

London 2010 Debate

"THIS DEBATE IS NOW CLOSED - PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND"

Work forges ahead behind the scenes on the London 2010 - Festival of Stamps exhibition. Catch-up on plans and tell us your views on what you would like to see.

British international stamp exhibitions are held every ten years, with Royal Mail providing significant funding for previous shows and acting as organisers of The Stamp Show 2000. Financial constraints preclude such extensive involvement in 2010, but we have already shown our continuing commitment to the hobby by paying the deposit on the Business Design Centre show venue, reserving a large stand and becoming a sponsor. We are also planning an exciting range of stamp-related products – watch-out for details in the philatelic press.

Show organisers are Stamp World Exhibitions who have already sold the 188 stands and established teams to handle the organisational elements required, with everything on track for a highly successful event that has recently been granted prestigious FIP Patronage status.

Some have criticised the choice of venue as it is smaller than Earl's Court, but it is less about the size and more about what the hobby can afford and what you do with the available space. An innovative approach will therefore see competitive exhibits changed halfway through, thus halving the space required for the 2400 frames. These displays are an essential element of a stamp exhibition; otherwise the event becomes nothing more than a trade fair.

London will also host the ground-breaking Festival of Stamps that will be held during the year at several venues, including involvement from the Royal Philatelic Collection, the British Library and the British Postal Museum & Archive. Non-philatelic museums and sports venues will also participate by hosting displays relevant to their activities, thus ensuring exposure of the hobby to non-collectors for months longer than just the eight days at Islington.

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(The above article was written in 2007 for Royal Mail's corporate website within its Stamps and Collectables section.)