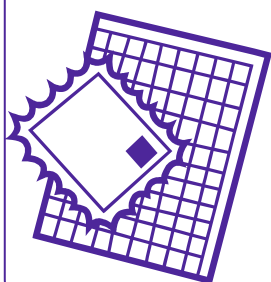




Finding Stamps

Stamp Information



Written by Alexandra Robb,
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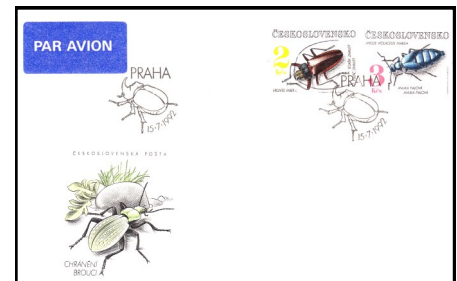


Finding Stamps

There are many ways to find stamps at no or little cost.

However, one of the best methods is becoming less easier. In the past, letters and parcels being delivered every day would all have stamps on them. Unfortunately there is now an increase in franked¹ mail. Encourage relatives and friends to send you letters with stamps on them, especially those who live abroad. Commemorative² stamps are still available from the post office and the letter is so much more exciting with a lovely stamp on it. You can then soak the stamp from the envelope - see instructions below.

Sometimes you may want to keep the whole envelope with the stamps in place - this is called a **cover**. When a new issue of stamps is released, there is usually a **First Day Cover**. These can be decorated and have special postmarks.



Philatelic Societies:

There are many local philatelic societies and they are very keen to help children find an interest in stamps. The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies³ will be able to put you in contact with people who can help.

Stamp Dealers and Fairs:

There are many stamp dealers. Some are found on the internet, some still have local shops. There are also Stamp and Postcard Fairs throughout the country.

Soaking: *(to remove stamps from envelopes)*

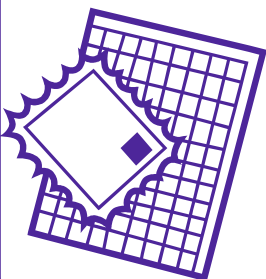
1. With scissors, trim the envelope paper close to the stamp without damaging any part of the stamp.
2. Fill a shallow bowl with some luke-warm water.
3. Place the stamps in the bowl and leave to soak until the envelope easily slides away. This may take 15-30 minutes.
4. Remove the stamps carefully and place between two sheets of blotting paper to dry. Placing a heavy book on top which will keep the stamps flat. Alternatively you can purchase stamp drying books⁴.

¹ franked: an official mark to show postage has been paid.

² commemorative: stamps or postal stationery issued to honour the memory of, or act as a reminder of, an event or person.

³ Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS): www.scottishphilately.co.uk

⁴ stamp drying book: a book which contains special blotting paper to dry stamps soaked from envelopes. It also keeps the stamps flat.





Resources

Recommended Books:

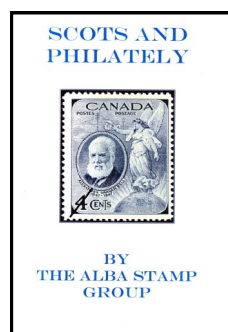
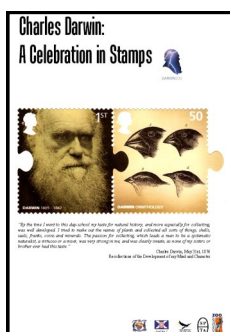
Lemerle, Laurent. *The World in Stamps*. Abrams, New York. 2005

Robb, Alexandra & Norris, Mark. *Charles Darwin: A Celebration in Stamps*. Royal Zoological Society of Scotland & Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. 2009

Robb, Alexandra. *China*. Royal Zoological Society of Scotland & Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. 2006

Threw, Joan, H & Burns, Ian, C. *Scots and Philately*. Alba Stamp Group. 2005

Stanley Gibbons produce a range of catalogues covering different countries, regions and themes.



Recommended Websites:

Association of British Philatelic Societies:

http://www.abps.org.uk/Young_Collectors

Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies:

www.scottishphilately.co.uk

British Postal Museum and Archive:

<http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/learning>

Charles Darwin: A Celebration in Stamps:

<http://darwin200stampzoo.wordpress.com>

Stamp Active Network

<http://www.stampactive.co.uk>

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland Zoo Club:

<http://rzsszooclub.wordpress.com>

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