

THE WORLD OF ONLINE PHILATELY

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Birmingham Philatelic Society www.birminghamphilatelic.co.uk

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Birmingham Philatelic Society

Founded in 1884

Welcome to the Birmingham Philatelic Society

Founded in 1884 the Society is now in its 124th continuous season. The Society meets on most Wednesday evenings from September to May. Meetings are held in the John Peek Room at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS.

The room is usually open From 6pm and meetings commence at 6.30pm.



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Site last updated 7 June 2009

Founded on 5 December 1884 by C J Phillips, the Birmingham Philatelic Society is now celebrating its 125th continuous season. It is thought to be the second oldest UK local philatelic society still functioning behind Plymouth (founded 1876).

From the home page of its recently revamped website, we immediately learn that the BPS meets on most Wednesday evenings from September through to May at the John Peek Room of the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS and that the room is usually open from 6.00pm with meetings commencing at 6.30pm. This is the type of information that should always be to the fore if potential new members are to be encouraged, but can frequently be hidden away from view.

There is a very clean, uncluttered look to this website and it utilises a bright blue, white and black colour scheme. The menu bar is vertically positioned at the left of every page and this gives immediate access to the entire site, regardless of what page you are visiting.

There are just enough words to record what needs to be written about each feature – if you want to read a lot of superfluous text, then go and buy a book! “Less is more” really does apply to web writing, but not many webmasters have comprehended the need for a difference between a web site and a paper-based publication.

Site features include the aims of the society, details about the annual auction and informal meetings, competitions and awards, library and archive (including several illustrated examples of holdings), origins of the BPS logo (which is based on the Birmingham “Chandelier” postmark), and how to make contact with the secretary.

There are 21 meetings and events listed for the 125th season and these include displays by James Grimwood Taylor, Colin Searle, John Baron and society members. A celebratory dinner and a lunchtime lecture that is open to the public on the subject of letter boxes add interesting variety to the programme.

A new webpage records all that is planned for the celebratory year ahead and illustrates some of the philatelic souvenirs that will be issued to mark the society's important milestone. These include three postcards, a cover, labels and two books.

The final section of this website has five philatelic articles that can be accessed on screen, printed or saved. They are entitled "Postal History – Where will it End?"; "The 1897 Jubilee Issue of Canada"; "The Birmingham Post Office in the First Half of the 19th Century"; "The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain", and "The Stamps and History of The Principality of Trinidad". All are interesting and deserve the wider audience that the internet offers.

It is clear that Birmingham Philatelic Society is thriving and the *Bulletin* team at Royal Mail wishes it every success for this special season and the years to come.

(490 words)