

In the last of their three articles on the Sheffield Philatelic Society, which holds its 2000th meeting in April, Donald Radley and Greg Spring outline some of the displays, presentations and other events on offer during the ABPS 2011 Exhibition, which takes place at the world-class Ponds Forge venue in Sheffield in May. With an impressive line-up of talks, displays and presentations in store, the ABPS 2011 Exhibition, which has been organised by the Society, looks set to be a great success for all who attend, thanks to the immense planning and preparation work undertaken by members.



## The ABPS Sheffield 2011 Exhibition

By Donald Radley and Greg Spring



The Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield (Photo: FaulknerBrowns Architects)

In the first article, dealing with the history of the Sheffield Philatelic Society, mention was made of the Society's involvement in holding exhibitions from the first *Conversazione and Exhibition* in 1901 to the Annual Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association in 2009. As a result of the success of this last event, the Society was invited to consider holding the ABPS 2011 Exhibition in Sheffield.

It was not immediately obvious that a local society could or should take on a national event on a scale much larger than those attempted previously. However, several members had some experience of the ABPS Exhibition in Harrogate in 2008, and one member had been on the organising committee for that event. Before taking a decision, the Society's committee needed to be aware of the implications and were provided with a spreadsheet showing the various sources of income and the potential costs as well as a list of the issues that needed to be managed. Based on the information provided, a decision was taken to accept the invitation, since a potential venue, the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, had been identified as very suitable and within the budget. Accordingly, a sub-committee was set up in which the individual members were assigned tasks.

### Organisation

Two main income streams were identified—philatelic dealers and entrants to the ABPS competitions. On the expenditure side, the major cost was seen as that of the venue but there was also the cost of transporting and setting up the exhibition frames. It was also

seen as important that the event should be able to attract sponsors and patrons. Publicity was seen as a major requirement from the outset, so an advertising leaflet that could be distributed at shows and to philatelic societies was produced and the first press release was sent to philatelic, local and national press within the first two months; other press releases have followed subsequently and coverage in the philatelic press has been good.

The ABPS were able to help in the initial stages by providing an interest-free loan to provide working capital that enable early expenditure, such as deposits for booking the venue, to be met. The ABPS is also able to provide assistance in transporting the exhibition frames from London and setting them up. Also, following London 2010, the ABPS found it possible to subsidise the entry fees for the competitions, reducing the cost to the competitor from £25 to £10 per frame.

Since a major source of income is expected from dealers taking tables to sell their wares, considerable effort went in to contacting them. Also, effort went in to approaching potential sponsors so that the event now has four sponsors: Stanley Gibbons, Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, Corbitts Stamps Limited, and Spink and Son Limited, all of whom we are greatly indebted to.

Other issues that needed to be addressed included invitations to specialist societies to hold meetings during the event, invitations to speakers to provide talks and invitations to individuals for specialist displays; the results of these invitations are described more fully below.

In the original budget outline, provision was made for an awards dinner to be held in the evening of the first day of the exhibition; it was expected that this event would be self-financing. Several possibilities were examined, but it became clear that the best option would be to hold the dinner in the Cutler's Hall.

### The venue – Ponds Forge

Ponds Forge was opened in 1991 for the World Student Games, which were held in Sheffield in that year. It contains a 50 metre swimming pool built to Olympic standards, as well as a very large sports hall, which will house the ABPS 2011 Exhibition, and other facilities. It has hosted many national and international swimming events, as well as exhibitions and Channel 4's 'The Games', in which celebrities compete with one another. It is situated within a few minutes' walk of Sheffield city centre, the railway and bus stations and its entrance is only a few metres

### Display from the Royal Philatelic Collection

By gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen, eight frames of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection will be on display at the ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition at Ponds Forge.

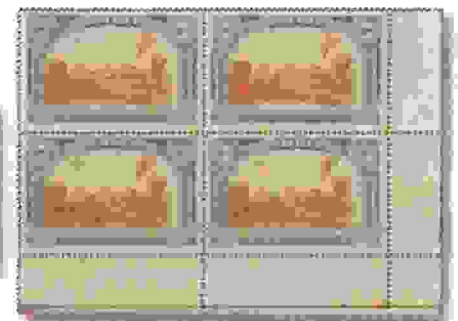
The display in the frames for the Sheffield Exhibition has an 'Atlantic Rim' feel, with a side excursion into the Mediterranean. It is just over 100 years since King George succeeded to the Throne so the first frame will show the Penny Black of 1840—the world's first postage stamp, with a selection from the extensive material acquired by The King. This is followed by the approved artwork and stamps of the first Great Britain stamps of King George's Reign, issued in June 1911.

