

THE WORLD OF ONLINE PHILATELY

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National Philatelic Society www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps



The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Philatelic Society. At the top left is the 'UK Philately' logo. A blue banner across the top reads 'Welcome to the National Philatelic Society'. Below this is a 'NPS Home' button and the text 'One of the largest general philatelic societies in Great Britain'. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with sections: 'WHAT IS NPS' (with links for 'About NPS', 'What can NPS Offer you?', 'I don't live near London', and 'What about non-Members'), 'OFFICERS & CONSTITUTION' (with links for 'NPS Officers and Council' and 'Constitution'), 'HOW TO JOIN' (with links for 'Annual subscriptions' and 'Application form'), and 'MEETINGS & EVENTS'. The main content area features the word 'Welcome' in a large, stylized font, a red circular stamp of a man's profile, and the text: 'The National Philatelic Society is one of the largest general philatelic societies in Great Britain whose members are drawn from throughout the UK and Overseas. We are based at The British Postal Museum & Archive in Clerkenwell, London where we offer you • The National Philatelic Society Library (located in the Search Room)'.

The National Philatelic Society (NPS) was founded in 1899 by Fred J Melville as the Junior Philatelic Society and is still going strong today. Based within the BPMA premises in Clerkenwell, London, the library is accessible from the search room, while meetings are held at the adjacent Phoenix Centre.

The NPS website was launched at The Stamp Show 2000 with the Association of British Philatelic Societies and British Philatelic Trust also coming under the "ukphilately.org.uk" domain umbrella. While the overall style of the site has not altered since that time, the content is constantly being updated for the benefit of all collectors. The site is divided into a dozen main sections, with easy navigation via a vertical menu bar at the left of every screen. The colour scheme is a consistent blue and black with a splash of red and all text is clearly set against a white background making it very easy on the eye.

Non-members can learn all about the NPS, see how to join and find out why non-London based collectors can still benefit greatly from membership. Officers and Council, Constitution, subscription details and an application form are easily accessible and full details of the monthly meetings, other events and the annual cup competitions are also instantly to hand. Members can access Shop Window, from where books, albums and accessories can be ordered at beneficial prices, with collection at meetings or delivery to your home.

Stamp Lover, the NPS journal published six times a year and issued free to members, is now in its 101st year of publication and the site gives full details of latest content, advertising rates and how to obtain recent and past copies. To celebrate the centenary of *SL*, a valuable new site addition is a searchable index of the content of every issue since 1908 by title, author or topic. Details of how to obtain photostats of these articles are given.

Circulating packets, monthly auctions and literature sales lists are a valuable part of most active societies and the NPS is no different. Full details of these important member-only services are given on the website, whether you wish to be a buyer, seller or both.

The NPS library is one of the oldest and most accessible anywhere in the UK, with material going back to the 1860s and the beginnings of our hobby. Over 6500 books, 1000 worldwide periodical titles, plus stamp exhibition publications can be fully searched online using extremely flexible search criteria, almost guaranteeing that you will find items that you never knew existed. A link to the American PS Library articles database expands the chance of success, especially as NPS has many of the titles available.

The NPS website concludes with links to the other two UK Philately home pages previously mentioned, specifically the ABPS and BPT, where use of the slogan "Stamp collecting, plus much, much more!" could never be more appropriate.

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