

TORQUAY FAVOURITES

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Steve Boorn's International Thematic *The Heart is Life* (winner of a Gold medal, plus no less than three Special Awards) tells a very personal story, with a poignant prologue and epilogue about his receipt of a transplanted heart. I have seen this exhibit progress over several years and Steve has always been willing to listen to anyone and everyone's advice about exhibiting, taking the best comments and incorporating them into his display. It has certainly paid-off big time.

It was good to see Cinderella's on display at Torquay, as I have always stated that I believe that this is a collecting area that is rich in possibilities. Due to my long association with the National (previously Junior) Philatelic Society, Eric Rust's display *The Ideal Stamp* was of particular interest to me. Over 48 pages he showed what must be as complete a collection of this material from the 1912/3 as can be formed. A well deserved Vermeil medal was awarded by the jury.

The Inter-Federation exhibits (three allowed per region) came from around half of those eligible, showing impressive support for the first 'all classes' National show to be held outside London. Despite Kent winning the ABPS trophy, it was the displays from the North-East that were my personal favourites. These covered *Pre-Decimal Machin Definitives 1967-71*, *Censorship at St Helena during the Anglo-Boer War*, and *From Foot to Rail: the Development of Mail in and through Fife*.

The exhibit by Michael Oliver in the International Traditional class won a Large Vermeil medal and covered the story of *The De La Rue Colonial Key Plate Issues* in five frames. The ingenuity of DLR whereby they had created generic stamp designs that simply needed the name of the colony and stamp face value to be inserted is undoubted. I had not appreciated, though, that these Key Plates had continued in use through six reigns to 1954, with the Leeward Islands having examples from QV to QEII.

(330 words)