

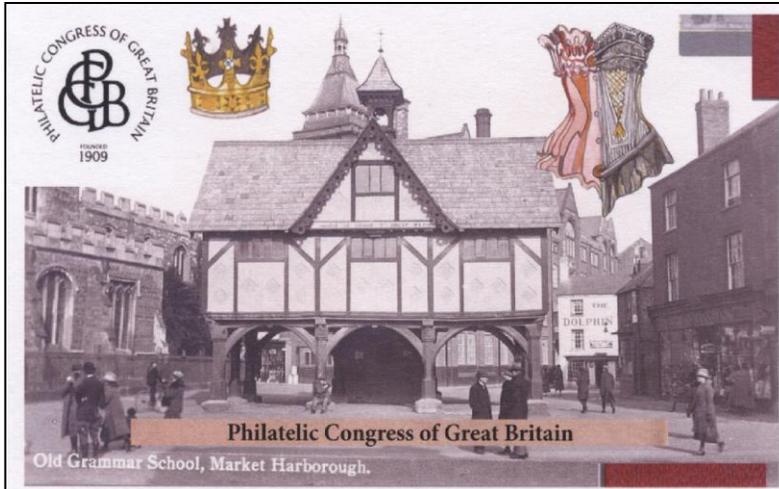
Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

by John Latter

The inaugural meeting of the *Philatelic Congress of Great Britain* was held one hundred and eleven years ago; since then it has been an annual event, other than interruption by two world wars.

I had intended writing this piece last year for the anniversary, but procrastination won out!

The 1909 PCGB was held in conjunction with a Stamp Exhibition at Cheadle Hulme Town Hall in Manchester; yet the congress was hosted by The Three Swans in Market Harborough. If you wished to drive between Hulme & Market Harborough you could expect the trip to take almost two and a half hours today – back, then who knows...



The whole idea for the Congress started in 1908 with a letter to the editor of a local paper and suggesting that as the Hulme Exhibition drew philatelists from all over the British Isles, it would be a good idea to hold a Congress. Many stamp societies sent delegations, and a variety of presentations were given.

After considerable pressure the local postmaster reluctantly agreed to the use of a special postmark. This reluctance for cooperation still sometimes happens today.

A number of resolutions were agreed to and these included formation of a National Federation; however after some discussion it was agreed that disposal of stamps belonging to deceased collectors would be better handled by local societies than the National Federation. There was support for a “Standard Collectors Catalogue” but dealers present were not in favor. This was tabled for further discussion.

One of the more important resolutions to pass was to present a petition to the Postal Union seeking their help in preventing future issues of “commemorative and other stamps which are unnecessary for the public service” This is still sometimes a serious problem for the hobby today.

Prior to the advent of rail travel, The Three Swans, erected in 1700, was one of four inns that served as stopping points for dozens of mail coaches travelling daily between London and the North of England and onto Scotland.

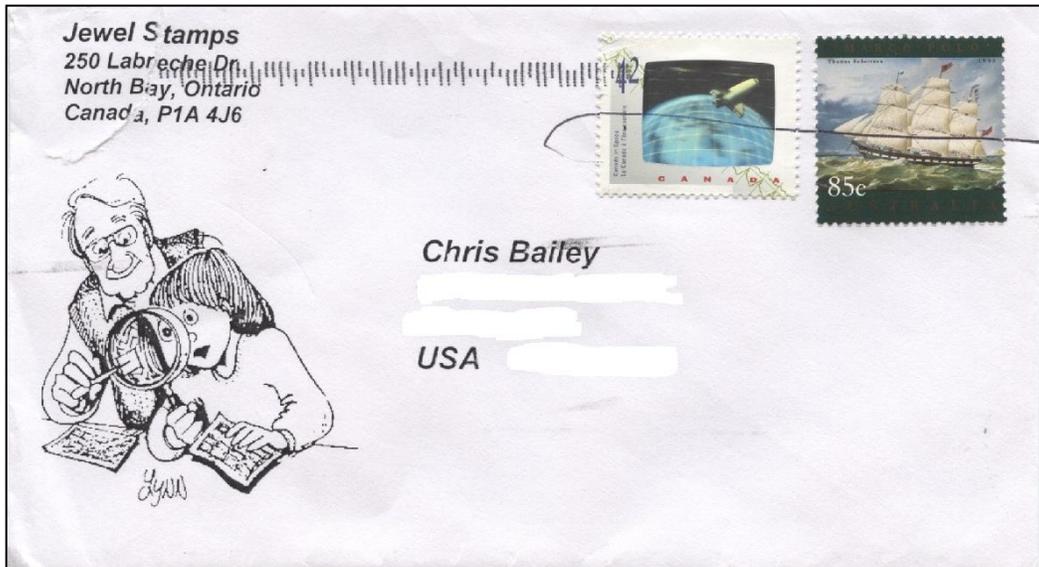
The Congress returned to The Three Swans in 2014 when both the front of the program and the awards night menu used the attached Wills’ Cigarettes advertisement.



