

125 Years!



On September 14, 2011 the APS reaches the grand old age of 125. Two days later, on Friday, September 16, in conjunction with the Postal History Symposium and the United States Stamp Society Show, a birthday lunch will be held at the APC. The lunch will take place in, and show off, the newly renovated space intended to serve as the home of the American Philatelic Research Library. Anyone attending the show and Symposium that day is invited to lunch which, thanks to generous donors, will be free. The same space also will be used to for a second birthday lunch on the following day, Saturday, September 17, to celebrate the 85th birthday of the United States Stamp Society. That lunch, too, will be free and open to all.



Traditionally, philately takes a pause over the summer months while collectors spend more time outdoors and take warm-weather vacations. However, this summer has been anything but slow for our staff. In June many of our members used vacation time to attend our 32nd annual Summer Seminar. Including students, volunteers, instructors, and elective speakers the American Philatelic Center population zoomed from our employee complement of 33 to closer to 150 for the week.

Part of the success of this year's Summer Seminar was due to the increase in the number of two-day courses. Traditionally, all courses have run four full days, but beginning last year we tried some offerings that could be covered in only two days. This opens up the Seminar to individuals who can't afford to be away for an entire week and allows others to take two different classes over the course of the week rather than just one. The two-day courses also provide an opportunity for new attendees to get their feet wet, and our first-time students nearly doubled to twenty-two this year.

We, of course, are always delighted to welcome the repeat attendees, a few of whom have attended for twenty or more years and many of whom seem like family. Unfortunately, health issues prevented one regular attendee, Dick Moore, from joining us this year. In a spontaneous gesture, his fellow students raised about \$1,700 in his honor for the APS.

We try to provide after-hour opportunities for Summer Seminar participants to use Circuit Sales and the Library, and a few of them spend more on duplicate literature and additions to their collections than on their tuition and travel expenses! However, two were especially generous this year: Bill Strauss from Texas gave a \$5,000 gift to the APS and Jim Dimond from Ohio gave a \$2,000 gift.

We are currently reviewing suggestions and feedback for courses and electives for next year's Summer Seminar, which will run from June 17-22. This immediately preceded the American Topical Association convention and National Topical Stamp Show, which will take place in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, about a two-and-a half-hour drive from the APS.

I was in the office the Saturday following the Summer Seminar when Jack Standen stopped by. Jack worked in our Circuit Sales department for many years and was returning to State College for the weekend for a celebration at his former church. Jack is also one of the small group of stamp columnists who write for newspapers, in his case the Elyria, Ohio *Chronicle Telegram*. I enjoyed catching up with Jack and giving him a tour of our renovations. Let us know if you will be in our area, even if it won't be during regular work hours. I have had the pleasure of showing at least one member around the APC each of the last four weekends.

Three days later, on the Tuesday following the Summer Seminar, we were pleased to serve as one site for



Volunteers, including service dog Radar, take a break for a Kodak moment during this year's Volunteer Work week. Mark your calendar — July 23–27, 2012 — and join us next year!

Penn State University's Summer Student Work Day. Fifteen volunteers not only helped us get a lot of work done but at the same time were given exposure to our wonderful hobby.

The Penn State Student Work Day was a prelude to our second annual Volunteer Work Week. The group grew this year to about twenty-five volunteers, including some spouses, and was a great help in our Circuit Sales, Editorial, Education, Expertizing, Library, and Show departments. Once again, the volunteers turned their hands to many tasks that staff are unable to accomplish during their normal work schedules. One of our regular (non-collector) volunteers led a group of the work week volunteer collectors in moving books in the library so that new additions would fit on the shelves in the proper location. Work week volunteer Richard Colberg also informed us that he recently updated his estate planning and has included the APS/APRL in his will.

This year we really appreciated the assistance of American Topical Association Executive Director Vera Felts and American Philatelic Research Library Trustee Larry Nix and his wife Kathy, even though none of the three was able to stay for the entire week. Our third annual Volunteer Work Week will run from July 23–27, 2012. Of course, we are happy to find tasks for volunteers any time and not just during Volunteer Work Week!

Prior to Volunteer Work Week we were delighted to have a visit by Gene Fricks, David Grayson, Ed Moore, and Tom Schilling of the Merchantville (New Jersey) Stamp Club. The primary purpose of their trip may have been to pick up stamp exhibit frames, but they also took advantage of the Library and some other services. For many years Gene has indexed a number of philatelic periodicals and by the time

you read this we should have his latest updates loaded on our online library catalogue.

