

# BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

Presented to the American Topical Association.  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Barry Stagg

Chairman

[www.britishthematic.org.uk](http://www.britishthematic.org.uk)

FISHES OF THE WORLD

ORDER CARCHARHINIFORMES - Ground Sharks

FAMILY - CARCHARHINIDAE - Requiem Sharks (Continued)

Tiger Shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)

Perhaps the best known of the requiem sharks is the tiger shark. It is a large, fearsome, scavenging fish with a deservedly bad reputation. It lives in warm and tropical seas around the world. Small specimens have tigerlike stripes on their back and sides, but these become faint with age.

It is a voracious feeder, attacking almost anything that moves. It is so indiscriminate in its diet that it gobbles indigestibles as readily as digestibles. Stomachs from these sharks have revealed an astonishing variety of items from cans and boots to bags of coal and parts of human bodies. It is often nicknamed the 'garbage can shark'.

There are at least 27 documented attacks on humans.



The UK's national association for theme-based philately and postcard collecting.

Founded in 1984, the BTA supports both individual and groups of thematic collectors.

The British military response to the declaration of war is immediate, advance army units of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) arriving in France on 4 September, the main force disembarking at Cherbourg six days later. Further reinforcements follow and by May 1940 the British Army in France numbers 394,165.



British light tanks disembark and move quickly away from the port areas.



A significant proportion of the BEF consist of under trained Territorial Army divisions.

Moving up to the French-Belgium border the BEF prepare defensive positions. What they do not anticipate is the long period of inactivity that drags on into 1940, what becomes known as the 'Phoney War'.



GHQ, BEF is established near Arras, close to the French-Belgium border.

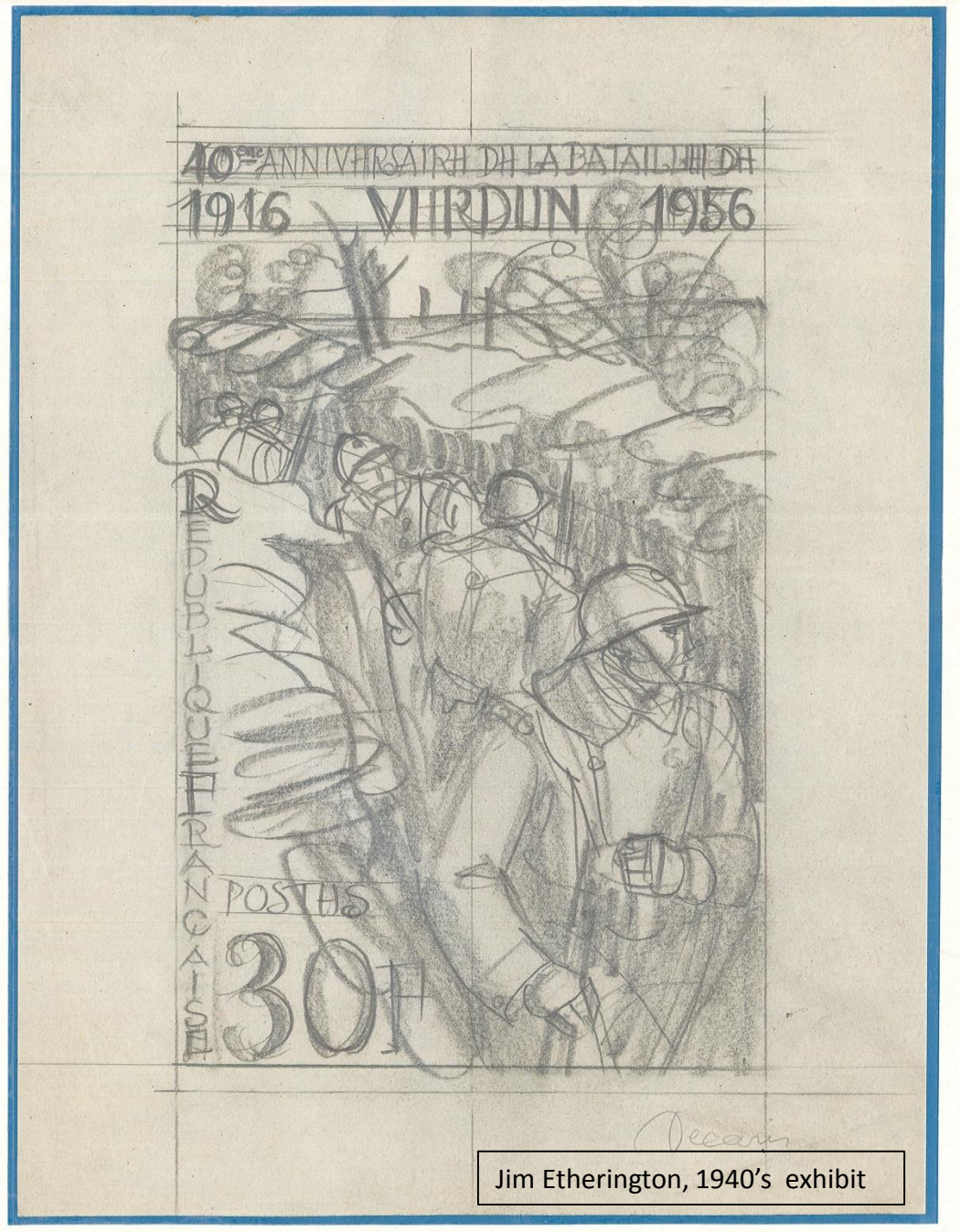
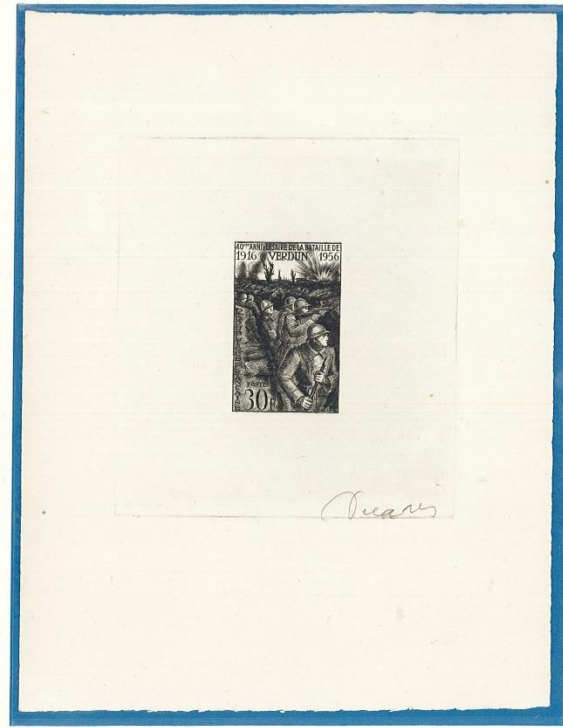
Original artwork and die proof, both signed by the designer and engraver Albert Decaris. The issued French stamp marked the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Verdun.



