



# It Happened in 2014

## Many Accomplishments Achieved in the Previous Year

As I write this, the 2014 calendar year data is just becoming available and I thought we should share a few of our accomplishments. Thanks to you, our members, during 2014 we were able to:

- Expand online interactive educational offerings and provide free orientation sessions for APS members.
- Expand *Stamps Teach*, our initiative program to provide third to fifth grade teachers with lesson plans, activities, and worksheets that use postage stamps as hands-on learning tools, and now serves more than 2,500 teachers and 20,000+ students.
- Increase new member applications and grow member retention.
- Supplement *The American Philatelist* with online bonus content.
- Implement a new web-based Expertizing system that allows submitters to check the status of their items.
- Complete another phase of the Library, allowing the space to be used for the Aerophilately 2014 exhibits.
- Continue the *Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship* program and offer youth Summer Seminar scholarships.
- Publish the Tedesco forgery index online.
- Co-sponsor and host the 8th Annual Postal History Symposium.
- Create finding guides for the *Tom Alexander*, *Wallace Cleland*, *Richard Graham*, and *Harlan Stone* research papers.
- Continue our series of downloadable mini-stamp albums.
- Welcome a new tenant and transition a current tenant to additional space.
- Redesign our website homepage and provide basic websites for several APS Chapters.
- Add the capability to search digital content to the Library Union catalog.
- Host our *Fifth Annual Volunteer Work Week* and increase the use of volunteers to more than 16,000 hours of service at the American Philatelic Center (the equivalent of eight full-time employees).
- Make available on our *YouTube* channel a selection of the seminars offered at our annual shows and the Summer Seminar.
- Hold an initial gathering of the *Young Friends of APS* group for members age 25-49.
- Begin offering *American Air Mail Society publications* at a discount for APS members.
- Approve a pilot project to provide administrative support for an APS affiliate.
- Save nearly \$30,000 in mailing costs through the use of donated postage.
- Begin offering affinity programs providing exclusive savings to APS members.
- Increase our assets by about \$1.5 million.
- Grow the number of donations, dollars and sponsorships.



Stamps Teach logo.

### New Initiatives

Two initiatives I expected to become available in 2014 did not quite make it, but by the time you read this we may have a mobile application available for *The American Philatelist* and a search should be available for several thousand past APS expertizing certificates (with

more being added each week). I'm also optimistic that our Library Board will have approved a contract to finish the Library space.

## Recognizing Members

The April issue of the *AP* is our annual recognition issue. In it we will formally thank about 250 members who recruited one or more new APS members and the more than 4,000 members who financially supported the Society and Library, providing in excess of \$2 million in cash to help us and the hobby. With your continued support 2015 will be even more successful!

## Thematic/Topical Collecting

Earlier this week I answered a letter from a member who was frustrated in his attempt to form a thematic collection on the Marines. He had contacted several dealers with little success and seemed to be close to giving up. Assembling a thematic collection can be challenging. Most stamp dealers organize their stocks by country and catalog number. And, except for a few topics for which the *American Topical Association* has published handbooks or which have their own specialty organization, expanding your collection to include special cancellations, stationery, and other non-*Scott* listed items is even more challenging.

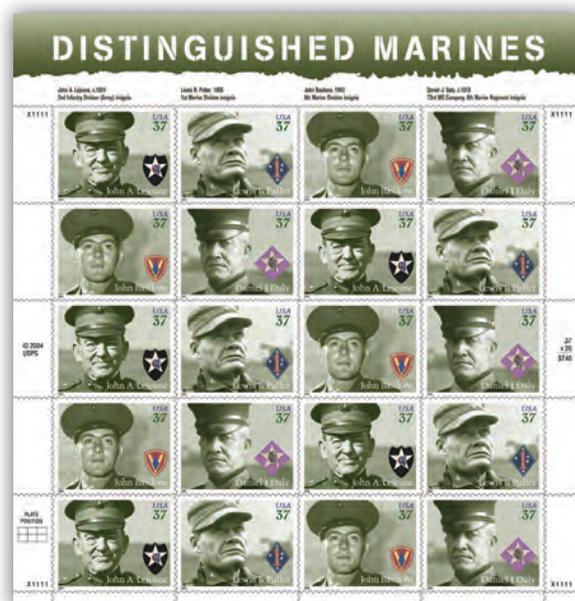
For many of us part of what makes our hobby most exciting is the search and thrill of the find. And our website includes several resources that can help the thematic collector. You can start with our *Dealer Member Listings* ([www.stamps.org/dealers](http://www.stamps.org/dealers)). Dealers who indicate a specialty of topicals are more likely to have their material

**“Assembling a thematic collection can be challenging.”**

arranged in a fashion that allows them to find material that may be of interest to a thematic collector. Another dealer specialty on our website drop down search that might be helpful to this collector is “military mail.”

