

An Introduction to Two Textilatelists

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1. Introduction

We have deliberately adopted a title which we hope will catch the eye and will inspire the puzzled question "What is a *textilateliste* ?". We immediately respond that a textilateliste is a devotee of *textilately* , and this raises the question of what is textilately. This we can answer; textilately, or *textile philately* , is the collecting of stamps which display textiles or which employ themes associated with textiles.

As a result of the article on textilately which appeared in *Ars Textrina II* (Comparison of Some Varied Themes, by J. L. Allston and R.G. Stanton), we received a communication from Professor Alan Donaldson, who put us in touch with two of the world's leading textilatelists, Messrs. Jan Cysarz and Jack Willock. Both of these gentlemen have generously contributed articles for this issue of *Ars Textrina*, and it is the purpose of this note to introduce their articles, which follow immediately in the volume, by giving some brief facts about their outstanding textile stamp collections and their extremely interesting careers in the textile industry.

2. J.M. Cysarz, F.T.I.

Mr. Jan Cysarz is a newcomer to the North American continent, having come here from Great Britain in 1984. In Britain, he had a long and distinguished career as a technical and commercial senior executive with Messrs Courtaulds, the well known international corporation that is involved in man-made fibre production. Currently, he is the Development Director for Guilford Industries Inc., located in Guilford, Maine; Guilford Industries are manufacturers of coordinated fabrics for the total office interior.

Mr. Cysarz is a Fellow of the Textile Institute of England and has travelled

extensively throughout the world; he has personal and industrial connections in many international centres. He has been an active worker in the field of Textile Philately for over twenty years, and has accumulated one of the world's outstanding postage stamp collections devoted to textile themes.

Mr. Cysarz has lectured and published many articles on the subject of textile philately in Europe; his work has appeared both in the textile press and in the philatelic press. He has exhibited from his collection at several international exhibitions in England, and he exhibited his entire collection at **Modfilex**, which was the Textile, Fashion, and Industrial Exhibition held in Borås, Sweden, in 1976. This led to an exciting reward for his endeavours in the form of a commemorative medal awarded by the Royal Swedish Philatelic Society. His most recent lecture on textile philately took place in 1983 in the Textile Department of Leeds University in England (Leeds is, of course, in the very heart of the British textile producing area).

The article which Mr. Cysarz has contributed to the current issue of *Ars Textrina* stems from an article on stamps which traces textile development from fibres all the way to Haute Couture; this article first appeared in the **World Stamps Magazine** in 1967. It was then published in the **Journal of the Bradford Textile Society**; we are grateful to Mr. Cysarz and to Mr. Henry P. Sugden, Secretary of the Bradford Textile Society, for permission to reprint this article in a slightly modified form.

It is very interesting to note that Mr. Cysarz's original article undoubtedly helped in inspiring the set of British textile stamps that was illustrated, in part, in *Ars Textrina II*. He pointed out that maximum world-wide publicity concerning the past and present achievements of the textile industry in Great Britain was required, and pointed out that a British "Textile Stamp Issue" would serve as an excellent ambassador, on an international scale, for the various British textile products. He also cited the precedents that existed for such an issue; there had already been stamps commemorating British Technology and British Discovery. It must have been very gratifying to him personally and to all the readers of the **Bradford Textile Journal** when the British Post Office did adopt the suggestion and bring out the extremely handsome set of four textile stamps.

As an illustration closely connected with this introductory article, we are reproducing the William Morris "Strawberry Thief" stamp from this issue of British Textile stamps (the other three stamps from the textile set have already been shown in the article by Stanton and Allston in *Ars Textrina II*).



Maxicard of the Strawberry Thief

3. Professor Jack Willock, F.T.I.

Jack Willock is a Manchester textile man who comes from a family of designers. He studied textiles at the former "Manchester Tech" which has now evolved into UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology), and worked for ten years at the Royal Exchange. During part of the 1939-1945 war years, he worked at the Shirley Institute in special war-time research on military textiles. After the war, he joined Courtaulds Research Division and worked on the development of the new fibres that were developed at that period. After that, he moved into General Management roles right across the spectrum of the textile and garment trades.