Many troops are assigned to labouring duties including trench digging and airfield construction.



Endless nights of sentry duty on the French border results in 99% boredom, 1% fright.



Jim Etherington, 1940's exhibit

Currently we have 164 individual members and 12 associated groups.

As ships were built to withstand the pressures of the ice at the north pole, and it was learned that there was an abundance of whales farther south from explorers who had ventured nearer the Antarctic ice in the southern hemisphere whalers were soon tempted to venture south.



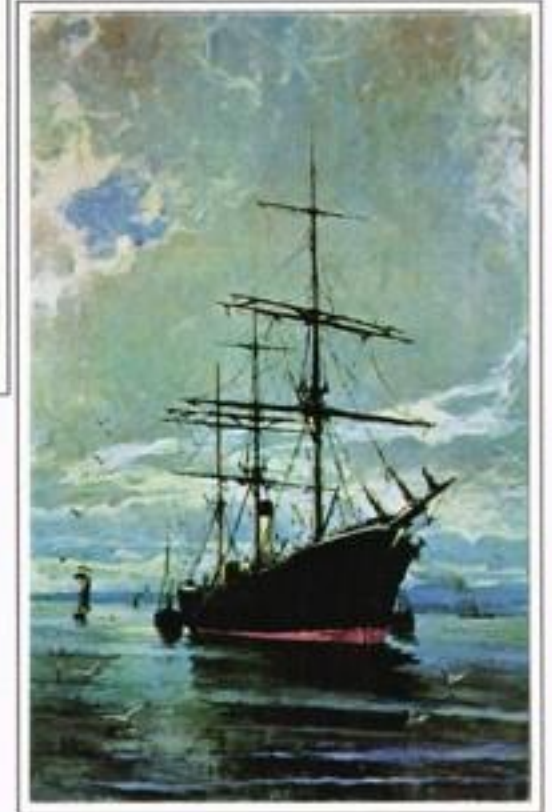
South Georgia Whaling Museum Historical Series 1.  
Photograph taken by Edward Dinnie.



