



THE CALEDONIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Stamp collecting



is for
You!



No matter your age or interests in life, here is a hobby for all ages that can either stand in its own right or augment any of your existing leisure activities. It doesn't matter whether you are interested in science or the arts – or even politics. People, places, human achievements geology and landscape, opera or the Bible. These and much more have been celebrated on stamps. The hobby is ideal for learning about all manner of things. Whilst it can be a relaxing solitary hobby that is an excellent distraction for the recently retired or an absorbing and mentally stimulating hobby for young people and old age pensioners alike, the main idea is to share your interest with others or learn of others interests. Collecting is just great for your health and wellbeing. Come and Join us.

Take a peep and discover some interesting links

Scottish Botanists

Scottish Botanists on Stamps

For its size and population, Scotland has produced a disproportionate number of botanists and plant hunters. Experts ponder over the reason for this. There is general agreement that the standard for free education in Scotland was such as to ensure that even the poorest youngster had mastered the basics of reading writing and arithmetic - in direct contrast to the situation in England. However, the lower standard of living had also produced folk who were used to “make do and mend” and were generally self-reliant. These were necessities for anyone in service in any of the great gardens or setting off as an explorer. Whatever the reasons, many lads of humble origin gained themselves international recognition for their plant-hunting and botanical skills. Apart from being known professionally through the accounts of their travels and finds, recognition has been given by using their names in the scientific naming of plants.

Carnwath, Kew and Romania via *Pelargonium*



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This stamp from Romania is one of a set dealing with *Pelargonium* plants. The taxonomic name *Pelargonium zonale* is followed by the abbreviation “Ait” - a shortened version of Aiton. **William Aiton** was born in Carnwath in 1731. He gained a reputation as a gardener and was recruited by the 3rd Earl of Bute to manage the gardens at Kew for the Dowager Princess of Wales, Auguste. Aiton became the first “Keeper” of Kew Gardens. The journal *Horta Kewensis* was published by him from 1772 to 1789. In it he informed readers about plants from overseas- over 5,000 of them! On his death in 1793, he was succeeded as Keeper of Kew Gardens by his son William Aiton.

Weem, North America and Hawaii via Douglas Fir

Archibald Menzies was born in Weem, in Perthshire and went on to study medicine in Edinburgh before joining the navy as a surgeon. Sailing on HMS Prince of Wales from 1786 to 1789 he pursued his passion for plant collecting during visits to Cape Horn, China, Hawaii and New Zealand. This was followed by a second voyage aboard HMS Discovery during which he collected over 300 new species on the west coast of North America. A considerable number of plants are named after him of which perhaps the best known is Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).



Scotland to Africa via Clerodendron

Mrs W C Thomson was a very keen amateur botanist and wife of the Rev William Cooper Thomson who, in turn, was a nephew of Alexander Greek Thomson. He was a gifted linguist and a missionary who worked in Africa from 1849 to 1865. Mrs Thomson died soon after his arrival in Africa. The Rev Thomson's son sent home a specimen to Prof John Balfour in Edinburgh who named it *Clerodendron thomsoniae* in honour of Mrs Thomson.



Edrom, Chiswick and China via *Rhododendron*



Rhododendron fortunei is named after **Robert Fortune** who was born in Edrom in Berwickshire in 1812. After working in the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, he became Superintendent of the hothouses in Chiswick Garden - home of the Horticultural Society. He went on collecting expeditions for the Society - notably to China. Later he was employed by the East India Company with the specific task of obtaining tea plants and learning about their cultivation so that a tea industry could be developed in India. This work and some of his other expeditions involved travelling in disguise as a Chinese merchant and having to escape from bandits. Using Edwardian cases to

nurture the plants during their travels he introduced some 20,000 tea plants to Darjeeling in India. He died in 1880, having latterly collected plants on behalf of the Government of the USA.

Birse, America and South Africa via *Gardenia*

Birse, in Aberdeenshire was the birthplace of **Alexander Garden** (1730). A son of the manse, he joined the navy as a surgeon after taking his medical degree at Aberdeen University before emigrating to Charlestown, Virginia, America in 1761. Despite working in a very busy practice, he was an enthusiastic, all-round naturalist who became a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Most of the specimens he collected were sent to John Ellis in London. The choice of his name for the genus *Gardenia* was down to Linnaeus with whom Garden corresponded on all aspects of botany. And to whom he sent specimens.



Annan, Chad and the Gambia via *Clappertonia*

Bain Hugh Clapperton was born in Annan on 18th May 1788, He joined the Merchant Navy as a cabin boy in 1801 at the age of 13. After several voyages he was press-ganged into the Royal Navy. Due to an accidental meeting with Walter Gudney in Edinburgh, he travelled with him to establish a consulate in the Kingdom of Bornu West Africa. Later he undertook a scientific expedition to map the course of the river Niger, exploring the area around Lake Chad. In 1810, he was first in the breach at the battle to take Port Louis on Mauritius and took down the French flag. His second expedition began in 1825 but ended in disaster due to disease. In terms of African exploration, he has been deemed a worthy successor to Mungo Park. He made known to Europe the history and culture of the Hausa states- based on his personal experiences there. The genus *Clappertonia* is named in his honour. The plant illustrated ranges from Mozambique to the Sudan.



