



West of
England
Thematic
Society

Newsletter No.40 September 2010

Society Officers

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IN THIS ISSUE – Ever heard of George Williams or Paule Endacott or know their contribution to Thematics? – Minutes of the WETS AGM, Dates for your Diary, Web News, WETS News by eMail, What to collect in a Thematic Display.

EVER HEARD OF GEORGE WILLIAMS AND PAUL ENDACOTT. OR KNOW THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THEMATICS

Probably not, (*according to WETS member David Herrity*) yet I would be surprised if you were not familiar with two very famous historical figures, Laurence of Arabia and Sitting Bull. How do the four people connect? Have you visited your local Library or Museum lately, now and again, when you were at school or even never? You really would be astonished at what you have missed. All four people have been connected with or are currently on display at a Devon Library or Museum. Gill and I were alerted that a visit to Plymouth Library and Ashburton Museum would be well worth the effort by WETS members David Roseveare and Alison Burden.

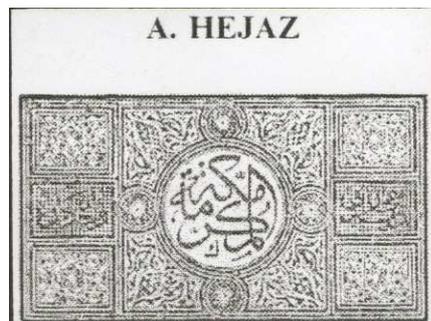
Firstly we visited Plymouth Library which had a fascinating display compiled by George Williams a private collector of T. E. Lawrence memorabilia. A copy of Laurence's 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' book was on view which for those who like a cryptic challenge can glean an insight into this tortuously moody but brilliant misfit. But did you know that apart from his role in the Palestine campaign he helped to design the first set of Saudi Arabian stamps. Away from the historical limelight, Laurence now seeking anonymity as Aircraftman Shaw, was often seen racing through the pre Second World War Plymouth streets on his motor cycle with no less a personage than Lady Astor as his pillion passenger. It was on this bike that he met his premature death. Unfortunately the display was of short duration and Mr. Williams as one might understand did not wish to be too much in the public eye.

Next on the list was Ashburton Museum where Gill and I were met by one of the assistant curators Alison Burden who showed us around what turned out to be a Themismatists dream. We were both enthralled by the depth of local Ashburton memorabilia on show.



Gill was ooing and cooing over what to a mere male looked like a pile of lacework, however the girls soon corrected my ignorance! My interest was drawn to a wonderful display of Native American ethnology donated by Paul Endacott whose family had emigrated from Ashburton to the United States in the early 1900's. Pride of place being a splendid Sioux war bonnet circa. 1840-50 (of a type

first depicted by the French artist de Marques in 1560) but did you know that as the explanatory text points out such a bonnet could only be worn by an Indian of great renown and even then at the consent of his peers. Most Indian photographs of the period show either no feather at all or as was the Sioux custom one feather placed vertically at the back of the head. An exception being a depiction of Sitting Bull resplendent in a full war bonnet which one might be excused for suspecting may have been a prop worn during his tenure as the Buffalo Bill Wild West Shows star attraction. Also on display for the ladies is a Cheyenne woman's fringed buckskin dress, decorated with Elks teeth denoting that its wearer was born or married into a family of high standing. Sadly the museum is battling against the ravages of time to preserve this wonderful relic of a way of life never to return. Hopefully they will succeed. This particular ethnology display is jam packed with not only the wherewithal of Indian life but fascinating snippets of information as to how they were used and by whom. A highly recommended day out.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of England Thematic Society

Held at Emmanuel Church, Exeter on Saturday June 26th 2010 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Mrs. M. Claydon (Chairman) Mr. J. Wigmore (Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor) Mr. R. Wheeler (Treasurer) Mrs. G. Gray (Secretary) Mr. N. Claydon, Miss. E. Rees, Mrs. P. McDowall, Mr. D. Herrity. Guest Mrs. C. Wheeler.

Apologies: Mrs. V. Wigmore, Mr. G. Green and Mr. D. Roseveare.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: None available

Chairman's Report: The Chairman started her report by thanking all 22 members who had submitted an entry for the WETS Roadshow which was the best ever with everyone all getting together that day. She expressed special thanks to Jim Wigmore for his efforts with the Newsletter. She also thanked John Hayward for producing an excellent Social Philately display at the Ashburton Seminar.