#### Grytviken in the 1920's

This photograph shows the entire shore whaling station, with the flensing platform, huge whale oil tanks and hundreds of casks of oil ready to ship out.

Grytviken on South Georgia became the capital of the southern whaling fleets. This sub-Antarctic island 800 miles east of the Falklands on the same latitude as Cape Horn, was once a thriving whaling station that lasted two-thirds of a century almost entirely fuelled by British finance.



Dundee City Art Gallery. Painting by  
Charles James Lauder 1841 - 1920

'At Anchor' The Dundee whaling vessel 'Balena.



**BIRDS EYE**

# Potato Waffles



**FREE**  
**POSTAGE STAMPS**  
**AND CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
**WORTH £2.25**

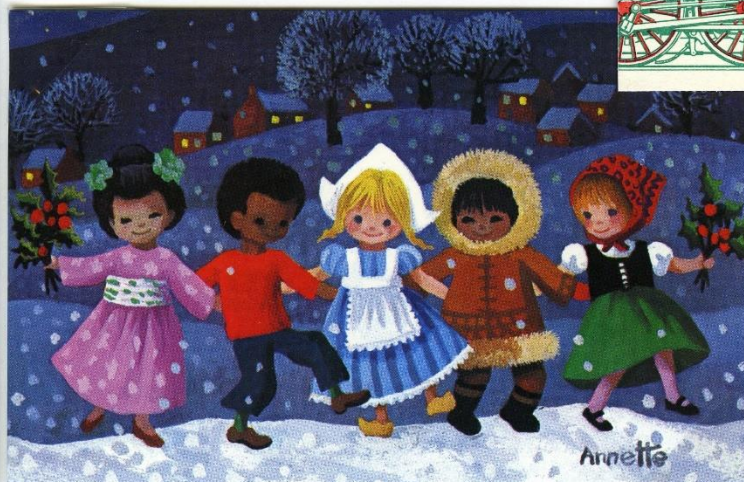
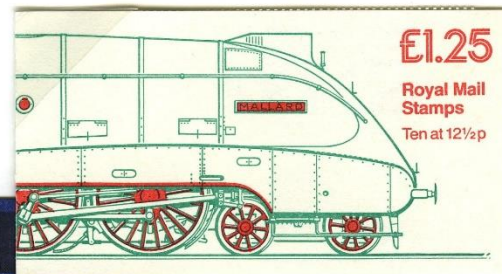
Save money this Christmas with Birds Eye and the Post Office. In exchange for just 6 **TOKENS** from these special offer packs, we'll send you a **FREE** pack of 10 Charity Christmas Cards, and a **FREE** book of 10 Postage Stamps - together worth £2.25. (10 x 12½p stamps, plus 10 cards on sale at £1.00 in charity Christmas card shops.) What's more it's **FREEPOST** - so it won't even cost you a penny postage to apply.

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Simply cut out and collect six 'Offer Tokens' and send them together with your name and address (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) on a separate piece of paper to: **BIRDS EYE CHRISTMAS OFFER FREEPOST** MS, Dept. 145, Garton House, Chertsey, Surrey. But Hurry! To guarantee delivery in time for you to use your cards this Christmas, we must receive your application before 28th November 1983. **MAXIMUM OF THREE APPLICATIONS PER HOUSEHOLD.** **THE OFFER FINALLY CLOSES 31ST MARCH '84.**



5 100011 6 102525 1

This includes Open (Display) collectors who include non-philatelic material and ephemera in their collections.



'In exchange for 6 Tokens from special offer packs we'll send you a free pack of 10 charity Christmas Cards and a free book of 10 Postage Stamps - together worth £2.25.'

LNER Mallard  
The booklet was one of the 1983 'Railway Engines' booklet series.

The BTA seeks to promote theme-based philately and postcard collecting to new audiences and increase understanding of the philatelic discipline.

6.2 Tournaments For Juniors - There are many tournaments for younger players.

This International tournament for boys and girls under 14 and 16 years has been held since 1970.