A Modern-Day Oddity?

by Chris Bailey

Having recently purchased a few stamps from a Canadian dealer, I received them in a stamped envelope. Postal rates for a letter from Canada to the US is currently \$1.30. Upon arrival I noted an oddity; the envelope had only \$1.27 in stamps on it. While the 42-cent stamp was Canadian, the added curiosity was that the 85-cent stamp was Australian. Australia Post first issued the Marco Polo 85-cent stamp on January 15, 1998 while



Canada issued a Marco Polo 46-cent stamp of a completely different design on March 19, 1999. Although a souvenir sheet was issued of both stamps, I cannot find any evidence that the Australia stamp was good for postage in Canada.

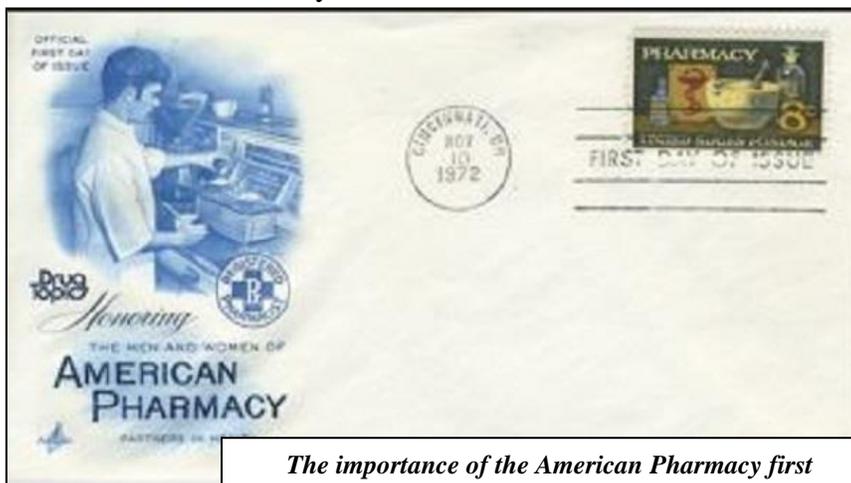
However, this envelope shows that one of them passed through the mail. A postal clerk someplace had to have seen it as it has a single line pen cancel.

Strange Times in 2020

by Mike Schumacher

The Coronavirus in 2020 has certainly changed the world and how we have been going about our lives the past couple of months. It has also made us stop and think about what is important in our lives. For some it was toilet paper. For others it is about family members and friends who lost their lives without the opportunity to be there for them and offer support. Our heart-felt condolences to those families. For some in “essential jobs” it has been about continuing to serve their communities in a wide variety of careers, at the risk of their own lives.

We salute and thank you for your bravery and service! For others who work in the medical field it has been about courageously going forth in spite of the dangers and doing all they could for the sick and dying. We salute and thank you as well, for your commitment and determination - for without your heroic efforts many more families would be grieving the death of a loved one. May we all recover and heal from the impacts that we have endured during this very challenging time. And may the makers of a vaccine complete their mission quickly!



The importance of the American Pharmacy first appeared on a stamp in 1972. More than 75 different pharmacy FDCs cachets exist.