

FUN PHILATELY

NEWSLETTER

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GOLD ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The PYC Council is pleased to announce that Brydon Sundgren of Wellington has been awarded the Gold Achievement Award. Part of the requirements is for Brydon to describe one discipline of philately. Here is his essay on thematic collecting.

Over the years, the world of philately has continued to grow through the issue of many new stamps, no longer depicting kings and queens, but rather a wide array of topics. This has led to the blooming of thematic collecting in the philatelic world. The wide array of material available today for philatelists to collect is so great that they can now be selective and create substantive collections on one theme or topic. This is called thematic collecting.



Thematic collecting took off in the latter part of the 20th Century due to the greater diversity of stamps postal unions began to issue. The large variety of material available to collect became harder and harder for many to afford. They decided that instead of collecting stamps from many countries, they would instead concentrate on collecting certain topics that were becoming prevalent in the issue of stamps including ships, transport, sport, flora and fauna, birds and animals. This led to the boom in thematic collecting.

Thematic collecting allows the collector to follow a subject of their choice. This could be related to their everyday lives such as collecting aircraft when the collector is a pilot or something completely unrelated from someone's occupation such as a structural engineer collecting birds. More often than not, the topic chosen is related to something the collector enjoys such as a hobby or pastime.

Enjoying the subject you have decided to collect is essential for a thematic collector as it takes time to build up both material and knowledge on the topic. Collectors thinking of pursuing thematic collecting will need to invest time into finding items for their collection, especially if it is an obscure topic such as the life of plankton or lacrosse. At the end of the day, the only limit to choosing a topic for collecting is your imagination.

At first, thematic collectors will be attracted to stamps on their topic. However, thematic collecting isn't only about collecting stamps. If it was it wouldn't be very interesting. Instead, thematic collecting is about collecting all philatelic items on a particular topic. This includes covers, postal stationery, postal slogans, meter marks, maximum cards, miniature sheets, frames etc. All these items have their place in a thematic collection. To find this material, going to stamp dealers, stamp fairs and large exhibitions as well as frequenting internet auction sites such as eBay is ideal.

Last but not least, when thematic collectors have enough material to create a presentation or exhibit, thematic collectors should try to organise their collection so that it tells a story, with a beginning a middle and an end. This presents the material in an interesting way for other collectors to look at the collection, rather than just having an accumulation of material, all on the same topic.

Overall, thematic collecting is an enjoyable form of stamp collecting which has few boundaries.



Brydon being presented with his Certificate and Gold Achievement Badge by Anne Bevan, PYC Treasurer

PERFORATIONS

LOOKING AT TWO DIFFERENT METHODS OF PERFORATION

Following on from the last quarterly issue, let's look at the two most commonly used forms of perforation. Of course scissors or a knife was the first instrument, and that resulted in stamps being cut with irregular margins, or no margins at all sometimes.

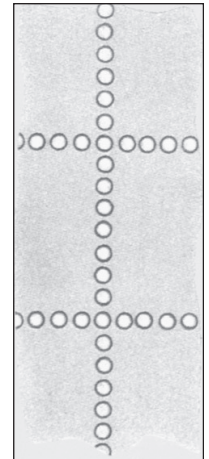
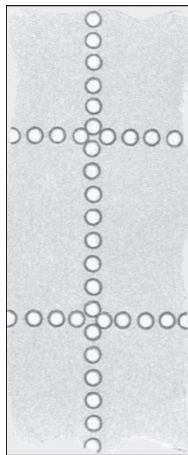
Henry Archer invented the perforating machine in 1847, and the British Post Office first used it for the stamp issue of 1854.

LINE PERFORATION:

Is the simplest method of perforation where rows of stamps are punched between a single line at a time. The sheet (or usually a pile of sheets) is then turned sideways and the process is repeated. The clue to this form of perforation is the irregular corners

COMB PERFORATION:

Is the method most commonly used today. The perforating pins are arranged so that holes are punched across the top and bottom of the stamp at the same time as down the sides. Because the pins are set, this means the corner perforation is even on both sides of the stamp.



Extending your Thematic Material



Old envelopes are a great source to look for at for slogans which were printed at the same time as the cancellation. This is another good reason to keep your envelopes complete until you have decided on the subject and direction of your collection.

Here are four pictorial slogans which fit in a number of thematic subjects. Look out for any more you may come across.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

There are four awards, Bronze, Silver-Bronze, Silver and Gold

The Bronze and Silver-Bronze Awards can be examined by a stamp club leader, school teacher, youth group leader or adult stamp collector. The Silver and Gold must be examined by a person approved by the Philatelic Youth Council Executive.

Silver-Bronze

1. The applicant must have been collecting stamps for at least 12 months and must have qualified for the PYC Bronze Achievement Award.
2. The applicant (or a club leader) should write to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland 1140 advising the name and address of a preferred examiner, as well as requesting a Silver-Bronze Achievement Award application form and question paper.
3. The application form and question paper will be sent to the examiner, who will give the ten question paper to the applicant.
4. The applicant should complete the question paper without assistance. There is a time limit of seven days.
5. The examiner should ensure that the applicant has an eight page display of stamps which has been entered into a Society Youth Section or Youth Inter-club competition and received a 60% mark or more, has given a five minute talk on the display, has answered at least five questions on the display and is able to demonstrate an understanding of how to detect watermarks and measure perforations.
6. The completed examiners form and completed question paper should be returned to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland 1140.
7. If the examiner approves the award and the applicant has answered at least 60% of the question paper correctly, the Silver-Bronze Certificate and Silver-Bronze Achievement Award badge will be sent to the examiner or the stamp club leader for presentation at a stamp club meeting.

Silver

1. The applicant must have been collecting stamps for at least two years and must have qualified for the PYC Silver-Bronze Achievement Award.
2. The applicant (or a club leader) should write to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland 1140 advising the name and address of a preferred examiner, as well as requesting a Silver Achievement Award application form and question paper.
3. The application form and question paper will be sent to the examiner, who will give the question paper to the applicant.
4. The applicant should complete the question paper without assistance. There is a time limit of seven days.
5. The examiner should ensure that the applicant has a 16 page display of stamps of National Emerald Award standard, has given a 5 to 10 minute talk on the display, has answered at least eight specialised questions on the display and is able to demonstrate an understanding of how to use a stamp catalogue.
6. The completed examiners form and completed question paper should be returned to PYC Achievement Awards, PO Box 2979, Auckland 1140.
7. If the examiner approves the award and the applicant has answered at least 75% of the question paper correctly, the Silver Certificate and Silver Achievement Award badge will be sent to the examiner or the stamp club leader for presentation at a stamp club meeting.

EXHIBITION PROTECTORS

NEW SHIPMENT (size 248 x 290mm)

Pack of 25 \$20

Pack of 100 \$55

Order from – PYC of NZ, PO Box 2979, Auckland 1140
Money with your order please.

All prices include GST and postage within NZ.