The 60th National High Schools Athletics Meeting was held at Tatsunokuchi in 1985.



European Junior Tennis Competition.



The Galea Cup  
An international team tournament for men under 21 held since 1950.



Tarbes has hosted an annual international singles tournament for children, boys and girls under 14 years of age, since 1983.



The South American Tennis Championships for juveniles and minors were inaugurated in 1933.



Ron Backhouse, Tennis exhibit

## SECULAR LIBRARIES

### Library of King Matthias Corvinus

Matthias Corvinus, known as "The Raven King" after the raven that adorned his coat of arms, seized the Hungarian throne in 1458 and spent much of his life fighting the Hapsburgs. As well as a warrior he was a great patron of the arts, and the last five years of his life were spent amassing a magnificent library which aimed to assemble all the knowledge of the ancient world.



Matthias Corvinus  
King Matthias I of Hungary, 1443 -1490



The Raven coat of arms and  
his palace: Hunyadi Castle



Most BTA  
members are  
collectors. They  
do not show their  
material and do  
not exhibit.

Mixing Postcard  
and Thematic  
collecting is also  
popular.

GOLF ADVERTISEMENT

MARIE BRIZARD & ROGER



HOTEL DE L'EUROPE, LORIENT - BRITTANY.  
POSTED 15 MAY 1909 , NANTES A OUIPER



RECEIVING STRIKE - OUIPER A NANTES, 15 MAY 1909  
"SOUVENIR OF THE STRIKE" (WHAT KIND?) - TRAVELING POST OFFICE.

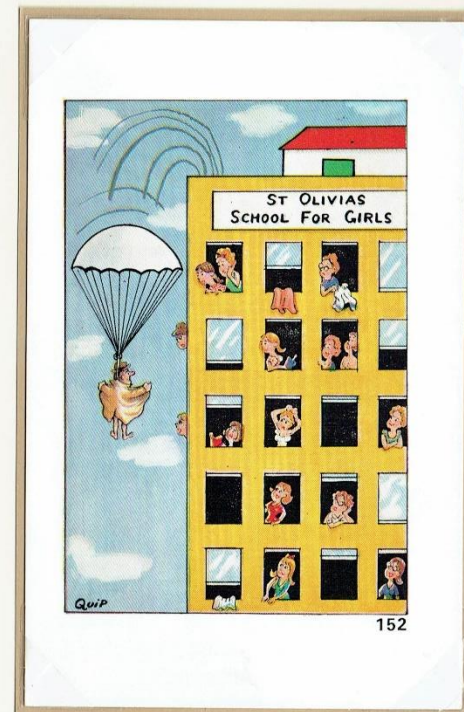


3.0 A gentle ride to the ground – Some strange behaviour by parachutists on the way down!



An invisible parachutist could be useful! Pity the parachute itself is not invisible as well!

1950s, R. Hamel France, -, Unused, Halftone.



1978, 'Quip', Sapphire UK, unused, Halftone.

Most British seaside towns had local censorship committees that approved or rejected 'risky' postcards. Blackpool was the 1st in November 1951. During 1954 the British authorities tried to clampdown on risky postcards, although Bamforth said in a court case in 1954 that his postcards were vulgar not obscene. The jury agreed with him. In the 1960s attitudes started to change and in 1968 the Blackpool committee closed and the last committee to close was the Isle of Man in 1985.

In my experience there is hardly time to write a letter on the way down!

Carrying a broly whilst parachuting seems rather odd! Perhaps it's his spare parachute!

This postcard had the back-stamp shown; it is an approval mark for the Isle of Man censor.



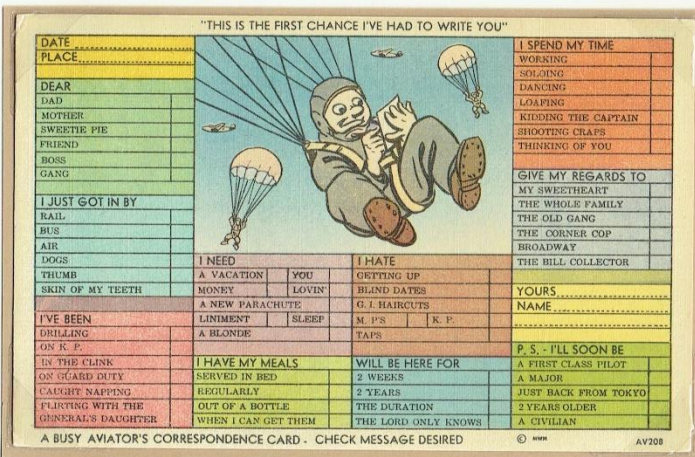
Few of these 'censorship approved' postcards exist in private hands. This is the only one I have ever seen with a parachute

A naked parachutist is rarely welcome! It's also rather cold parachuting naked!