Secretary's Report: Not available

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the accounts saying that we were down on last year partly due to the WETS day at Dartmoor Lodge coming in twice and that we have lost 15 members this last year. The balance for next year should be about £400. He recommended that the subscriptions should continue at £4.00 per member. Peter Denley was suggested as next years WETS Day speaker.

It was proposed by Mr. David Herry and seconded by Mr. Jim Wigmore that the accounts be accepted and agreed unanimously.

Newsletter Editors Report: The Editor pleaded for more input from members for the Newsletter, with more pictures. If members had an email address would they please inform him so that the Newsletter could be emailed instead of posting. A vote of thanks was given by our Chairman to Jim and seconded by Mrs. Pam McDowall and Miss. Edith Rees.

Publicity Officers Report: Not available

Election of Officers: Our Secretary Mr. Gary Green has resigned due to pressure of work resulting from his many other philatelic posts and the Committee thanked him for all the work undertaken by him. Mrs. Gillian Gray was unanimously voted in as the new Secretary. The rest of the officers were then re-elected en bloc.

Any Other Business: The Secretary asked if the date of the next meeting could be altered so that it did not clash with 'Cornex.' Therefore the next meeting at Buckfastleigh would now be **30th October 2010 at 2 pm.**

There followed a short recession when tea and biscuits were served thanks to Edith Rees and Pamela McDowall. There then followed three displays: Jim Wigmore showed "Cyprus Government Railway", David Herry "G.B. Fugitive Inks" and Gillian Gray "The Voyages of Capt. James Cook".

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sept 15-18th – Autumn Stampex – Islington London

Sept 18th Phoenix Fairs – America hall Pinhoe.

23rd October 2010 – CORNEX

30th October 2010 – WETS Meeting Buckfastleigh Town Hall start 2.00 pm. (Note the change of Date.) Members should bring 16 Sheet entries for the John Hilsdon Trophy.

20th November - Phoenix Fairs – America Hall Pinhoe.

WEB NEWS – For those members that have web access here are some useful links to look at.

The website of the British Thematic Association (BTA) has some very useful information for collectors of thematics including some examples of how to put a thematic together. BTA also have an excellent library full details of which are online, there is a search facility or you can search by subject. This facility is constantly being updated. You can find some really useful information to help build your own display.

The links to follow are www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/ and go to either the Exhibiting page or the Library page.

Don't forget to look at our own Wessex Federation website at www.wessexpf.org.uk/ the Events Calendar and integrated Club Calendar is very useful for whats happening around our region.

ABPS have been making some useful changes to their website of late have a look at www.abps.org.uk/ for details of all national and regional events. You will also find details of how to enter any of the events should you wish to do so. This will include copies of the rules and entry forms.

HINT - If you find any of the above websites useful you can always save them to your Favourites file (*to do this depending on what your top toolbar displays – click on either Favourites or the Red Heart symbol and follow the instructions to save the link for future use.*) Once saved to your Favourites File all you need to do is open your web browser select Favourites and then the link you wish to use.

WETS NEWS by email – this seems to be quite popular amongst our computer users. 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.

WHAT TO COLLECT IN A THEMATIC DISPLAY – Part 4 by Richard Wheeler

At the WETS AGM on Saturday 26th June I realised that I had missed out a fourth part of “What to Collect” so here it is.



Totally collectable are miniature sheets, with printing on the selvedge relating to your theme, as shown left below.

Postal stationery is very collectable. Such as material printed by the postal authority with a printed stamp and a cachet that can be shown. If it is a printed card with a stamp that has been affixed it is likely that the cachet is printed to private order and cannot be used in a thematic competition.



Other items worth collecting are black proofs (see below), the actual stamp should be collected and shown along side.



Air Mail letters sometimes have printed material printed on the exterior like the example shown right which relate to the collection.

The Dudley Marionettes, one of Britain's largest touring companies, were commissioned to present 'The Tempest' at Stratford-upon-Avon for two weeks commemorating William Shakespeare's 400th anniversary in 1964.