You also can search material being offered by your fellow members through *APS Online Stamp Sales* by keyword ([www.stamps.org/StampStore](http://www.stamps.org/StampStore)). At present there are just over 250,000 items available, and each item for sale is pictured.

I mentioned that the American Topical Association has published a number of handbooks on various topics. These and other literature can be searched on our online union



United States 2005 37¢ Distinguished Marines stamps.

catalog, <http://catalog.stamplibary.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx>. This allows you to search the holdings of not only the American Philatelic Research Library but about a dozen other major philatelic libraries. APS members have book borrowing privileges for our holdings and also can get scans or photocopies (within copyright law).

In many cases *Specialty Societies* ([www.stamps.org/Specialty-Societies](http://www.stamps.org/Specialty-Societies)) affiliated with the APS may be another good resource. The American Topical Association should be relevant for any thematic collector. They offer many checklists, including one for Navy / Coast Guard / Marines that includes 220 items. However, two other APS affiliates — the Universal Ship Cancellation Society and the Military Postal History Society — would also be relevant for this collector.

Unfortunately, a vast amount of philatelic knowledge is never published. However, you may be able to tap into it anyway by finding and meeting collectors with similar interests. The Specialty groups are certainly one approach for this. If no specialty group exists for your area and you are interested in starting one, APS will provide mailing labels for collectors (who have not opted out of having their address included in such mailings) based on their reported interests. You might also try to find out if anyone has exhibited on your subject. The APS website includes a few exhibits online ([www.stamps.org/online-exhibits](http://www.stamps.org/online-exhibits)), and more as photocopies in the library that are listed in the previously mentioned union catalog. However, we also publish the awards listings or palmares for national shows. The search function at the top right of nearly every page of our website can be used to find these.

## Rocky Mountain High

Congratulations and thanks to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, which continues to produce very high quality videos for their YouTube channel. Their latest video is on "U.S. National Parks" and includes a mention of the free APS downloadable album pages. Their YouTube id is *RMPLDenver*.

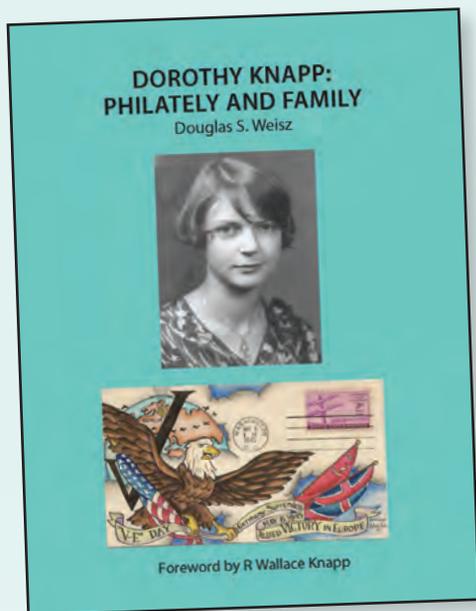
## Come Visit

We hope many of you are able to visit us this year. This year our annual Summer Seminar runs from June

21–26 and Volunteer Work Week from July 27–31. At least one Summer Seminar course is nearly full, so if you are interested in participating don't delay. We also hope to see many members at our annual StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan from August 20–23. This should be the largest U.S. philatelic event for 2015.

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Enjoy your stamps and share the joy of stamp collecting with your friends and acquaintances.



## DOROTHY KNAPP: PHILATELY AND FAMILY

is the definitive biography and complete works of the most famous cachet artist in the history of philately. Over 1600 full color images tell the story of her work of nearly 20 years. The collection of these works uncovered unsolved mysteries about her relationships with others in the industry and identification of her unsigned work. Journals, letters, interviews and family photos tell her personal story and how her life translated into this remarkable body of work.

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