1932, Altona-Elbe Hamburg, used, Photochrome.

# The BTA has only recently added its support to Postcards



Circa 1940s, -, Asheville Postcard Co. USA, unused, Linen.

Barry Stagg, Parachuting Postcards exhibit

# The BTA now supports Pictorial collecting: Thematic, Open and Postcards.

2.6 The Strokes - The smash is a forcefully hit overhead stroke. It is often used when volleying a high returned ball. Success is generally achieved by pointing at the ball with the free hand and smashing the ball when it is right overhead.



Ron Backhouse, Tennis



Three cards Published  
by Ray V. Hardy

A whale on the flensing platform



Hektoria Whaling Station showing Buildings, S.S.

Hektoria Whaling Station South Shetland

The BTA holds three competitions each year. All are 16 sheets:

1. BTA Cup for Thematic Philately
2. John Fosbery Trophy for Open Philately
3. Brian Sole Trophy for Postcards

The BTA has two or three meetings a year, often joint with another society. Every two years we have a weekend event covering many aspects of Pictorial collecting.

Jim Etherington, 1940's exhibit

Confident of not being challenged Hitler now looks to Germany's eastern borders. Following British and French acquiescence to his demands at Munich Hitler's troops occupy the Sudetenland, the German speaking area of Czechoslovakia, on 1 October 1938. They march into the remainder of the country on 15 March 1939.



Neville Chamberlain, Britain's Prime minister, returns to Britain believing he has secured 'Peace in our time'



Eduard Benes, the Czech President, resigns and flees to Britain.

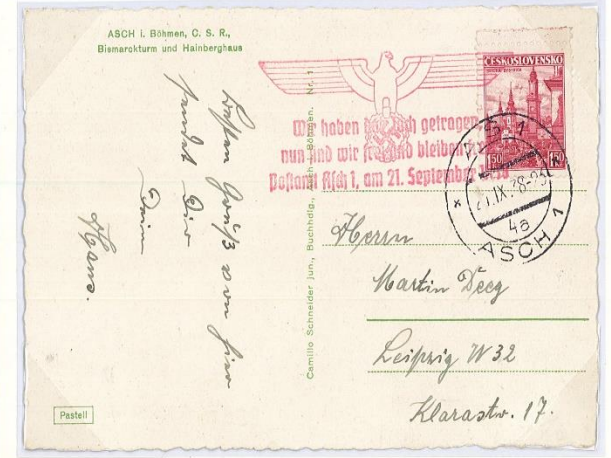
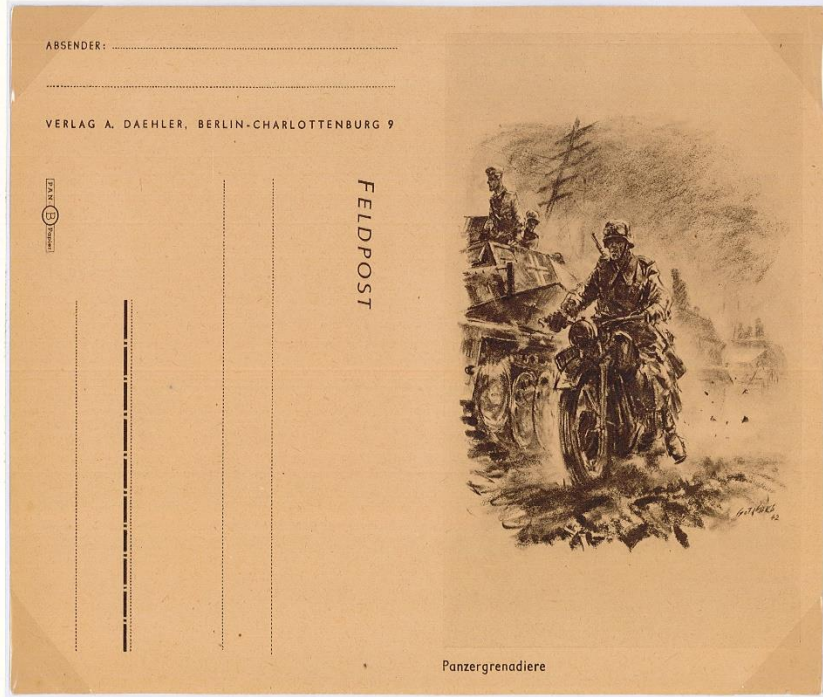
The annexation of the Sudetenland is given visual expression on a German postal stationery card.