In the 1920s and 1930s stamps from the colonies tended to go over to pictorial designs, for both commemorative and standard definitive issues and the next five frames from Jamaica, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, St Helena and Ascension feature artwork, proofs and issued stamps from the King George V period.

The display concludes with a frame showing essay and artwork material for the 1935 Silver Jubilee celebrations, from both Great Britain and the omnibus issue covering most colonies.

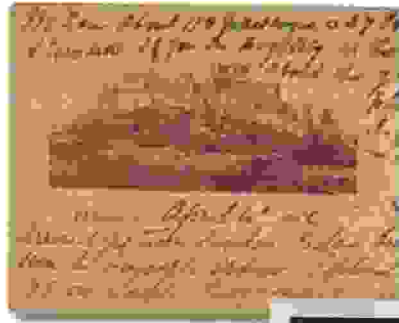
Die proof of the finished design for the Penny Black and a block of unissued 6d. stamps for Jamaica (reduced), 1921.

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Postcard sent from Athens during the first modern Olympic Games in 1896



Commemorative cover from the Antwerp Games of 1920  
Air letter produced for the London Games of 1948

from the Park Square roundabout, giving direct access to the M1 motorway via the Sheffield Parkway.

Of the three stamps issued on 11 June 1991 for the World Student Games, the 31p value (SG 1566) features diving for which, together with swimming, the competitions took place at Ponds Forge. The other two values feature fencing and hurdling which took place at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium.

### Olympic display

This display was invited from its creator, John Crowther, who is a leading member of the Society of Olympic Collectors; his award-winning collection was displayed at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

The display commences with the early English Country Games which inspired Baron Pierre de Coubertin to convene the Congress in Paris in 1894, where it was agreed to revive the Ancient Greek Games. It continues with philatelic items from Games from the first modern games in 1896 to the present day, including the London Games of 1948.

The 2012 Summer Games will once again be hosted by London after a gap of 64 years and the Royal Mail have already issued a number of stamps, miniature sheets and booklets. The Society of Olympic Collectors has prepared a number of special covers, smartstamps and handstamps and some of these will be available for purchase at the SOC stand at the Exhibition at Ponds Forge Sports Centre.

### Invited display – Philip Robinson FRPSL

This display consists of four frames showing Siberian Postal History, four frames showing Great Britain line-engraved and one frame showing British Levant.

The collection of Siberian Postal History had its origins in a journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway in 1978. Finding no book on the subject, he wrote *Siberia: Postmarks and Postal History of the Russian Empire Period*, which ran to two editions. He was also jointly responsible for *Russian Postmarks, an Introduction and Guide* and *Russian Railway Postmarks*, both published by John Barefoot Ltd. These books have had some success in national and international exhibitions.

### Invited display – Frank Walton FRPSL

This display consists of four frames showing Sierra Leone, four frames showing Chinese Airmails and one frame showing Sheffield squared-circle postmarks.

The main focus of his collecting interests over the last few years is Sierra Leone to 1961, and he has written several handbooks on the philately of this West African colony. He was awarded a large gold medal at the London 2010 exhibition for his traditional display of Sierra Leone, the De La Rue Years 1859–1931.

His second exhibit shows commercial airmail from China to worldwide destinations. World War II saw inevitable interruption to routes, which adds great interest for the collector. Additionally, rampant inflation in the post-war period meant that some rates were only in place for a few days.

Squared-circle postmarks were used prolifically throughout the country from 1879 to 1937. This study looks in detail at their use in the city of Sheffield. The number of complete circles and arcs determine the basic types but, for Sheffield, the combination of Hammer Identification and Time/Duty Code is a better discriminant for the collector.

1877 cover to the UK with three 1d. reds cancelled by the 'C' in barred oval cancellation and with a BRITISH-POST-OFFICE/CONSTANTINOPLE c.d.s. in red alongside  
1877 cover to the USA with a 2½d. rosy mauve cancelled by the G06 'killer' of Beyrout and BRITISH-POST-OFFICE/BEYROUT alongside. London PAID transit mark in red on front  
1895 40 PARAS on 2½d. postal stationery envelope sent registered to Philippopoli (Plovdiv) in Bulgaria. BRITISH-POST-OFFICE/CONSTANTINOPLE c.d.s's and 'R' in oval. Bilingual transit and arrival marks on back



## Open meetings will be held by the Royal Philatelic Society London and the British Thematic Association

Games were awarded to London in late 1906 and opened in July 1908—to build a Stadium within that period and organise the 21 sports on the programme approved by the IOC was a remarkable feat for the time.