We appreciate the efforts of all APS members to promote stamp collecting and the APS. Dealer member Kanti Patel is working to promote the APS on his website and is encouraging others to do the same. The APS is happy to provide graphics and text to help anyone in this way. New board member Edgar Hicks writes a grain commodity report. When talking about investment guru Bill Gross' comments on treasury bonds, Edgar noted that Gross is a very serious stamp collector.

And we certainly can't forget Nancy Clark who recruits guests and hosts APS Stamp Talk, an internet-based radio show for stamp collectors. Each show is archived and may also be listened to by podcast. If you want to listen "live," the time has recently been changed to 4–5 p.m. Eastern time on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Go to www.wsradio.com.

Last month I mentioned the new editions of the *Guide to U.S. Large Bank Notes* and *U.S. Domestic Postage Rates*. Since then we have also added the availability of *Flaked Out*, a children's book by APS member C.H. Colman. This book tells the history of Newfoundland and cod fishing, and features postage stamps that chronicle historical events. We still have a limited quantity of Colman's first book, *The Bald Eagle's View of American History* (2006) in stock.

Two recent communications from APS members may

be of interest. Member John Shotliff is looking for tools collectors are using to display their collections online. He also asked if APS has considered providing a hosting service to display collections, or partnering with a third party to get APS members a discount.

I replied that for space to store and share files the August 2011 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* recommends Windows Live SkyDrive which, it reports, provides 25 gigabytes of free space. Alternatives they suggest include Dropbox (2GB free; \$120 per year for 50 GB) and Amazon Cloud Drive (5 GB free; \$20 per year for 20 GB).

APRL Librarian Tara Murray adds:

In the library we have used both Google Docs and Dropbox to share files with patrons. These work well for sharing with specific people. For more public sharing, web hosting has gotten quite cheap. Some collectors might find a blog platform appealing (blogs have been used to "catalogue" and showcase archives collections) and there are several free hosted services including Blogger, Typepad, and WordPress.

We would love to hear from members who display their collections online. Would you be more inclined to do so if APS were to provide free space for this purpose?

The second communication is from member Tom Carlson, who reports that the September October 2011 double

issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* includes a mystery short story about stamps. It is a reprint of Ellery Queen's "The Adventure of the One-Penny Black" copyrighted in 1933. Tom says that "Overall it is a good read.... It is interesting to read of 1933 stamp values and the Queen's assessment of stamp collectors."

I'll end with three pieces of sad news. Unfortunately, we recently lost a chapter as the Clermont County Stamp Club of Ohio has dissolved. We greatly appreciate their donating the balance of their funds to the APS/APRL, but we would have preferred that they continue as a viable club.

Second, member John Cress passed away in July. John was a collector and exhibitor of Australian air mail and frequently attended shows around the country. Many visitors to the American Philatelic Center viewed famous U.S. air-mail pilot Jack Knight's desk, which he lent to us for display. Finally, Ralph Walther, who served on the APS Board of Vice Presidents from 1986-1989, also recently passed away. Our sympathies to the families of Ralph and John.

We hope to see many of you for the United States Stamp Show, the Postal History Symposium, and our 125th birthday celebration at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte from September 16-18!

U.S. Postal Stationary Error Discovered After 40 Years

by Richard Nakles

In 1971, to meet the first-class rate increase on May 16 to eight cents, existing stocks of the 6-cent Head of Statue of Liberty and White House Conference on Youth envelopes were surcharged with a stylized "U.S. Postage Revalued" printed in green just to the left of the stamp impression (shown below). One would think that it would have been very easy to insert envelopes into the printer upside down, resulting in a surcharge on the back, but until now no such errors have been reported.

Recently, however, two examples of the youth conference revalued envelope (Scott U562) with an inverted surcharge on the back were discovered in a donation made to the American Philatelic Society by APS Vice President Steven Rod. Unbeknownst to Mr. Rod, they were in the middle of a nearly full box of 500 normal envelopes, which he had purchased from the post office a short time after issue.

The two examples were examined by local expert, Wil-

liam Lehr, and certified as genuine. One copy was given to Mercer Bristow to be included in the APS reference collection and the other will be listed on eBay in the near future. Editors of the United Postal Stationary Society (UPSS) catalogue were alerted and have indicated that the new variety will be listed in their next edition.

No doubt there will be a lot of postal stationary collectors scouring their stacks of mint envelopes of this and all the other surcharged values. Who knows what may be in the middle of those boxes!

The APS would like to thank Mr. Rod and all the hundreds of collectors who donate annually to the Society.

