

Joint Stamp Issues

For Royal Mail's *Stamps and Collecting* Website

Every so often we issue a set of stamps in conjunction with another postal administration and would like to know if you want to see more of these in future years.

Enabling collectors to purchase Royal Mail stamp issues in markets that might not traditionally see British stamps can in part be achieved by producing a set of stamps in conjunction with another postal administration. These are known by collectors as 'joint issues' and the 2006 Animal Tales was a great example, when we joined forces with the United States Postal Service and each sold the others stamps. Not only does this stimulate sales, but can also result in new customers for both administrations and help to promote stamp collecting.

Joint issues are defined in Gibbons' *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* as 'an issue of stamps by two or more independent countries to commemorate the same event, using a common design modified to suit the country name and denomination'. When many countries get together, as with British Royal events and anniversaries, for example, the series is generally known as an 'Omnibus' issue.

Sometimes the stamps of each country taking part are printed by the same printer, while others have produced stamps of two countries within the same miniature sheet (Italy and San Marino, 1994). It has even been known for the normally invalid stamps of the foreign nation to be valid in each of the participating countries (Liechtenstein and Switzerland, 1995). None of these approaches have been undertaken by us at this stage, but might result in an interesting issue if adopted. But is such an issue what you would like to see, or do you regard this idea as just another gimmick being foisted on the poor collector?

[30 words in teaser and 300 in article] [Compiled by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL, 28 February 2007]