

Philately online Ron Negus finds out about stamp printers



GLENN MORGAN has contributed articles to this magazine on a number of different subjects, including his recent series about Royal Household mail. Interviewed by our Editor for the February 1998 *Bulletin*, Glenn was asked who had most influenced his collecting development. He replied that 'instead of individuals, he favoured types of collectors and preferred those who undertake research and publish their findings'.

In keeping with this philosophy, Glenn has produced an informative website of his own (see address above). It is designed mainly to provide detailed information about stamp printers of the world, which is a subject that he is keenly interested in. However, many of Glenn's other philatelic sidelines are also covered in depth, and a full summary of what is covered can be found under the 'siteplan' heading on the home page. The site has now expanded to more than 1000 pages of A4 text, with nearly 1500 images. A searchable index facility is also provided on the site, giving quick access to specific items amongst this mass of information.

An introductory section contains the following disclaimer explaining the background to the site that Glenn has worked on over many years. It says 'Created with the sole purpose of disseminating knowledge about the subjects contained within this website. It is the result of the initiative and endeavour of the author and has not been endorsed or otherwise supported by any individual company or governmental institution, except for the information that they have provided.'

www.stampprinters.info As well as working on this site, Glenn Morgan FRPSL is also Hon Librarian of the National Philatelic Society. This has provided him with access to a large range of sources that he has used to excellent effect to summarise this extensive listing of stamp printers and their activities.

The main listings on the site detail stamp and postal stationery printers from 1840 to date. They are arranged by country, and the sources used include new issue reports, articles, catalogues, handbooks, company literature and the internet. Where appropriate factual information has been confirmed for accuracy by private correspondence with the firms concerned.

For each country the amount of detail varies. Some printers have only a minimal entry giving their name and the date upon which the first example of their stamp printing activity was recorded. With others, a lengthy history of security printing work is provided, and this is sometimes illustrated with examples of their work. The latter images may include printers' sample stamps, that will be of interest to Cinderella enthusiasts. A separate page provides an index to printers listed by their sets of initials, since these can often appear in the margins of stamp designs.

To extend the research potential of the site, past articles about stamp production that Glenn has written are reproduced, which cover visits to specific printing plants as well as more general subjects, like the use of holography in stamps. There are also two bibliographies included that cover many of the sources that were used during the site construction.

Amongst the 'other interests' areas of the site there are individual sections listing Glenn's articles on the Channel Islands, Letter Boxes, Royal Household Mail, Stamp Vending Machines, and a small group about miscellaneous philatelic subjects. The site also links directly with the internet copy of the priced catalogue of British Stamp Exhibition material that Glenn published initially in 1995. This has now been supplemented on the site with the listing of British Souvenir Mail that my brother James produced prior to his retirement from philately four years ago ●