THE UNSEEN CONSORT by Tony Smith - Stamp designers I'm sure are already optimistically working on an issue to mark the 90th birthday of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, next year. He has already been pictured alongside the Queen for their Silver and Golden Wedding anniversaries but now perhaps the man invariably seen walking two steps behind Her Majesty, deserves a stamp showing him to the fore with a small silhouette of the Queen looking on. Over the years several Commonwealth countries have previously pictured the two together -- often marking a Royal Visit. But the man who occupied a similar role for Queen Victoria in the 19th century was virtually unseen on stamps.

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For example, most philatelists know when the world's first postage stamp was seen -- May 1st 1840. But Queen Victoria's happiest day came 12 weeks before – when she married her beloved Prince Albert – or to give him his full name Francis, Albert, Augustus, Charles, Emmanuel, Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The lady shortly afterwards seen on the sombre Penny Black, wore a simple pale cream wedding dress with collar and cuffs made by famed lace makers in the town of Honiton in Devon.

Rowland Hill, creator of the Penny Black, stood alongside the government in an official “No” had the young Queen wanted the nation to see her beloved Albert on a stamp. In 1851, however, Canada issued its first stamps and there was Albert on a 6p value. In 1866 Newfoundland, still independent from its neighbour, included a portrait of him with the title Prince Albert. Both countries ‘honoured’ a Queen’s husband on stamps over 100 years before the Duke of Edinburgh appeared on a GB issue.



Victoria and Albert first met in 1836 when they were 17 and 16. It was a contrived arrangement in typical European royal circles. She is thought to have found Albert more likeable than his older brother Ernest, who also visited England for “matrimony consideration”. A year later she became Queen and after 18 months as the young Sovereign of the world's largest Empire and with at first no thought of matrimony, Victoria met Albert again. It was October 10 1839 at Windsor. This time she was, romantic history books tell us, entranced by the handsome, intelligent man who was also happy to enjoy life. And on October 15 Victoria proposed to him.

In many ways it was the story of Princess Elizabeth and the Philip in the 20th century. A Greek prince he also had to overcome concern about “a foreigner marrying into our royalty”.

Prince Albert had to wait until 1987 when he was ‘squeezed’ into a GB set for the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession. Countless paintings of the tall, distinguished man with long sideburns and a carefully trimmed moustache showed him with the Queen and their growing family. And even photography was making its mark. But the Queen posed alone on British stamps for 62 years. But Albert did leave his mark on England!

In 1848 he enthusiastically backed the Society of Arts plan for a Great Exhibition on Crown Property in Hyde Park, London. The Prince worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Exhibition. After rejecting many plans, the organisers -- with his agreement -- handed the task to the Duke of Devonshire's head gardener, Joseph Paxton, and his futuristic creation of iron and glass. Prince Albert was present for day after day as the building grew. It was 565 metres x 125 metres and at several points high enough to allow tall to trees grow. The Queen and their children often visited.



On May 1 1851 exactly 11 years after the first Victorian stamp was distributed, the Royal party travelled from Buckingham Palace for the Great Exhibition Opening. But there was no stamp to mark the Exhibition which attracted six million to see what Britain and the world had achieved. Most British people came using trains on railways whose growth Albert had supported.



Having built a ‘home’ for his family on the Isle of Wight – Osborne House - plus refurbishing Buckingham Palace and Scotland's Balmoral, he was to the fore in harnessing 19th Century technology. The energy took its toll, however, and in mid-1861 Victoria and her doctors notice a rapid deterioration in his health. It proved to be typhoid. On December 14 he died at Windsor. He was 42 and had been married to Victoria for 21 years. Her grief and desolation was seen on the design of stamps as she reigned for 41 years before dying in 1901 and joining him in the Royal Mausoleum at Windsor.



Albert, Prince Consort under Victoria's demand, is remembered by the magnificent Royal Albert Hall, started a year after his death and the Albert Memorial nearby. His lifelong interest in art is reflected in both as well. Even smaller mementoes of his life remain. He had a strong voice in the design of the Victoria Cross and the he was honoured by the Albert Medal – created in 1866 for gallantry in saving life.

Prince Philip is known for his work on creating the Edinburgh Award scheme for British youngsters but his endless, obviously tiring work/role is often missed. Hopefully stampwise his 90th birthday will be honoured.