Mr. Willock's work has involved everything in the textile industry from fibres to fashions, and he has visited textile and garment industries in over a dozen countries. He has been associated with several knitters, and has been Chairman of Bairnswear Limited, a Knitwear group (indeed, he may well be the only Chairman of a company who has been featured on the front cover of a "union" journal because of a hobby; the Hosiery and Knitwear Worker, which is the official journal of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, ran an article on his textile collection and featured a display of stamps from the collection on the front cover!). He has served on many bodies in both industry and in education; these have included the Technician Education Council and the Knitting, Lace, and Net Industry Training Board.

Mr. Willock is a well known speaker on textile topics, and has spent time at North Carolina State University and at the Philadelphia College of Textiles. In 1980, he became the second Professor of Design Management in Great Britain (the first was Professor Brian Smith at the Royal College of Art). Mr. Willock's chair was at Trent Polytechnic, in Nottingham, and was jointly funded with Courtaulds. He has now retired from regular duties at Trent Polytechnic, and Trent has conferred upon him the title of Professor Emeritus.

Mr. Willock's collection of textile stamps has been assembled in technological sequence running from Fibre to Fashion. It runs to some 2500 items on 270 A4 size sheets, together with over 400 colour slides from which he makes selections to illustrate various lectures as he needs them. He refers to his collection as a kind of "potted" textile technology, and he too has an interesting connection with the "Strawberry Thief" stamp (see the next section).

We are privileged to be able to reproduce a photograph of Mr. Willock in this



**Professor Jack Willock wearing
the sash and gown of a Fellow of
the Textile Institute**

introductory article. The photograph was taken at a recent Convocation of the Textile Institute in Manchester. Both Mr. Willock and Mr. Cysarz are Fellows of the Textile Institute, and the photograph shows the sash and gown of a Fellow of the Textile Institute.

Despite his retirement, Mr. Willock still serves on various committees and does some consulting in both educational and industrial spheres. This includes serving on the Business Studies Undergraduate Courses Board for the Committee for National Academic Awards; through this national body, he is a member of the project committee charged with the promotion of Design Management Studies, for both Managers and Designers. The paper on Design Management that he has contributed to the current issue of *Ars Textrina* embodies his philosophy; his aim has always been to get designers/artists and technologists/managers/business people closer together. He feels that Managers must understand and use more effectively the host of creative design talents available to them, and that artistic designers need the ability to relate more and to communicate better with management and its systems. He considers that the subject of Design Management grows out of the work done on analysis of design functions and management. Indeed, he has raised some very interesting considerations in this regard in an article called "The Design Triangle" that appeared in *Designer* in April of 1981 (this is the magazine of SIAD, the professional Society of Artists and Designers).

4. The Strawberry Thief

We have already illustrated the Strawberry Thief stamp in this article, and indicated that the British Textile Stamps originated as a result of encouragement from the textile industry, especially in the form of suggestions such as that made by Mr. Cysarz in his article for the **Bradford Textile Journal**.

Now the Strawberry Thief design, although it originated with William Morris about a century ago, is still used on cloth made by the firm LIBERTY of London. When the British Textile stamps were issued, LIBERTY did a special exhibit in their famous Regent Street London store; the exhibit displayed both the new stamps and their Strawberry Thief patterned cloths. As background to the exhibit, the firm borrowed Jack Willock's collection of textile stamps specially for the event.

The illustration of the Strawberry Thief which we have used is from the Maxicard that was issued (there were four Maxicards, one for each of the

Textile Stamps). This Maxicard was a full-sized postcard which shows a large *picture* of the Strawberry Thief stamp on one side (the picture covers the whole side of the postcard) and a regular area for message and address on the other side (philatelists prefer to get such a Maxicard franked with the identical stamp illustrated; thus, the ideal usage would have the Strawberry Thief Maxicard mailed with the use of one or more Strawberry Thief stamps).

5. Conclusion

We are indeed fortunate to bring you articles by these two very distinguished philatelists, Jan Cysarz and Jack Willock. Mr. Cysarz's article is on philately; Mr. Willock's article is on design. We hope to have further contributions from both of them in the future; they are experts both within the textile industry and on textile philately.

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