Ulm stamp fair, Oct. 22-24, features postal history competition

BY LINN'S STAFF

The 2026 Ulm International Stamp Fair will take place Oct. 22-24 at the Ulm Messe, Bofinger Str. 50, in Ulm, Germany.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. There is a €5 admission each day with children under 16 years of age admitted free.

A bourse (sales area) of more than 60 international dealers will offer stamps, postal history and supplies. There will also be a youth area with activities for young collectors.

The fair is organized by Messe Sindelfingen GmbH & Co. KG, with the State Association of Southwest German Stamp Collectors' Clubs serving as an honorary sponsor.

Societies and organizations having booths at the show will include the Federation of German Philatelists, Research Association Saxony, Regional Association Southwest of the German Philatelic Youth, Philatelic Library Hamburg, Swiss Stamp Journal, Swiss Association for Postal History, Frankfurt Philatelic Society and the Ulm/Neu-Ulm Philatelic Society.

Postal administrations offering sales and service at the fair will include the Austrian Post, Deutsche Post, Post Latvia, Post Lithuania, Spain's Sociedad Estatal Correos y Telegrafos and the United Nations Postal Administration.

The Ulm show will also feature "Postgeschichte live" (Postal History Live), which is considered the international German championship for postal history exhibiting.

Alongside the exhibit competition, the Postal History Live symposium features a series of lectures. The 2026 session schedule includes "The postal history of the Orient Express 1883–1914" by Ute Dorr and Simon Richards' presentation "British Sailing Packets from the West Indies," followed by "The employee of the month for October — the 2-million-mark overprint in the postage structure of German hyperinflation" by Damian Lage and concludes with Chris King providing a brief introduction of the use of AI as part of a digitization project attempting to make postal documents written in Gothic script more accessible to postal historians and philatelists.

For more information about the Ulm International Stamp Fair, visit the show website at https://briefmarken-messe.de/besucher.

Stampex celebrates 70 years at London show Oct. 28-31

BY LINN'S STAFF

Stampex International will celebrate its 70th anniversary Oct. 28-31 at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, England.

Hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Members of the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) may enter at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Admission is free on all four days, and no advance registration or tickets are required.

Stampex, which was first held in 1956, is organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society. The 2026 show is co-sponsored by BB Stamps Ltd. and Bill Barrell Ltd.

The show will include 65 PTS members offering stamps, covers and other philatelic material.

Other activities include talks, society meetings, youth activities, a Court of Honor and the interactive Display Your Way attraction, which presents traditional exhibits as well as works in progress and other approaches to displaying collections.

Royal Mail will offer a different special Stampex 70th-anniversary cancellation on each of the show's four days. Visitors may place postcards, covers and other mail in a dedicated Stampex postbox to receive the daily cancellations.

Thousands of free copies of the official Stampex postcard also will be available. A limited number of prepaid postcards will be distributed each day.

Several specialist societies also will hold meetings during Stampex, including the Ceylon Study Circle, Great Britain Overprints Society, Malta Study Circle, Egypt Study Circle and British Thematic Association.

Additional information is available online at www.stampexinternational.com.

Polar Salon planned for Praga 2028

BY LINN'S STAFF

A Polar Salon devoted to Arctic and Antarctic philately will be held as part of the Praga 2028 World Stamp Exhibition in Prague, Czech Republic, March 22-26, 2028.

The 7th International Polar Salon will bring together polar exhibits from Europe, the United States, Australia and other parts of the world.

Polar philately encompasses stamps, postal history and other material connected with human activity in the Arctic, subarctic, Antarctic and subantarctic regions. Exhibits can cover polar expeditions, aerophilately, military mail, traditional philately and thematic subjects.

The Polar Salon is an international exhibition held approximately every three years, generally in conjunction with a national or international philatelic exhibition. The Praga 2028 organizing committee is working with polar collectors' clubs to stage the seventh salon.

Praga 2028 is a specialized world stamp championship exhibition held under the patronage of the International Federation of Philately and with the recognition of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations.

Applications for Polar Salon exhibits are now being accepted online at https://praga2028.cz/en/application-polar-salon. More information on the Polar Salon and exhibitor guidelines is available at the Praga 2028 website at https://praga2028.cz.