Forfar, London and Poland via *Rhododendron*

David Don was born in Forfar on the 21st December in 1799. Having been appointed librarian of the Linnaean Society of London, he became Professor of Botany at King's College, London in 1836, serving until 1841. In addition, he served as librarian to the Linnaean Society of London, from 1822 to 1841. His publications include a monograph on the genus *Saxifraga* and he is the authority for names of a wide range of plants including *Rhododendron flavum* shown on this stamp from Poland. In addition, he provided the first scientific descriptions of many of the conifers found in western North America.



Scone, London and North America via Douglas Fir

Born at Scone, Perthshire in 1798, on the 26th June, **David Douglas** learned his trade in the estate gardens there but later worked at Culross in Fife. Having joined the staff of the Botanic Gardens in Glasgow and after studying under Sir William Hooker, he was recommended to the Horticultural Society of London which subsequently sent him on several expeditions to collect plants in North America. One of the large conifers came to be known as Douglas fir after him. His explorations and plant hunting in the Pacific North West rank amongst the greatest and he provided a great legacy of trees suitable for Scottish gardens.

He died on the 13th July 1834 at Laupāhoehoe in Hawaii as a result of a very tragic accident involving falling into a large pit constructed to trap wild animals. Pointed stakes had been arranged in the bottom of the pit and he fell onto them.

Forres, Glasgow University and India via *Rhododendron*

Hugh Falconer was born at Forres on 29th February in 1808. Although going to India with the East India Company, he worked with Nathaniel Wallich on studies of the local fossils and plants. He became Superintendent of the Botanical Garden in Saharanpur in India. In 1834 he was commissioned to investigate the commercial feasibility of growing tea in Bengal. Well known for his work on fossil mammals in India, his discovery of a new species of *Rhododendron* resulted in it being named *Rhododendron falconeri* in his honour by Joseph Dalton Hooker. The latter was Professor of Botany at Glasgow University before going on to taking charge of Kew Gardens. Several fossil animals are also named after Hugh Falconer in honour of his

pioneering work in India. By the time of his death in London on 31st January 1865, he had served as president of the Royal Society.



Old Meldrum, London and China via *Forsythia*

Born at Old Meldrum in Aberdeenshire in 1737, **William Forsyth** became a gardener and sought his fortune in England where he worked at Syon Park and then Chelsea Physic Garden before becoming Chief Superintendent of the royal gardens at the palaces of St James and Kensington. In 1774, he created one of the earliest rock gardens. William was also a founder member and moving force behind the formation of the Royal Horticultural Society. A plant brought back by Robert Fortune from China was named in honour of Forsyth- *Forsythia spectabilis*- shown here on a stamp from Moldova. He was not a plant hunter but made a major contribution to horticulture. The plant is well known in Scotland as a source of spring blooms but few people realise the connection that the plant has to the man who is honoured by its name. Next time you see it- think of William Forsyth and Old Meldrum.



Roxburgh to Leyden via French Antarctica

Sir John Pringle was born at Stichel in Roxburgh in 1707 and became both a physician and a naturalist. He is recognised as the founder of medical care in the army. After studying at St Andrew's, Edinburgh and Leyden Universities and after working as a physician in Edinburgh for several year became physician to the British Army commander (Earl Stair) on the continent and then Physician General to the Army. At the time of the Battle of Dettingen (1743) he persuaded his equivalent in the French Army that military hospitals on both sides should be regarded as sanctuaries and be kept free from fighting. Later, he succeeded Linnaeus as one of eight foreign members of the Academy of Sciences in Paris. He was also President of the Royal Society from 1772 to 1778. The plant on the stamp is *Pringlea antiscorbutica* commonly known as Kerguelan cabbage. The leaves are rich in vitamin C and were eaten by sailors to prevent scurvy.



What you Need to Know

The Caledonian Philatelic Society meets every Thursday evening, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. from October to March in Room GH 542 in the Graham Hills Building of Strathclyde University. There is pedestrian and disabled access from George Street and pedestrian access from Richmond Street. The latter gives access to the car park for the building – but only from 7.0 p.m. onwards. There is ramped access to the entry points within the car park.

Membership is open. Please come along for a trial evening or two to start with. The annual membership fee is currently £12. Every week, there is a display or other event with an interval half-way through. Attendance is usually about thirty so you will meet many new friends with a great spread of knowledge about different aspects of stamp collecting. For further information about the Society, please contact the secretary: secretary@caledonianphilatelic.org.uk or use the website- www.caledonianphilatelic.org.uk

Other Stamp Clubs in the Glasgow area

Bearsden: Every Second Wednesday September to Easter 7:30pm. Westerton Church Hall, Crarae Avenue, Westerton, Glasgow G61 1HY

Glasgow: Every Second Tuesday between September and April 1:30pm - 3:30pm. room 10, Partick Burgh Lesser Halls, Burgh Hall Street, Glasgow, G11 5LW

Glasgow Thematic: First Monday of each Month between October and April at 7:30pm. Automated Processing Centre, St Rollox Business Park, Turner Road, Springburn, G21 1AA

Kirkintilloch and District: Meetings at 7:00pm, Board Room, Lenzie Academy, Myrtle Avenue, Lenzie

Lanarkshire: Fridays Twice Monthly September to May, Hamilton Caledonian Bowling Club, Motherwell Road, Hamilton, ML3 7BL

Old Eastwood: Alternate Mondays October to April at 7:30pm. Netherlee Church Hall, 1 Ormonde Avenue, Glasgow, G44 3QU.

Paisley: Second and fourth Wednesdays from end of September to April at 2.0 to 4.0 p.m., in Ralston Community Centre, Allanton Avenue, Paisley, PA1 3BL

Please contact clubs directly for information about access for the disabled