Having had my interest aroused initially by an article written by Margaret Morris in the December 2000 Themescene.

I contacted Pat Grimwood-Taylor who I knew was not only interested in this aspect of collecting but has a collection herself. Pat very kindly sent me a leaflet which was available at 'The Stamp Show 200' where there was a workshop on this aspect of philately. I now quote from this leaflet.

'There are two important differences between Social Philately and other philatelic collecting. You do not necessarily have to be an experienced philatelist and you can include all types of non-philatelic material and *ephemera* (such as maps, prints, coins, medals etc.) in your collection.

You can tell the story of the development of a town or country by using stamps, letters and documents. Likewise the historical background to an important event (*e.g. the Olympic Games, the American Revolution, the English Civil War, the Siege of Paris etc*) can be brought to life in this type of collection.

Social Conventions such as sending Valentines, or the development of a business or industry (such as timber, textile, mining or brewing industries) can also be subjects for a collection of Social Philately.

WHAT CAN I COLLECT. The simple answer is 'almost anything'. There are practical considerations of how to display your material, especially if you are entering your collection as a competitive exhibit, but solely from the point of view of collecting the scope of material is limited only by your imagination. (Here I have to say that this applies to thematics as well - and actually every other form of collection).

The items suggested in the leaflet that you might collect are: - Stamps, mint or *used* (*now that is something to give us thought and I wonder if you can use both in an exhibit*) picture postcards (*and I believe you can use these*) Postal stationery, letters and/or their envelopes. Maps and photographs, prints or engravings, printed documents and leaflets, coins and medals, indentures, bills etc., jewellery, fans, tickets, tokens etc. Letter boxes, stamp boxes, pens, pencils, seals and wafers.



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The leaflet ends stating that "The international body which governs philately world-wide is considering proposals for the inclusion of Social Philately as a

Relax – When we get home we are going to find out all about Social Philately.

recognised competitive class. Interest is already building in Europe and the U.S.A. and we are hopeful that it will not be too long before it is regularly seen at exhibitions both here and overseas”.

Pat Grimwood-Taylor is giving workshops on Social Philately - so far not in our area though she tells me in her letter she may be giving a talk to the Bristol Philatelic Society if they can finalise a date. I would be interested in going to this would anyone else?. Or I wonder if we could interest Pat in giving a talk to our Society if enough people are interested. You know my phone number and address. Let me know. *Mary Claydon.*

We in WETS did discover Social Philately, but the concept is still being argued about. At National Level it cannot be agreed how it should be classified and BTA are at loggerheads over the issue, what it should be called, how it should be judged and how it should be marked. In general the only suggestion is it should be classified under the Open Class (*we can only draw the conclusion that traditional philatelists do not like change*). There is much interest in the concept of Social Philately within our clubs and at virtually every showing of the WETS Roadshow we get questions on the subject how it can be displayed and what can be used etc.

The response in all cases is that if it will fit into a standard frame and on a page in can be used. It has also been necessary to define the sizes of pages allowed, attention has been drawn to the information about page sizes in the Federation Competition Rules. The use of larger pages within the WETS Roadshow is often the prompt for the question about pages and sizes.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PROMOTE CHANGE & GENERATE INTEREST IN OUR HOBBY

WETS AGM & COMPETITIONS – We are all to well aware that we have not given notice of a date or place where these will take place yet. We still anticipate holding these in the late Autumn so do please continue to prepare your entries for the John Hillsdon and PIP Trophies. As previously reported the dealers do not consider it worthwhile to come to the South West for our event unless they can combine it with something else, this seems to bring about clashes in dates.

We are looking at this matter and how we can overcome it, we hope to be able to advise you shortly of an actual date and time which does not clash with other events.

If you have any thoughts on this matter we would like to hear from you.

THEMATIC AUCTION MATERIAL – There is quite a lot of interesting thematic material in the Dawlish Clubs Autumn Auction, noted in particular are Explorers, Ships, Royal Navy, Balloon Flight and Royalty. Copy of the Auction List is included with this issue.

2015 EUROPHILEX – We have received an invitation from Wendy Buckle of BTA asking if we would like to have a table at the above event. We have had telecom and email discussion on this matter and decided against it on the grounds of cost and the lack of value for money to WETS

A DELUGE OF MATERIAL FOR THE WETS NEWSLETTER?



Well not quite, although such a deluge would be welcome. Where are your bits of news, stories, and wants, they all have a place in what is after all YOUR NEWSLETTER?

Contact the editor details at the head of the newsletter.

We needs lots of input from YOU for future issues.

LATE NEWS – WETS member Richard Wheeler won a Gold Medal at PHILAKOREA for his “Puppets” entry. Well done Richard.