



West of  
England  
Thematic  
Society

## Newsletter No.36 September 2009

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## WHAT TO COLLECT IN A THEMATIC DISPLAY by Richard Wheeler

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL BE PART OF A SERIES IN TYPES OF MATERIAL THAT CAN ENHANCE A DISPLAY IN INTEREST AND APPEARANCE.

**STAMP BOOKLETS** - There is a lot of material that can be derived from a stamp booklet. The booklet itself is comprised of panes of stamps bound together in covers. The stamps themselves may be imperforate on some sides and can be in combinations of se-tenant stamps. Occasionally the booklet may contain an odd number of stamps with the void space being used for an advertisement. They may have interleaving sheets which have advertisements. These can often link to your theme.

The booklet comprises a stiff card cover, tabs which must not be detached from the stamp for exhibiting alone, sheet margins which may offer something related to your exhibit and fly-leaves which are protective leaves and often contain illustrations.

When displaying a stamp booklet, either front, back or both preferably using two booklets relevant to the theme, the stamps should also be shown by exploding the strip out of the booklet. However some booklets have an enormous value, possibly stitched, and should not be exploded. Those with staples should remove them carefully and keep the staples safely for return at a future time. The cover should not be shown empty on it's own however (photo).

Another possibility is to make a high definition photo copy to link with the booklet and print underneath 'photo copy'. Also a note to the effect that the booklet is complete. All stamps must be mint.

Some stamp booklets are issued by private organisations and not by the postal authority of the country. “Prestige Booklets” issued by Royal Mail feature anniversaries, famous personalities, special studies such as shipping, Wedgwood pottery, etc. In Switzerland “Pro Patria” stamp booklets, (For Fatherland), have a surcharge which is used in financing national cultural funds. Children’s charities “Pro Juventute” and Special Sports Stamps are also issued.

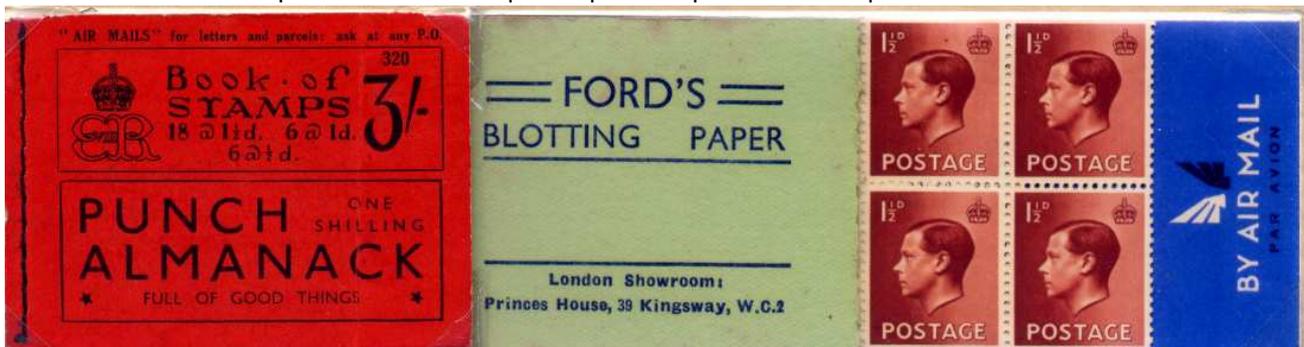


UPU May 1929 No. 103. Design J. Farleigh and E. Linzell. Block cypher watermark GvR printed by Waterlow & Sons. Perf. 15 x 14 .  
Edition numbers 103 – 107.



Complete Pinocchio booklet.  
The stamps support Swiss children and adolescents through the Pro Juventute Foundation.

Complete booklet. Stamps are photo copies. The stamps should be shown





Complete Pinocchio booklet.  
*The stamps support Swiss children and adolescents through the Pro  
Juventute Foundation.*

In order to explode the Pinocchio booklet, having removed the staple, carefully remove one sheet. Re-assemble booklet and mount booklet on page with corner photo mounts. These would go on the left hand side and the bottom of the back page on the right.

Place the block of stamps in a clear Hawid and tuck in booklet. Stick down Hawid only on the right hand side out of the booklet to keep them in place.

