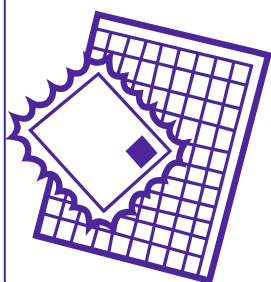




History

History



Written by Alexandra Robb,
Development Officer for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.



Postal History

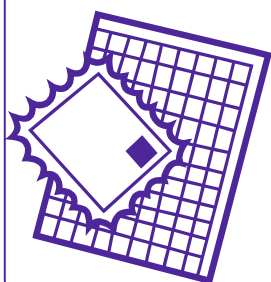
People have been posting messages for thousands of years. In Britain an official postal system started in 1635.

Before postage stamps, the postage was paid by the person receiving the letter and not the person who sent it. In 1840, Rowland Hill suggested that the Post Office should deliver all letters for one penny and this should be paid by the sender. He also suggested a sticker should be put on the letter to know that payment had been made. This sticker was the Penny Black, the world's first stamp, issued on 6th May 1840.

It was such a good idea that other countries all over the world copied the invention.

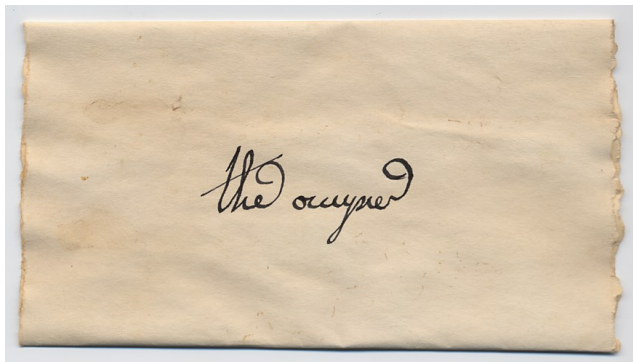


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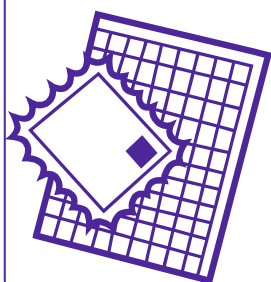
Making replica 'antique' letters

Whatever the topic, children can make replica letters and write them according to the period and event.

- Take modern white paper and soak in tea for at least 30 minutes (the longer the soak the more brown and aged the paper will look).
- Leave to dry thoroughly.
- Using a fountain pen and ink, write in an old English lettering on the paper.
- Fold the paper in three, as shown in the illustration.
- Finally seal with wax - seals and wax are readily available in art and craft shops. Use with adult supervision.



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All stamp producing countries produce stamps to commemorate historical events and famous people.

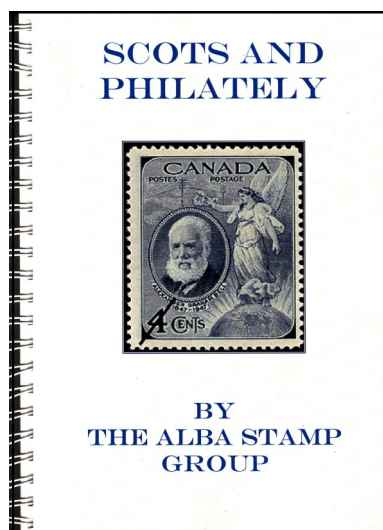
Projects with Stamps

Stamps can be an effective method of 'writing' a project. Stamps can be found on just about every theme possible.

The history of the postal system itself also provides an interesting topic. A brief introduction is given in 'Charles Darwin: A Celebration in Stamps' - *Posting letters and The First Stamp*.¹

The list is endless on historical topics which could be investigated with stamps.

Alba Stamp Group produced an excellent book about Scottish people featured on stamps. *Scots and Philately* by Joan H. Threw & Ian C. Burns has a listing for all people born in Scotland known to have been honoured in some way on philatelic material. Each entry includes information on the person. It is an excellent reference work. You will find some familiar names but also many you didn't know.



¹ 'Charles Darwin: A Celebration in Stamps' by Alexandra Robb and Mark Norris, RZSS (pdf available) webblog - <http://darwin200stampzoo.wordpress.com>

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