

June Has Been a Great Month

June has been a good month for the American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library. SCOPEX was held at the American Philatelic Center, followed by the Summer Seminar. In addition to the visitors for these events, we had about seventy-five others sign our guest register during the month, including Jim O'Donnell from the National Postal Museum, Treasurer-Elect Ken Nilsestuen, Membership Committee member Bill Melver, member Harold Vickery from Thailand, and a non-member from England.

We also received several nice gifts during June. Mid-month we received a check for more than \$212,000, nearly double the firm's original estimate, from the Schuyler Rumsey firm for the sale of the **Bill Bauer Colorado Postal History Collection**. Bill's generosity in including us in his estate has now brought more than \$1 million to the Society and Library. In addition, we received a check for more than \$75,000 from the **Centre Foundation** representing the generosity of about 235 members in the 36-hour "Centre Gives" matching donation challenge.

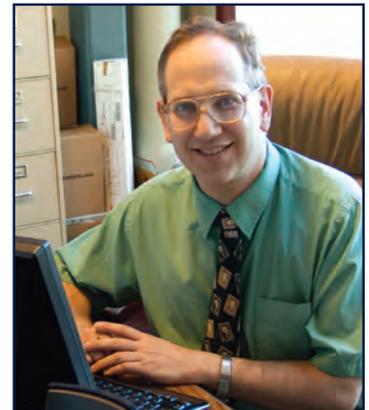
Also during June we learned that the APS had been approved for two grants: \$25,000 from the **Turning Point Foundation** to enable us to continue and expand the "Stamps Teach" program, and \$50,000 from the **David T. Beals Foundation** to assist with digitization of materials.

Stamps Teach is a program that provides educators with lesson plans, activities, and worksheets that use postage stamps as hands-on learning tools. Educators can use these tools to add some fun and interest to their current curriculum while exposing students to postage stamps. The two pilot years of this program have exposed more than 10,000 students to stamps and stamp collecting. Participating students are offered a free one-year membership in our "Young Stamp Collectors of America" Internet-based youth club. Evaluations and feedback from both students and teachers have been very positive; for details, please visit <http://stamps.org/userfiles/file/education/lessons/StampsTeach-Report.pdf>.

The Stamps Teach grant should allow us to hire a part-time staff member and provide funding for additional mailings and materials, opening participation up to more teachers. While the Foundation has generously agreed to give us half the grant in July, to get the full amount they expect us to match their gift by raising \$25,000. Unlike Centre Gives, which required minimum gifts of \$25, a gift of any amount will count toward our matching requirement. Donations can be sent through the mail or made on the APS website (choose Stamps Teach as the designation).

The APS proposal to the Beals Foundation listed five uses for the funding, which we will now be able to implement:

1. Purchase a second professional-grade, large-format (11 x 17-inch) book scanner with a beveled edge to scan pages without damaging the spine of the book. The scanner will have text recognition software to create searchable PDF documents and will allow us (a) to increase our utilization of volunteers at the American Philatelic Center and (b) to better serve patrons who currently have to wait for access to our single scanner.





Simon Codrington of Hugh Wood, Inc. offered Seminar attendees tips about protecting their collections.

2. Purchase a microfilm scanner that will allow us to produce high-quality prints and digital scans from microfilm and microfiche, as well as to automate the digitization of microfilm. Previously, we could view microfilm but could not print decent images or create digital files.
3. Acquire a dedicated server for the storage and backup of materials digitized by the APRL and other philatelic libraries.
4. Provide a budget to have at least 100 items professionally scanned.
5. Cover costs to ship materials to and from volunteers who are able to index and scan materials from their home.

Speaking of digital materials, we are pleased to have added a new CD from **Tony Wawrukiewicz** to our digital publication shop on the website. The CD lists pre-1961 international parcel post rates, data that was not included in the Wawrukiewicz international rate book. While there is a charge for this CD, the APS continues to add videos that can be watched free of charge. Most recently a video of a number of **Summer Seminar** electives has been posted to the APS YouTube channel. These include “How to Organize and Maintain Your Personal Library” with Tara Murray, “Controlling Your Collection” with Keith Stuppell, and “Computer Assisted Expertizing” with Clark Frazier. An index of and links to the APS YouTube videos is available on our website at www.stamps.org/stamp-YouTube-videos. Also, our website now includes a log of



many of the site updates. You can click the link on the home page or simply go to www.stamps.org/site-updates for information on the newest pages.

I titled last month's column “Together We Accomplish More.” Since then I have enjoyed visiting two club meetings, both of which were joint affairs. The Havertown Stamp Club invited members of the Springford-Delco Stamp Club to their annual banquet. I like that they gave certificates of thanks to all their past year's speakers. I also was delighted to receive, on behalf of the APS, a check recognizing our 125+ years of service to the hobby.

Six days later I was invited to speak to the Pottstown Area Stamp Club at their annual picnic, which is held in conjunction with the Springford and Reading Stamp Clubs. Including the “stampless others” there were nearly sixty people present. After the potluck dinner and a short talk from me, they broke into two groups. One group offered an auction for the collectors, while the other, for the non-collecting guests, played “stamp bingo.” Rev. John Pearson, a past president of the club, told me that he joined the APS ten years ago when former Executive Director Bob Lamb visited their club. He also generously donated some philatelic publications that did not sell in the auction. We needed a few of the issues and sent an e-mail out to the philatelic librarians group to which the APRL belongs, resulting in the items we did not need being claimed by other libraries within twenty-four hours.

Each year a few members panic when they see the number of dropped members in the June issue of *The American Philatelist*. (Typically we gain members eleven months of the year but suffer a major loss one month a year, when members are dropped for non-payment of dues.) While the drops were the second lowest in more than twenty-five years and our member retention is nearly ninety percent, we don't like to lose any members. Building the membership requires a wide variety of activities. Hopefully Stamps Teach will pay off down the road, but recruiting established stamp collectors provides a much greater short-term return.

We have long offered business reply cards for dealer members to include in their mailings, but they are available to any member. If you sell on eBay or are a chapter or affiliate editor or treasurer doing a mailing to your club's membership, we would be happy to provide cards that your members can return (free of charge) to get information on the APS. Using these cards also will earn you or your club \$5 for each individual who joins the APS.

I was recently saddened to learn of the passing of member Tom Current of Oregon. Tom played a major role with the Great Britain Collectors Club, helped establish the Northwest Philatelic Library in Portland, and was a major advocate for more transparency in the Society. He will be missed.

I hope to see many of you at STAMPSHOW in Milwaukee from August 8-11. As usual, this should be the foremost

stamp show in the nation this year with more than 100 dealers, 900+ frames of exhibits, 100+ meetings and seminars, and several issues of new stamps. A recent addition to the schedule is a open forum on Saturday afternoon, August 10 at 2 pm to discuss ways to secure the future viability of the Society, including the possibility of hiring additional executive level help.

If you don't make it to Milwaukee, perhaps I will see you in Cleveland for AMERICOVER the following weekend.

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