*These are some very useful hints and tips for us all – Ed*

**October 24<sup>th</sup> WETS Autumn Meeting at Buckfastleigh**, the meeting starts at 2.00 pm. Bring your entries for the **WETS Trophy** (*shown in WETS News No35*) the winner will be awarded our new trophy in memory of John Hilsdon. Entries may be on any subject but must consist of 16 sheets. All entries may be brought to the meeting or submitted via a committee member. Please note that we would like to copy all entries for use in the 2010 WETS Roadshow. **PLEASE MAKE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND**

**WETS Roadshow 2010** – will commence in January 2010 see the Wessex Federation website [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) for the details of where it will be visiting. The Wessex Calendar of events now carries the meeting dates of all clubs and societies in addition to the specials events being held in our area. **Members should note** – the material in this years roadshow will be colour copies to ensure that those submitting material do not actually lose their material for a year and can continue to develop their theme. We hope that by this process members will consider putting better quality displays into the roadshow to give WETS an even higher profile and attract new members.

*It has been established that the lowest cost for colour copies is Staples and it would be appreciated if those submitting material for the roadshow could control and manage the copying of their own material. Your committee would like to thank those members who have already done this.*

**The BTA LIBRARY** – it has come to our attention that the BTA has one of the most amazing libraries of books and articles of thematic subjects which up to now it has been almost impossible to use. Current usage relies upon a request being made to the BTA Librarian. Requests are few and far between as potential users do not know what exists in the library. **All is about to change.** We understand that the BTA Library is catalogued on a series of spreadsheets (*rather badly*) and that work is currently underway to re-structure these lists by Group, Sub-Group, Title, Author and publisher. Once complete this information will be posted on the BTA website on a new Library Page, there will be a Manual Index structured by Group and Sub-Group plus an electronic search facility that will allow a search by word or expression. Both search facilities will take users directly to the information held on the subject selected. Once up and running this is going to open up the world of thematics giving those developing a theme one of the finest research facilities available. Keep an eye on the BTA website as our information is that this facility will be up and running prior to the next newsletter. We will publish a report about this facility once it is fully up and working.

**THE CRUNCH - HITS STAMP WORLD** - Did you hear about the man who, with his wife having lost her well paid job, cancelled his twice-yearly holiday abroad and even considered withdrawing his daughter from a private school?

But the real 'crunch' came when he decided to sell his "beloved stamp collection". The story tells he had "been building up his collection for THREE YEARS" Apparently, he hopes to "make about £500-a-month by selling stamps on an auction website". I bet he isn't a thematic collector, more likely a financial collector!

**KEEP THE STORIES COMING**

**World War II** - Stamp-wise, Great Britain and its steadfast Commonwealth allies didn't "celebrate" their victory at the end of World War II. Britain's 1946 'Victory' pair carried simple symbols for peace and reconstruction. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa offered similar messages while the old "Empire" countries showed George VI and the Houses of Parliament.



The United States, already into movie-style commemoratives, showed its troops marching through Paris.

Amazingly it was 25 years later that Britain began telling the full story of men and women who died or were wounded and cities and towns which were bombed. The 1965 set "Battle of Britain

1940" showed the planes which mastered the allegedly invincible Luftwaffe, writes Tony Smith.

Most people from the older generation usually first pick on a single wartime date, the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, or D-Day. In 1994 five evocative GB stamps remembered the men from Britain, Canada, the United States France and South Africa who combined for the Normandy landings which finally had its people back home believing Hitler would be defeated.

Every year the Normandy landings, under General Eisenhower with the appropriate code name "Operation Overlord" is commemorated along with the actions of the men who fought and died to secure the beaches. There was conflict of another kind this year when France invited the new US President but not Her Majesty the Queen. Realising the mistake France asked the Prince of Wales to come to the area where his grandfather, King George VI had been only days after the Normandy victory.



Today military cemeteries in the area are filled with crosses to mark the men who died there. The figures are staggering: British killed 1,842 (wounded 8,599); American 3,082 killed (13,121 wounded); Canadians: 563 killed (1,359 wounded). Frenchmen also played their part in the biggest amphibious landings in history. After June 6<sup>th</sup> another three weeks of fighting saw Cherbourg captured and on August 25<sup>th</sup> Paris was liberated.



Canada, who declared war on Germany the same week as Great Britain, played a key part in every European battle. In 1989, feeling others had forgotten its role, Canada launched a series telling the full story of the war. The series ran until 1995 with 28 stamps. Everyone with a theme World War II must include them.

The United States did the same, beginning a series in 1991 and continuing until 1995 with the title "America's Entry into the Second World War". It is claimed the US public demanded the series. It covered Europe and the Pacific, including the Normandy Landings, Battle of the Bulge, Liberation of Concentration Camps and the Unconditional Surrender of Germany took place on May 2 1945, The Fuhrer having committed suicide.

Proof that GB stamps have come a long way since the 1946 Victory pair, its 1995 Europa set begins with "British troops and French civilians celebrating".

**Coming Soon - The Pacific War.**

