

members which maintains contact with children, provides stamps to augment their collections and keeps them informed of various events. Contact Kidstamps, 48, Moorfield Road, Rothwell, Kettering, Northants NN14 6AT

Where to Obtain Books:

Many books should be available for reference or loan at your local library.

You could purchase or order from all main bookshops.

Mail ordering (plus accessories e.g. stamp albums, hinges etc.) from: Stanley Gibbons, 5, Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SH. Tel: 01425470247. www.stanleygibbons.com or from Vera Trinder Ltd., 38, Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9EU. Tel: 0207 257 9940 or view

www.vtrinder.co.uk

If you are in London, from Stanley Gibbons shop at 399, The Strand, or from Vera Trinder Ltd., address above.

A number of specialist societies have published books on their particular subjects. Both Vera Trinder and Stanley Gibbons publish lists of available publications from time to time.

Other Leaflets:

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) has leaflets on various aspects of philately available free of charge. See previous contact details.

Places to Visit to See and Study Stamps:

British Library Philatelic Collections,

96, Euston Road, St Pancras, London NW1 2DB. Check opening times. Admission free. Facilities for researchers holding a British Library Readers Card, by prior appointment. e-mail: philatelic@bl.uk Web site: www.bl.uk or telephone: 0870 444 1500

National Philatelic Society Library, c/o The British Postal Museum and Archive, Freeling House,

Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Tuesday to Thursday and some Saturdays from around 11 a.m. - but check in advance - 020 7239 2571. e-mail: nps@ukphilately.org.uk Admission is free to members. Members may borrow by post and there is an on-line catalogue, which can be viewed on the Web site: www.ukphilately.org.uk which contains more information about the Society.

The British Postal Museum and Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and some Saturdays. Check before visiting. Telephone: 020 7239 2570. Admission free. e-mail: info@postalheritage.org.uk website: www.postalheritage.org.uk

Bath Postal Museum, 27, Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ. Admission charge. Check before visiting. Mondays to Saturdays 11am to 5pm, Sundays 2pm to 5pm. Prior arranged school parties welcome. Telephone: 01225 460333, or e-mail: info@bathpostalmuseum.co.uk website: www.bathpostalmuseum.org

Note: Every care has been taken to provide accurate information. Please inform the A.B.P.S. of any additions or amendments. We would welcome your comments on the usefulness of this Fact Sheet.

For other enquiries, please contact the
General Secretary:

e-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk or at
ABPS c/o RPSL
15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW



ABPS

Stamps

Facts sheet

THE STAMPS FACT SHEET

This leaflet has been prepared to help stamp collectors and those considering starting in the hobby, as part of a commitment to promote philately - the study of stamps and postal history.

Initially, there is no better way to gain information than by buying a stamp magazine. These contain much information on the pursuit and the way that it is organised. You can also visit the ABPS website where much information to help new, as well as established, collectors will be found.

Various sources of information and help appear below.....

Stamp Magazines:

Magazines contain general and specialised articles on stamps and postal history and related topics, "new collector" and readers' letters, columns, society meetings, details and other coverage of interest to both collectors and the more dedicated philatelist. In addition, they contain event diaries, details of new and recent stamp issues, new pamphlets, books and other publications and reviews, forthcoming exhibitions, auctions, and stamp fair announcements and dealers' advertisements. There are four main magazines:

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Stamp Magazine

Stamp & Coin Mart

These are usually available monthly in branches of many newsagents and large supermarkets on their shelves or by order from them.

The British Philatelic Bulletin

Published monthly by Royal Mail and of relevance to collectors and students of Great Britain stamps and postal history. Available from British Philatelic Bureau at 21, South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or through www.royalmail.com

In addition, many clubs and societies produce journals and newsletters for their members and which non-members can often buy on a single copy basis.

For new British stamp issues. Open an account with the British Philatelic Bureau (as above) to receive new issues, first day covers, presentation packs, stamp booklets and/or mint stamps.

Stamp Shops and Auction Houses:

Look these up in your local Thompson or Yellow Pages directory.

For specific details contact the Philatelic Traders' Society. e-mail: info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk for a copy of their current Directory or view their website: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk This gives details of dealers who are members. Listings are alphabetical, geographical and specialised subjects.

Exhibitions and Fairs:

"Stampex", the National Exhibition is held every spring and autumn at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1. Competitive displays are often to be seen there. Free admission. e-mail: info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Society and stamp collectors fairs - usually held at weekends, both commercial and stamp societies and very often with free admission. Look up the events diary in one of the stamp magazines, local newspapers, library, community centre etc.

British Philatelic Trust

Established in 1981 by The Post Office, from which it is independent, the Trust received charitable status in 1983. As an educational charity, its objective is the promotion of "the study, research and dissemination of knowledge" of Philately. It undertakes this in a variety of ways, mainly by

various forms of financial support over as wide a field of activity as possible whilst remaining within its means and objects.

Registered as a Charity - No 287908.

The British Philatelic Trust is located at Business Design Centre, 52, Upper Street, London N1 0QH. telephone: 0207 688 842. The office is open for phone calls, and to visitors by appointment only 9.30-12.30 Monday-Friday.

Philatelic Societies / Stamp Clubs

Visit your local stamp clubs: Details are very often available in your local library. There are National Societies such as The Royal Philatelic Society London and The National Philatelic Society. A Handbook listing its' affiliated Societies is produced by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), which is the national philatelic federation, Visit the website: www.abps.website or you could write to Hon. Gen. Secretary, at ABPS, c/o RPSL, 41, Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY or e-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk for further information.

Young Collectors:

Youth Philately Stamp Active Network is a nationwide organisation, under the auspices of ABPS, which endeavours to encourage young people to take up stamp collecting as a hobby. There is a Stamp Active Network stand at "Stampex" where children can visit and learn about collecting stamps, do activities, take part in an auction, win prizes and meet other young collectors. Advice can be given about entering competitions, and assistance and information regarding the hobby can be given to parents and leaders of clubs. Contact John Davies at 3, Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9LB. Visit the website: www.planetstamp.co.uk

Kidstamps This is a postal club with over 1000