

## Types of thematic material that you might consider including in your collection. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

- Stamps including printing and perforation errors.
- Original drawings and proof prints of issued stamps.
- Post Office issued material: presentation packs, PHQ cards, Post Office publicity
- Tabs (particularly Israel) and selvedge on sheets, sheetlets, and miniature sheets, which were first issued around 1930.
- The back of issued stamps sometimes carried advertisements or underprints.
- Booklets. Not only the stamps inside them, but the front or back cover, inside front or back cover, and inter-leaved advertisements.
- Perfins. Information, including details of publications, can be found at the website of [The Perfins Society](#).
- Cinderellas. For instance local posts, town posts, Swiss Army stamps (which were valid for general use), bogus or illegal issues, strike posts and items issued at philatelic exhibitions. There is a [Cinderella Stamp Club](#).
- Handstamps. Illustrated handstamps started in the 1920s; French and Italian are particularly prolific although it is not always easy to find out what is available. One published source is *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom*. A website specializing in sales of covers is [Thematic-Club.Com](#). You can deal by email or write to them.
- Meter marks. Illustrated meter marks started in the 1920s, particularly in Western Europe. A good website which illustrates a range of these for the UK is [UK Meter Franking](#). It also has links to other relevant sites.
- Postal slogans. Introduced for cancelling mail in 1917 these provide a wealth of pictorial images. A link to relevant slogan catalogues appears on the [British Postmark Society's](#) website.
- Postal Stationery. Around since the 1890s these can be useful where a relevant illustration is on the card but not on a stamp. Postal stationery includes envelopes, cards, letter sheets, air letters and aerogrammes. Akin to postal stationery are postal cheques where firms paid for advertisements. Information about some of these can be found in Higgins & Gage *World Postal Stationery* 18 loose-leaf volumes, now badly out of date. Israel issued postal stationery cards in packs with interleaved advertisements. Since the 1980s Japan has been releasing cards colloquially known as "Echo" cards. China has issued a lot of cards since 1990, many of them having a tear-off national lottery slip.
- Telegrams, Greetings Telegrams.
- ATM (Automatic Transfer Machine) labels. Issued by many countries, particularly Germany and Spain.
- Postal History. Because mail has been carried by transport it lends itself to that theme, for instance a railway theme could use TPOs or a ship theme ship letters. Military mail can be used for a military theme. Look out for postmarks of places sharing the same name as someone famous, or a particular topic, such as Bowler in Derbyshire.
- Maxicards. A 'proper' maxicard should contain an illustrated card, stamp and postmark, where all three are linked by theme but have different illustrations.
- Postcards.
- Photographs. Ephemera dealers and on-line auctions often offer original press and private photographs for sale.
- Documents related to your theme
- Maps