

**ABOUT THE SHATPS 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DATA DVD,  
WHICH CELEBRATES THE LATE ROBIN TAYLOR'S EXTENSIVE RESEARCH  
AND INCLUDES HIS 20-VOLUME, 2,038-PAGE TRISTAN DA CUNHA MONOGRAPH**

This data DVD was compiled by the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society (SHATPS) in 2021 to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of our organization back in 1976.

The rich content of this disc also celebrates the massive amount of original research on Tristan da Cunha undertaken by the late Robin Taylor of Shirley in Solihull, England, which lies southeast of Birmingham in the West Midlands. Sadly, Robin, a SHATPS member for 26 years, passed away on October 30, 2018, just shy of his sixtieth birthday.

Between 1994 and 2018 Robin contributed 64 articles to the *South Atlantic Chronicle (SAC)*, the SHATPS quarterly journal. These many reports were spread over some 136 pages of the *SAC*. As a consequence of his prolific contributions, Robin Taylor was the recipient of three SHATPS awards.

The Allan B. Crawford Award for Excellence in Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Literature was bestowed on Robin Taylor in 2000 for the best Tristan da Cunha article published in the *South Atlantic Chronicle* in 1998 and 1999. The award was given in recognition of Mr. Crawford's gift to the society of his Lost Lifeboat Stamp Design File, which contained original art and dozens of supporting documents. In 2010 Robin's award was accompanied by a check for \$100.00. Robin received the same honor again in 2010. In that latter year it was accompanied by a striking crystal award in addition to a \$100.00 stipend.

In 1993 SHATPS created the Castella Award, bestowed for distinguished service to our society. After the death of Dr. Russell V. Skavaril in 2000, the award was renamed the Dr. Russell V. Skavaril Award for Outstanding Service to the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society. Robin's efforts were recognized when he received this award in 2007.

Robin was fortunate to have been able to visit Tristan da Cunha on two different occasions, in 1994 and in 1996. Along with President Ray Lloyd of England, Director-at-Large Mike Faulds of Scotland and former president Ron Burn of England, Robin provided substantial input into the topics covered on Tristan da Cunha stamps. In addition, Robin, Mike and Ron provided assistance to the late Allan B. Crawford, MBE in producing some of his later books about the island. Robin also collected Faeroe Islands and Lundy; and he was active in those islands' philatelic societies. Finally, Robin collected space covers; and he owned covers autographed by many of the world's astronauts, including Neil Armstrong.

During the eight-year period between 2001 and 2009 Robin self-published a 20-volume Tristan da Cunha monograph covering various aspects of the island's history and philately. Unparalleled in its scope and depth, the spiral-bound monograph, produced in a very limited edition, contains a whopping 2,038 pages.

Both Robin's 64 *South Atlantic Chronicle* articles and his 20-volume Tristan da Cunha monograph are featured in this data DVD. Prior to his death, Robin Taylor assigned the rights to his Tristan da Cunha monograph and all of his articles to SHATPS President Ray Lloyd, who in turn re-assigned the rights to SHATPS. Those who specialize in Tristan da Cunha will naturally find the disc contents to be both fascinating and useful. However, those specializing in St. Helena or Ascension may also be interested in the content.

Sincere thanks are due to SHATPS member Alan Melville of South Africa who kindly agreed to allow the scanning of his copy of Robin Taylor's 20-volume Tristan da Cunha monograph. At the time this had already been sent to New York to be sold at auction in late 2021 along with Alan's extensive Tristan da Cunha collection. The society is also greatly indebted to Charles Epting, president and CEO of HR Harmer GPN, Inc., the well-known auction house in New York City. Charles offered to employ the automatic document scanner in his office to convert Alan's copy of Robin Taylor's monograph into 2,038 pages of PDF scans which are optical character recognition (OCR)-enabled. A PDF flyer on this disc

advertises the autumn 2021 auction of Alan Melville's Tristan da Cunha collection by HR Harmer.

SHATPS President Ray Lloyd and former president Ted Cookson of the U. S. A. worked together to bring this project to fruition while SAC Publisher Everett Parker, who is also a former SHATPS president and publications editor, provided assistance in distributing the disc along with the August 2021 issue of the *South Atlantic Chronicle*. While the forty-fifth anniversary data DVD project was Ted's brainchild, it could never have been completed without Ray's encouragement and staunch support. In early June Ray even went so far as to conduct an auction of some of his own Tristan da Cunha material in financial support. Ray's auction raised in excess of \$414.00 for this project. The invaluable assistance of Mike Faulds in remedying various document discrepancies should also be acknowledged here.

Some interesting early SHATPS correspondence from the period between 1976 and 1993 was contributed by past president Michael D. Mueller of the U. S. A. and scanned in chronological order by Ted Cookson. This is the first time that these early SHATPS documents, which relate to the founding of our society, etc., have been made available for perusal.

Also included on this disc are lists of current and past SHATPS officers, a complete list of Castella and Skavaril Award winners, and the entire contents of the *South Atlantic Chronicle* online cumulative index in PDF format. The SAC cumulative index website was created and is maintained by Publications Editor and former president John Coyle of Australia. It can be accessed via the link at <https://shatps.org/s-atlantic-chronicle.html> or directly at <http://www.epraxisdata.com/CumIndex/IntroPage.html>. Lastly, the document, *A History of the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society*, is also appended. This was written by Michael D. Mueller and the late Mrs. Vivian W. Finne of the U. S. A. and was followed by a chronology compiled and then updated from time to time by Ted Cookson. The chronology was most-recently updated in mid-2021 to coincide with the society's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

As past president Michael D. Mueller penned in his original society history, which was compiled for publication in *Thirty Years of St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philately*, the fact that we are celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 “is a tribute to all of the men and women – collectors and non-collectors from around the world – who joined our society over [the] decades and supported it in various ways. From serving as an officer, to writing articles, to leading and serving on committees, to donating money for special projects, to simply sending in dues year after year. Indeed, many hundreds of collectors and enthusiasts have supported our little ship with the long name over the last [45] years. We have sailed far. To all those who have made our remarkable voyage possible: ‘Thank you! Thank you one and all!’”

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