Local Posts

A local post is **a mail service** that operates only within a limited geographical area, typically town or an island such as **Western Isles Rocket post of Scarp Isles and Rattle Snake Island (shown).**

Historically, some local posts have been operated by governments, while others, known as **private local posts** have been for-profit companies.

Private local posts typically issue their own stamps, which can become collectors' items.

Local Postage stamps are generally placed on the bottom left corner of the envelope and with Government issued stamps at the top right as Locals can not be used to send mail worldwide.

In some cases, Locals were used on some British Isles Islands for drop mail on their island. There have been many Local Postage stamps issued for many of the small British Isle Islands, some very collectable and rare.

Some Local Post Stamps are among the great rarities of philately, such as first issues of Lundy Island and some early Scout mail. This is true of issues particularly on cover and cancelled by issuer.

Rattle Snake Island is an 85-acre (0.34 km²) island located on Lake Erie near Put-In-Bay, 11 miles (18 km) northeast of Port Clinton, Ohio and had **the only USPS-sanctioned local post operating in the United States.** From 1966 to 1989, USPS mail was routed by way of Port Clinton, Ohio. Outgoing mail from the island entered the USPS mail stream by way of Sandusky, Ohio. Local Post service began in 1966 and continued through 1989, when the island was sold and the new owners discontinued the service. It was restarted in 2005. A notice on the official Rattlesnake Island website has posted a notice that as of 2013, the local post is closed indefinitely. [15]

The Local Post Collectors' Society established in 1972, coordinates communication among local posters. The LPCS issues a regular Bulletin ***The Poster*** to its members around the world, relating stories of local posts, showing new issues and other related items.[