The best remembered event was the Marathon, because the first man across the line, Dorando Pietri, was disqualified for being assisted over the finishing line by well-meaning officials due to his distressed state on arrival at the Stadium, Queen Alexandra, who had witnessed the event, awarded the Italian a gold cup and presented it to him a few days later.

Open meetings will also be held by the Royal Philatelic Society London and the British Thematic Association, where displays and talks by members of these societies can be enjoyed.

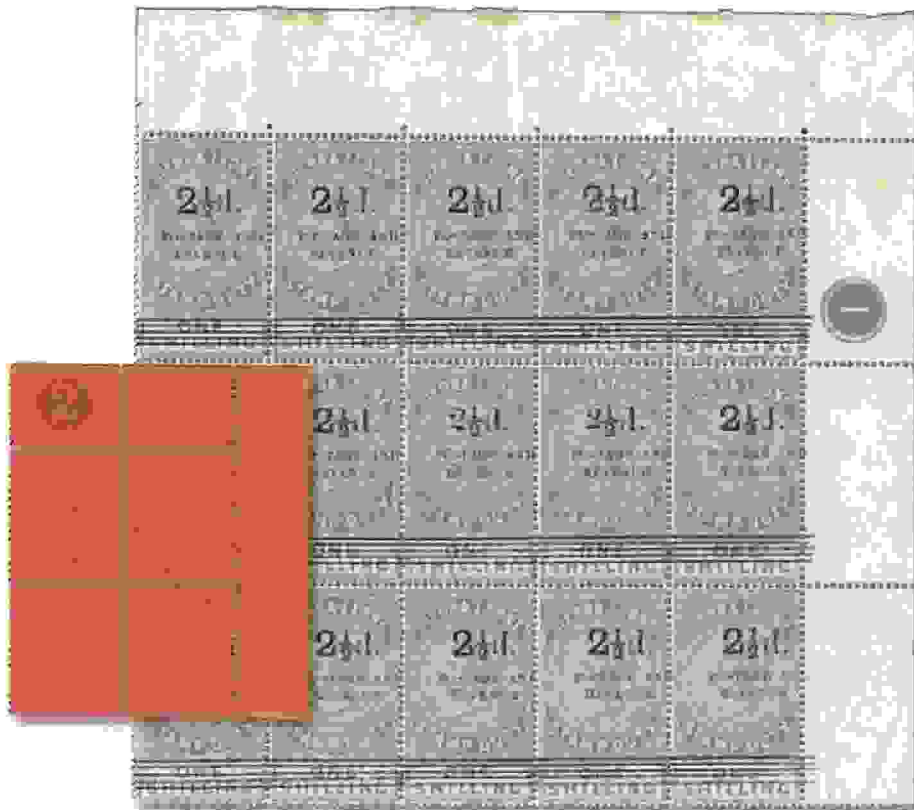
## Awards dinner



The main staircase in Sheffield Cutlers' Hall

The Awards Dinner will be held in the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield's most prestigious venue, set in the heart of the city centre on Church Street, opposite the city's Anglican cathedral. It is home to the Company of Cutlers in Hallanshire, which was established by act of parliament in 1624 and ever since has been concerned with maintaining the standards and quality of Sheffield manufactured cutlery and steel products and with promoting the name of Sheffield throughout the world. The Company's headquarters, the Cutlers' Hall, is a Grade 2 listed building first constructed in 1638 and extended in the 19th century. In addition to its banqueting rooms and other accommodation, it contains a superb collection of cutlery and silverware manufactured in Sheffield.

Further details of the Society and the ABPS 2011 event may be found at [www.sheffieldps.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldps.org.uk)



Block of 15 of Sierra Leone 2½d. on 1s. and Sierra Leone Queen Victoria second key £1, plate 2



1946 Express cover \$3600 from Shanghai to the USA

## Talks

Two talks are scheduled to take place during the event. David Beech, curator of Philately at the British Library, will give an illustrated presentation on rarities in the collection of the British Library. Among the items he describes will be essays and trials, errors of colour and inverted printing, the Post Office Mauritius 1d. and 2d. and the 1d. red plate

77. He will also give the after-dinner talk at the Awards Dinner.

A member of the Society of Olympic Collectors, Bob Wilcock, will give a talk on 'The London 1908 Marathon' using mainly postcard images. The 1908 Games had been planned for Rome but the Italians withdrew for financial reasons, following which the



The Post Office Mauritius one penny on cover in the collection of the British Library