



# Growth & Change



**A**s I write, snow is beginning to melt in Bellefonte and we are seeing the first signs of spring. Before long we will begin to see new growth on plants and trees. Most will look similar to what we recall but may have subtle differences reflecting age, climate, and conditions. The same applies to the APS and APRL.

One of the most visible changes of the season at the APC is the number of visitors to the American Philatelic Center. While we were pleasantly surprised that despite the weather there was little decrease in the number of visitors through November and December, we still expect to see the normal spring and summer surge. We enjoy the opportunity to meet with and serve members and visitors.

To make it easier for more of you to visit, the APS and APRL will be open five Saturdays during the summer. Please understand that limited staff are present on these Saturdays. Tours will be available; the Headsville Post Office will be open; and Circuit Sales and the Library will be available for use. If there is another service you are hoping to use, please call ahead. We may be able to accommodate you. (With advance notice we sometimes can assist members at other times when we are not normally open.)

There is an extra incentive to visit on June 19 as the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society will be holding its annual bourse and exhibition in the American Philatelic Center. With about ten dealers it is not a huge show, but with Summer Seminar opening the following week it is well attended. The Library also will be open Sunday afternoon, June 20.

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Earlier in the year some of us were concerned about representation on the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), which makes recommendations to the Postmaster General on the subjects and designs for new U.S. stamps. After twelve years of service, past APS President John Hotchner faced mandatory retirement from the Committee. While John is not replaceable, I am delighted that two APS members have been added to the Committee.

Few collectors are as well known as John, but Janet Klug just might be. Like John she is a *Linn's* columnist and past president (and current board member) of the APS. Also like John she is an exhibitor and accredited judge and has served on numerous committees, including the National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists for which she currently chairs the New Initiatives Commit-



## Summer Events at the APC

- June 5 — Circuit Sales and Library Open
- June 17-18 — Expertizing First Day Covers and Earliest Documented Uses (Course prior to Summer Seminar) with Ken Lawrence and Allison Cusick
- June 19 — Circuit Sales and Library Open
- June 19-20 — SCOPEX (Exhibition & Bourse of the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society)
- June 20 — Circuit Sales and Library Open
- June 20-25 — APS Summer Seminar
- July 17 — Circuit Sales and Library Open
- July 31 — Circuit Sales and Library Open
- July 26-30 — APS Volunteer Work Week
- August 7 — Circuit Sales and Library Open

tee. I am sure APS members will be generous in sharing their ideas for the U.S. Stamp program with Janet.

Less well-known as a stamp collector, but better known nationally, Dana Gioia also has been appointed to serve on CSAC. The former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, Gioia is an acclaimed and award-winning poet, and has been an APS member for the past twenty years. We are sure he will also provide wise counsel and also thank him for agreeing to serve.

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A change that may be harder for some members is Gini Horn's departure as Librarian of the APRL. Gini has been a dedicated employee for more than twenty-five years. Many members have come to rely on her for finding the resource materials they need for an article, exhibit, or other project. A short note from Gini to the membership follows my column. While we seek a replacement for Gini, Ellen Peachey will serve as Interim Librarian. Ellen is also fantastic at serving members and matching their needs with the unparalleled resources in the Library.



Our Librarian position is being advertised nationally. A copy of the job announcement is provided here so that any qualified APS member could apply or share the opening with others they believe would be good candidates.

The American Philatelic Research Library is very important to the APS. Although only a small percent of the membership regularly borrows materials, the whole membership benefits from this international resource. The Library is invaluable to our Expertizing Service, for fact-checking manuscripts for *The American Philatelist*, for answering member questions, and in many other ways. In addition, because the APRL is a *public* philatelic library (the second-largest in the world) it is also a great resource for the non-collectors in introducing them to the hobby through magazines, books, stamp albums, and a wealth of related philatelic material.

A significant responsibility for the new Librarian will be devising plans to make the Library's resources better known and more easily accessible. We expect this will include development of indexes and other finding aids, and the increased digitizing of material. This is important for new member recruitment and improved member retention.

These responsibilities fall in line with the current goals of the Library Board, which include:

- Evaluating the content of the *Philatelic Literature Review* and increasing the flow of articles.  
Exploring how to reduce overseas delivery costs and production of a digital version.

- Enhancing the current online catalogue by incorporating the holdings of other philatelic libraries and developing partnerships to lessen the workload and share resources.
- Establishing a methodology and timetable to create a group of volunteers to engage in indexing philatelic journals.
- Reviewing and making recommendations for updated bylaws, including possible implementation of term limits.
- Creating a digital delivery committee to identify library holdings, equipment, and other issues involved in delivering some of the library's holdings through the APS website.
- Developing arrangements with Societies to receive their journals digitally and making them available to APS members and/or the non-member public.
- Establishing rules and conditions for donated library and research collections (notes, data, correspondence) of collectors and postal historians. Conditions should include funding for housing and maintenance.
- Establishing a program to provide a digital archive of Champion of Champion exhibits.

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With the conclusion of our Riverside, California AMERISTAMP EXPO — thanks to everyone who helped make the show a success! — our focus turns to the August 12–15, STAMPSHOW in Richmond, Virginia, which is already shaping up to be a great show. The Confederate Stamp Alliance will have its 75th annual convention in conjunction with the show and already has a full slate of activities planned. With the proximity to Washington, DC, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum is planning special activities and hopes that many collectors will visit the facilities either before or after the show.

Many other groups are also planning their involvement. Some, such as the American Philatelic Congress and the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, routinely take booths and have their annual meetings at nearly every APS summer show, but others such as the International Society for Philippine Philately (ISPP) are planning larger than normal roles. Society tables and meeting/seminar space are available to our affiliates and chapters.

We have offered the ISPP an “e-blast” to all our members who have indicated an interest in the Philippines to promote their participation in the show. If your group would like to have an annual meeting at the show we will work with you to make it as successful as possible. Tables and meeting space are limited so we would need to hear from you soon for Richmond, but APS shows are scheduled several years in advance, so it is not too soon to begin planning for future years.

We understand that no matter where we hold APS shows many of you will not be able to attend. However, with the help of a few volunteers willing to videotape a small portion

of the 150 planned meetings and seminars, we could make a some portion of the benefits to attendees available to members over the Internet. If you have the equipment, expertise, and time to help in this way please let us know.

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The APS Board met by phone the Tuesday following AMERISTAMP EXPO. A big welcome to the Penguins on Stamps Study Unit, which was approved as our newest affiliate. The meeting included several reports, including an overview by me of the progress of the Society over the past year and, specifically, how we have been working to accomplish the goals set forth in our Strategic Plan. At six single-spaced pages, the report is too long to include in *The American Philatelist*, but I would be glad to provide a copy to any interested member. E-mail me at [kpmartin@stamps.org](mailto:kpmartin@stamps.org) or call me at 814-933-3817. Further, the end of year statements showing the great progress we have made in getting our finances in order are

now available on our website, [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

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Finally, this is the annual Donor Recognition issue. I am constantly reminded of the generosity of the membership. This extends not only to individuals but also chapters such as the Merchantville Stamp Club, which recently made a gift in memory of member Joseph Murphy. A few days ago an individual posted concern about staff appreciation on the Virtual Stamp Club and within hours three individuals made pledges for the Employee Appreciation Fund.

It is impossible to adequately express thanks to the more than 3,000 of you who gave generously to the APS in 2009, including the 1,100 individuals who have signed up as contributing or supporting members. Another 300 of you made in-kind donations. In addition, many others volunteer their time and talents in support of the hobby. Thank you all, very much!