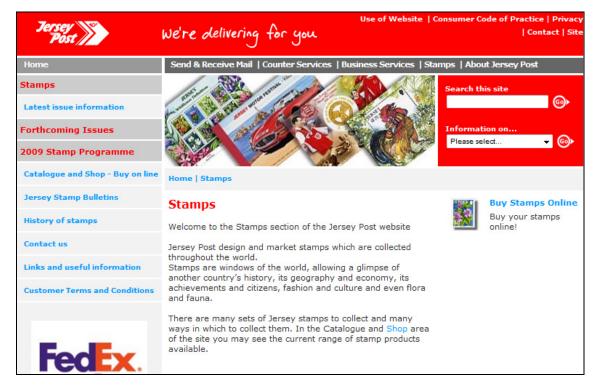
THE WORLD OF ONLINE PHILATELY

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Jersey Post <u>www.jerseypost.com</u> Guernsey Post <u>www.guernseystamps.com</u>





This month celebrates forty years of independent postal services in the Channel Islands. Both post offices operate successful websites that promote and sell their attractive stamps.

Guernsey The Guernsey Post website at www.guernseystamps.com has a link to the philatelic bureau, or go directly to www.guernseystamps.com. Horizontal toolbar options provide a Bailiwick history of the islands and its postal service, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on how to use the site, a philatelic glossary of terms, links to other websites, full contact details and a stamp archive with images and extensive background details of around 60 past issues that are no longer available to purchase. An 'Express Ordering' button takes you to a straightforward listing of every product, on offer making it a quick process for anyone knowing in advance what they wish to purchase.

Vertical menu options provide a search facility, Guernsey and Alderney new and current issue information, details of products due to be withdrawn and the 2009 stamp programme. Definitives, yearbooks, albums and binders, self-stick stamps and other products are also detailed. It is from these options that orders can be placed via the Online Shop by customers preferring to study details of each available product first.

Terms and conditions, a privacy policy and a link back to the main Guernsey Post website are also provided.

Jersey The bureau is accessed from the Jersey Post home page. A vertical menu provides the links needed to get the most from this site, such as details of the latest set, forthcoming issues and the 2009 stamp programme. A useful service to collectors includes an archive of every issue of the *Jersey Stamp Bulletin* that has appeared since 2000. Available as downloadable PDF files, these are essential for general and thematic background information. More back numbers are promised. An article about the history of Jersey and its stamps will be especially helpful to those unfamiliar with the island and its posts.

An 'Online Shop' button reveals philatelic products that are for sale and by clicking the set that is of interest you are taken to thumbnail images, the briefest of description and prices of available items. Clicking the 'More info/Buy' button takes you to a larger image and the chance to place the product in a shopping basket and to record quantities required. Normal checkout facilities apply when shopping has been completed.

Full contact information, links to other websites, a search facility and terms and conditions complete the available options.

From the above, it is clear that each site is broadly similar in what they offer collectors. I especially appreciated Guernsey's express ordering option, while the archive of Jersey stamp bulletins is invaluable. Both web designs are simple to navigate and attractive to look at, as one would expect from two successful philatelic bureaux that have such a loyal collector base.

(494 words)