On 1 September 1939 Hitler invades Poland. Using a manufactured dispute over Danzig as a pretext, German forces cross the border into Poland at 04.30 hours unleashing a *blitzkrieg* assault that totally overwhelms the Polish defenders.



By concentrating tanks and mechanised infantry on a narrow front, closely supported by ground attack aircraft, the tactic of *blitzkrieg* enables German forces to decisively punch through Polish defensive lines.



Posted in Asch this card bears the first 'Self liberation' cachet to be used in the Sudetenland. The text reads, "The yoke has been removed and we are free and will stay free". It is believed that this and similar cachets were prepared before the German invasion.



The Czech provinces of Slovakia and Bohemia & Moravia initially proclaim their separate identities by overprinting Czech stamps.



In a radio broadcast to the British people Chamberlain declares war against Germany on 3 September 1939, Hitler having ignored Britain's ultimatum demanding the withdrawal of German forces from Poland.



Despite the Poles courageous defence of their country German tactics and superior military hardware renders it an unequal struggle. Poland surrenders on 27 September, its capital in ruins.

2.5 . . . . and in parts of South America

Diamonds were discovered in 1725 in Brazil, by miners from Portugal. They called the area Diamantina, Portuguese for diamonds. This mine started the Brazilian Diamond Rush of 1725-1860, and also helped revitalise the diamond trade in Europe, as the Indian diamond mines were becoming depleted, after 2000 years of use. Geologically the mine is the oldest diamond deposit in Brazil. Prior to this, the gold miners had, unknowingly, used diamonds as chips on the gaming tables!



A similar hand-stamp on the 1st Brazilian stamp, known as the Bull's Eye due to the pattern formed in seven-tenant pairs

1848 Pre-stamp cover with V. Diamantina hand stamp Brazil, then a Portuguese colony, supplied most of the diamonds for Europe from 1725-1870, as Portugal had claim to the country and would not allow others to mine there. The cliffs at Diamantina, where the diamond mines were situated, are now a National Park. Later hand-stamps were without the 'V'



Rough Diamonds surcharge overprint in 1976 on stamp issued in 1974



Diamond treatment plant



Self adhesive stamp of an open cast diamond mine



Israeli mini-sheet for the World Stamp Exhibition 2001 held in Belgium with gem diamonds, cut in different styles

Anne Stammers, Rock to Riches

Telling a story is a significant part of theme-based collecting.

THE TRAVELLER'S TREE

(*Ravenala madagascariensis*)



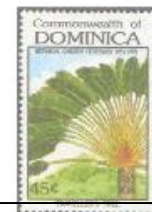
The Traveller's Tree is often called the "Traveller's Palm" but, botanically, is not a palm at all. It is a member of the Strelitziaceae family and related to the "Bird of Paradise" plants. Its botanical name, *Ravenala madagascariensis*, emphasises the fact that this beautiful and unusual plant originated on the island of Madagascar. It is a native of Madagascar's lowland forests.

The Traveller's Tree can grow up to 30 or 40 feet in height. Its large, broad leaves grow from the central stem and spread out to create a fan-like display. Each leaf has a sheath at its base in which water collects. It is this supply of water which gives the plant the name "Traveller's Tree". It is a true 'exotic' and is now grown in botanical gardens, private gardens and landscaped areas throughout the world's tropical regions.

*The Traveller's Tree: A Journey Through the Caribbean* (1950) was the first book written by British author Patrick Leigh Fermor (1915-2011), about his post-war travels in the Caribbean.



Traveller's Trees at The Old Gin House Hotel, St. Eustatius, Dutch West Indies  
Photograph: Norman Hudson, March 2004



Norman Hudson, The Traveller's Tree

**PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, USA**

**ITEM 1.** 1926 Advertising Envelope for the Palace Hotel, San Francisco sent to Washington, Penn. with 1922 2 cents George Washington stamp and slogan postmark "Air Mail saves time".



