

Stampex, Islington, London, 22nd to 25th October 2025 – a report by Simon Peetoom

Recently I tried to work out when I first went to Stampex and I think it must have been February 1999, hence I've been visiting The Business Design Centre since the previous century! In 1999 Stampex was a much larger show with more stand holders and occupying a greater footprint, being held in the main hall. Last year Stampex moved to the Gallery Hall & Atrium, which is the space that housed the frames during the International Exhibitions.

So what do I think? I'm biased, of course because I've gone to most of the exhibitions over the years. Stampex in London is still the place to find the major dealers and auction houses to help you track down items for your collection. Much important stamp business is still being done in that room. I sold two significant items during my trip that will vastly enhance the collections they are destined for.

I worked on the www.1st4stamps1840.co.uk stand during the show (other years I have attended just to buy stock). They are a family run business (three siblings) who have a significant presence on eBay with over ninety thousand listings. They bring a portion of their stock and were very busy for periods during each day. Being relative newcomers to Stampex, perhaps they haven't built up the army of regulars say, GB dealer Brian Bayford has, but their impressive GB & Commonwealth stock attracted many sales.

My honest opinion of Stampex is that it is still an important show with 60+ booth holders and I am always surprised that so few society members attend. There are dealers to suit all budgets and by taking time to go through their stocks, I'd be surprised if you did not find anything to enhance your collection. The Philatelic Traders Society (The PTS) work hard to ensure the show is accessible and well run. There are some limited displays, but I often think the best displays are those from the dealers - items carefully chosen from their stocks and placed under the glass. Obviously, they want to sell these items, but most dealers are happy to talk about them, otherwise they wouldn't let you see them in the first place!

