

In Brief

Plymouth Hosts Stanley Gibbons Exhibition

Plymouth has paid homage to one of its most famous sons with a special philatelic exhibition on the life of Stanley Gibbons. The exhibition, which took place in the public library in the Stoke region of the city, showcased the collection of local philatelist, George Williams.

Stanley Gibbons, who was born in Plymouth in 1840, first began trading in stamps in 1856 from his father's chemist shop in Treville Street.

Speaking of the exhibition, which ran until the end of August, Mr Williams said, 'There's been a lot of interest and I hope it encourages young and old alike to learn more about stamps and Stanley Gibbons.'

International Exhibition To Be Held In Sharjah

An international exhibition has been scheduled for 20 to 25 November 2012 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The event, which is entitled 'Sharjah 2000' will be the 28th Asian International Stamp Exhibition and is being organised by the Emirates Philatelic Association under the patronage of the FIAP.

The six-day exhibition will be held at Mega Mall, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates and will include all FIP/FIAP classes

For more information visit www.sharjah2012.com or contact the organisers, telephone +971 4 3538383, +971 4 3535005, email epa@epa.ae

Obituary

Arthur O'Hanlon of Provincial Philatelics has reported the recent sad passing of two of his colleagues: Derek Greaves, who traded as Arcade Stamps and ran a stamp shop in Lowestoft Norfolk, for the last dozen years, and John Schley from Barnet, who was for many years a weekend fairs dealer, well known around the London circuit, especially the London Bourse.

Gala In Honour Of Ethiopian Olympic Heroes

By Peter Jennings FRPSL, FRGS

Ethiopia is renowned for its excellent and exciting long-distance runners, both men and women, who have been successful at major sporting occasions throughout the world, including the Olympic Games.

It was a great pleasure to be invited to the special Gala Evening to celebrate Team Ethiopia's success at the London Olympic Games, at the Porchester Hall in London's Bayswater, on Monday, 13 August, the day after the closing ceremony.

Maggie Doherty, Senior Media Officer, at the Catholic Communications Network, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and I were joined by Hugh Jefferies FRPSL, Editor of the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogues, and GSM.

Team Ethiopia and members of the Ethiopian National Olympic Committee were given a well-deserved hero's welcome – they won seven medals, placing it fifth in the athletics medal table and 25th overall.

Tirunesh Dibaba won the Women's 10,000 metres final. Meseret Defar won the Women's 5000 metres final, with Tirunesh Dibaba taking bronze.

Tiki Gelana won the Women's Marathon. Sofia Assefa won bronze in the Women's 3000 meters Steeplechase. Dejen Gebremeskel won silver in the Men's 5000 meters final on Saturday 11 August. Tariku Bekele won bronze in the Men's 10,000 meters final on Saturday 4 August.

Accompanied by the award-winning Ethiopian musical troupe, Dankira, upon arrival, Team Ethiopia were presented with bouquets by HE Berhanu Kebede, the Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the Nordic Countries.

Dignitaries and invited guests stood and applauded as the athletes made their way to their seats in the packed hall.

Olympic athlete, Gebregziabher Gebremariam, who came eighth in the Men's 10,000 metres final, told GSM: 'It was a great privilege running the final of the 10,000 meters with Mo Farah.'

The Ethiopian Ambassador praised Team GB for its remarkable achievements and expressed his warm thanks for the tremendous support given to Ethiopian athletes by the huge crowds at all the venues.

It was a memorable and emotional occasion for everyone present.

Ethiopian Olympic stamps

Ethiopian athlete Abebe Bikila who won the men's Marathon at the Rome 1960 Olympic Games was



Hugh Jefferies (right), pictured with Peter Jennings FRPSL, FRGS, and Maggie Doherty during the Gala Evening held in London on 13 August in celebration of Team Ethiopia's success at the London 2012 Olympic Games. *Picture courtesy of Mark Kenderdine-Davies*

featured on 50c. value, with the words 'Marathon Winner', in a set of five sports stamps issued by Ethiopia on 14 January 1962 (SG 526/30).

Eight years later, Mamo Wolde won the gold medal in the men's Marathon at the Mexico Olympic Games.

At the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games in the USA, the Ethiopian athlete Haile Gebreselassie won the 10,000 metres gold medal. Gebreselassie also won the 10,000 metres gold medal four years later at the Sydney Olympics.

Ethiopia issued a special set of stamps during 2000 to mark his remarkable achievements. This world-famous athlete is featured on four values, with the words 'Haile Gebreselassie, World's Athletics Super Star' (1807/10).

Perhaps the Ethiopian Post Office will issue a special set of three or four stamps to commemorate the achievements of Team Ethiopia during the London 2012 Olympic Games. They would be welcomed by stamp collectors and in particular by thematic collectors of Olympic material.

The Royal Mail London 2012 Olympic Games Gold Medal Winner, Mo Farah, Men's 5000 metres sheetlet issued on Sunday 12 August 2012 and autographed the following evening by three of the Ethiopian medal-winning Olympians.