**History**

The Palace Hotel is a landmark historic hotel in San Francisco, California, also referred to as the "New" Palace Hotel to distinguish it from the original 1875 Palace Hotel, which had been demolished after being gutted by the fire caused by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The present structure opened on December 19, 1909 on the site of its razed predecessor. The hotel was closed in 1989 for two years to undergo a renovation and seismic retrofit.

**ITEM 2.** 1910 postcard of the Palace Hotel sent to Bristol, UK with 1908 1 cent Benjamin Franklin stamp, (plus various postal markings)



Reverse of postcard

This 1910 postcard was sent four months after the hotel was rebuilt. It reads - "... San Francisco is building up (good?), pretty soon all traces of the fires and earthquake will entirely disappear. The New Palace Hotel, recently opened, is not as high or a picturesque outside as the old one. But the interior is grand and the building one of the grandest in the city..."

Some collectors like to research in depth.

Erene Grieve, Advertising

**Mrs Kissock Goes Shopping** (But what did she buy?)

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1910, Mrs Maria Kissock shopped at the Army and Navy Co-operative Society store and spent £30. Who was Mrs Kissock and what could she have bought for £30?



1910 STO tuck-in letter sheet with large circular trade mark for the Army and Navy Co-operative Society Ltd and 1/4 d green stamp sent to Mrs Kissock, 7 Yorke House, Kensington Gardens.

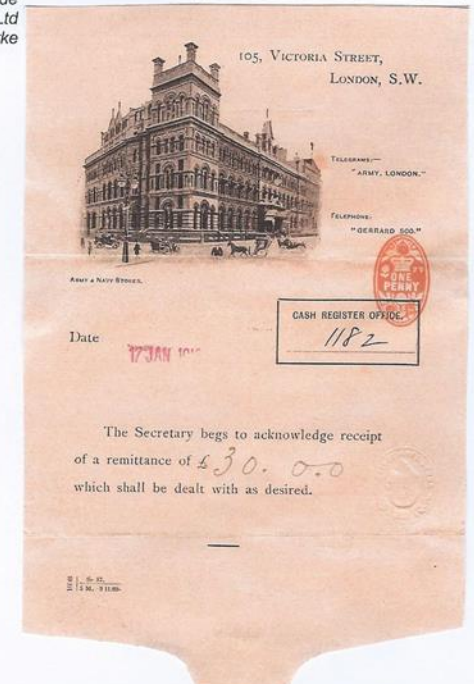
The Army and Navy Co-operative Society Ltd was incorporated in 1871, being formed by a group of army and navy officers. The aim was to supply goods to its members at the lowest remunerative rates. The store expanded rapidly at home and in other countries over the next 35 years offering a wide range of goods and services. They also had an enormous illustrated price list which could be ordered by phone. The advent of the First World War saw trade suffer badly, and it was hit hard during the Second World War too with some stores suffering serious bomb damage.

Mrs Maria Kissock was a widow in 1910 aged 80. She was living in affluent Kensington Gardens with her daughter, 2 year old grandson and son-in-law who was a surgeon and Captain in the Life Guards - together with two handmaids and two nurses. Mrs Kissock seems to have spent some time abroad as her daughter was born in Tasmania. She died in 1911 only 3 months after her purchase.

What could Mrs Kissock have bought?

- A pair of silver candelabra £30
- A sable fur stole £25
- A gent's gold watch £29
- A lady's gold watch set with pearls and diamonds £29

(Taken from the 1907 catalogue)



Inside of letter sheet reduced to 75% with picture of premises and 1d orange fiscal stamp.

### A CHESS GAME THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE

At the start of the American Civil War, a large number of patriotic covers were produced and used by supporters of the Union side. These two show an imaginary chess game played between a confident looking General Winfield Scott, the Commander in Chief of the Union forces at the start of the conflict, and an unhappy looking Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States. Both covers probably date from 1861, as the war started in April 1861, and General Scott was dismissed by President Lincoln in November 1861. It is unlikely that the covers would have been used after that.



Charles Oppenheim, Chess

BTA members collect on a very wide variety of topics including chess, roses, bicycles, waterfalls, railways, aircraft, peace and paper.

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