

Bath Postal Museum

For Royal Mail's *Stamps and Collecting* Website, February 2007

BPMs new location inside the main Post Office is well-worth a visit when in Bath as its modern approach to design dispels the old image of museums being stuffy.

Founded in the late seventies, the Bath Postal Museum has always been a popular attraction for visitors of all ages – and not just philatelists! The fascinating history of the post from ancient times to the present day can be discovered through its interactive displays and artefacts.

The museum has an appeal because of its relevance to visitors from anywhere in the world, for everyone's lives are touched by the postal service. It has been described as 'small, but perfectly formed', but what it lacks in size it more than makes up for in quality.

Who could resist trying their hand at perforating a sheet of souvenir stamps, or recalling post-boxes, vans and stamp machines from days gone? Or perhaps postal history has more appeal? There are displays on the history of writing and why so much is owed to Bath's postal pioneers Allen and Palmer. See American Wells-Fargo mail, worldwide mail routes, plus local mail from Bath, including a 2d 'Mulready' mailed on 6 May 1840 – the date when the Penny Black could first be used.

The buzz-word with museums today is 'interactive' and BPM has embraced technology. It is possible to watch videos, 'dial-up' memories of past decades using an old telephone, utilise touch-screen displays and younger visitors can play the mail computer challenge and undertake quizzes. There is also a shop that is well stocked with postcards, gifts and items for the serious philatelist or would-be collector alike.

With the colourful displays changing regularly, there is an incentive to visit whenever you find yourself in the beautiful City of Bath. So, why not join the 10,000 annual visitors who have already discovered the joys of this museum?

Location: 27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ. Open: Mon-Sat 1100-1700. Admission charges (concessions) apply.
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[29 words in teaser and 300 in article] [Compiled by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL, 11 January 2007]