

About Congress

Maintaining a long tradition, the ABPS organises each year the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

The first Philatelic Congress of Great Britain was held in Manchester in 1909. Barring interruptions due to war, they have been held annually ever since. The venue moves each year. Congress is the opportunity to meet with fellow collectors for a relaxing few days in pleasant surroundings. The events include discussions, displays and visits, plus the ever-enjoyable Congress Banquet.



MEMBERS SOCIALISING IN THE BAR - 2014

Both advanced collectors novices and all stages in between attend Congress with all the philatelic disciplines covered at some time during the proceedings.

To get things started, Congress has instituted, in recent years, a light hearted evening entertainment of attendees three sheets and three minutes when all have the opportunity to speak for a maximum of three minutes on three pages of their choice from their collections.

The results of the competition are voted upon by popular acclaim after all participants have finished their presentations.

In the latter years of the twentieth century the Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture was instituted and is held each year to provide a thought provoking topic of either a learned or controversial nature.

Kay, who died in 1987, at the age of 73. was a keen member of the Melville Committee on Youth Philately. She was

also a Chairperson & Hon. Life President of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.



A DISPLAY BY YVONNE WHEATLEY - 2014

The ABPS has held, from time to time, its Annual General Meetings at Congress, if this is held in the summer months.

The highlight for many is the occasion at which both the Congress Medal is presented, and the new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists are invited to sign the Roll. More often than not, this is linked with a reception hosted by the town or city in which the Congress is held.

On two occasions Congress has been held in association with an ABPS sponsored Exhibition held on subsequent days at an adjacent venue.

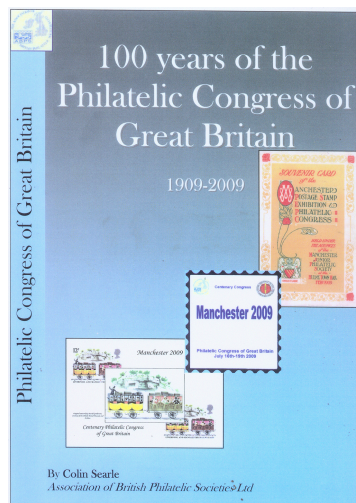
Other organisations, particularly the major stamp auction houses, also often host special events during the Congress.

Memorabilia of each Congress is generally available for sale at the venue. This can comprise special cancellations; postcards and other collectables. These are snapped up readily by Congress aficionados.

Congress provides an ideal way of enjoying oneself in the company of fellow collectors.

A fully illustrated history of **100 years of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, 1909-2009** was published by Colin Searle for the ABPS in 2009.

(ISBN 978-0-9561905-0-5).



Colin is presently compiling another book on the Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain with detailed information of the memorabilia that was available at many of these Philatelic Weekends.

The Photographs of the 2014 Congress, at Market Harborough, shown here, were taken by Dane Garrod, the ABPS Specialist Society Coordinator, who has been the official photographer for a number of the recent Congresses.



ABPS

The ABPS Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT
ABPS c/o RPSL
15 Abchurch Lane
LONDON
EC4N 7BW

E-mail: secretary@abps.org.uk

Internet: www.abps.org.uk

Association of British Philatelic Societies