

# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Celebrating 125 years  
1886-2011



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# The APS — In The Beginning

[Ed. Note: The information contained in this historical review of the APS is from articles written by Robert L.D. Davidson and published in *The American Philatelist* in 1986. Much of the following is directly quoted from these articles.]

The history of the American Philatelic Society comes close to being a history of organized American philately. Although many other groups and individuals were part of the stamp collecting movement in the United States, the APS has emerged in the forefront of the hobby.

Stamp collecting in some form began in Europe as early as 1850, with collecting in the United States beginning about the same time. By 1886 stamp enthusiasts were extremely active and a number of prominent businessmen who had been attracted to stamp collecting began to discuss the possibility of forming a national organization of philatelists.

In an article in the April 1886 issue of the *Philatelic Journal of America*, S.B. Bradt wrote, “And why should we not have a national organization, and a grand one too?” In the same month, *The American Philatelist*, an independent journal published in Altoona, Pennsylvania, by W.R. Fraser, printed an announcement of the possible formation of a national organization of philatelists. Four hundred collectors indicated their willingness to assist in founding such an organization.

Forty collectors attended a meeting held on September 13, 1886 in New York City. As noted in *The American Philatelist* (January 1986) “When one considers the distances involved and the means of transportation available at



The 1886 delegation

With 36,000 members in 100 countries, the 125-year-old Society is the largest, nonprofit society for stamp collectors in the free world. APS offers services and educational opportunities to broaden your enjoyment of the hobby and enhance your special collecting interests, whatever they may be. The APS is supported entirely by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.



# The APS — In The Beginning

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PHILATELISTS.

THE subject of effecting a union of stamp collectors that shall embrace every collector throughout the land who may desire to become a member of such an organization is, at the present time, receiving considerable attention from collectors generally. With the idea of promoting this movement the Chicago Stamp Collectors' Union take this method of presenting a few of the reasons advanced, at its last meeting, in favor of a National Philatelic Society:

*First.*—"In union there is strength," and in the matter of stamp collecting it will be found that the old adage holds just as good as ever it did in another cause.

*Second.*—A national organization will give Philatelists a national recognition as a large and ever increasing class who recognize in the postage stamp an object worthy their attention and study; and such recognition will have a tendency to add recruits to our ranks, as well as to strengthen those already in.

*Third.*—It will bring forth much valuable information that is now withheld, by promoting a more friendly intercourse between collectors, and permitting a freer interchange of ideas and opinions.

*Fourth.*—It will be able to cope with and hold in check the dealers in counterfeit stamps, who are now the pests of collectors.

*Fifth.*—It will enable collectors, by combining, to purchase their stamps at a considerably lower rate than they now can, while at the same time it will greatly aid in the exchange of duplicates.

*Sixth.*—While England and the continental countries have well organized societies, the Philatelists of this great land are without any sort of national organization to guide and direct them. If for no other reason than that our fellow-collectors across the water are so successfully organized and we dislike to be outdone in such matters, should we not at this time make an earnest effort to effect a *National Philatelic Organization?*

S. B. BRADY, } Committee on  
O. S. HELLWIG, } National  
R. R. SHUMAN, } Organization.

CHICAGO, April 19th, 1886.

The C. S. C. U. will be glad to hear from any Philatelists who, after reading the above, feel sufficient interest in the subject to aid in the establishment of such a union. It is to be hoped that all the advocates of stamp collection, whose attention may have been drawn toward this appeal, will send in their names to the committee, thereby giving it the assistance that fellowship implies, and helping it to ascertain the number of collectors there are who possess enough interest in Philately to assist in placing it, in this country, on as high a plane as it occupies abroad.

Address communications to the chairman of the committee, S. B. Brady, Grand Crossing, Ill.; or to O. S. Hellwig, 411 Royal Ins. Bldg., Chicago.

the time, to have attracted that many participants is no small indication of interest in the formation of a national organization."

At this meeting a committee was chosen by interested local groups to form a national stamp society, the American Philatelic Association. The following day, September 14, 1886, the new group adopted a constitution and bylaws and elected John K. Tiffany as president — the date that became the official birthday of the American Philatelic Association. Business included setting dues at \$2 per year, to be pro-rated so that a new member paid only for the balance of the year remaining. A charter member paid an additional 25¢ a year and had to either directly vote or vote by proxy at meetings.

One of the APS services provided to members — an annual convention — has been held every year in August (or September) since that first event held in New York City.

The APA took prompt action and elected a "counterfeit detector." This forerunner of today's Expertizing service served without a fee!

## Stamp Collecting Scott 1474 • 1972

Stamp collecting is a hobby for people of all ages. Founded in 1886, the American Philatelic Society is the largest organization for stamp collectors in the United States. The headquarters of the Society was created in State College, Pennsylvania when a centralized APS office was established in 1945. In 2004, the APS and the American Philatelic Research Library relocated to the American Philatelic Center in a refurbished match factory in Bellefonte.



Visit the American Philatelic Society online at [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)



# The APS — The First 25 Years

**1887**

At its annual meeting, it is reported that the “exchange department” is functioning and doing well, as \$327 in stamps have been sold to members. This department becomes the predecessor to today’s Sales Division.

The Constitution is revised to include a Board of Trustees to receive complaints “regarding dishonest or dishonorable practices” of members [now Board of Vice Presidents]

The APS Vignette of Philatelia is adopted. This Vignette is depicted on the APS logo even today.




**1891**

The Board votes to proceed with incorporation under the laws of West Virginia. On November 2 that same year the American Philatelic Association is officially incorporated.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE

## American Philatelic Association?



IF NOT,  
YOU OUGHT TO BE.

**12 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN:**

- 1ST.—Because it is the National Association of America.
- 2ND.—Because by becoming a member of it, you assume no risks or responsibility, as it is an incorporated Association—a very important item.
- 3RD.—Because it gives you a standing, a kind of reference, that is very valuable to have.
- 4TH.—Because it is the best known Association in America, and known the world over.
- 5TH.—Because it has its own official organ.
- 6TH.—Because it is going to have the best regulated and largest exchange or sales department there is. (It will probably have more than one system.)
- 7TH.—Because through its purchasing agents you can buy new issues—stamps at auction, etc.
- 8TH.—Because it has annual re-unions, called conventions, where it is a pleasure to go and meet many of the brethren.
- 9TH.—Because it is going to have an exhibition of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, etc., at the Columbian World's Exposition, the like of which has never been gathered together before and on exhibition. Do you not want to say when you see it: “I am a member of this Association.”
- 10TH.—Because your fellow philatelists are members of it, and we want *you* in our Association.

**1897**

It is announced even in the early years of the APA that the Library Department is making considerable progress with their collection. In 1897 the Board decides APA’s library should be placed in the care of the trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. It will remain there until 1927.

**1903**

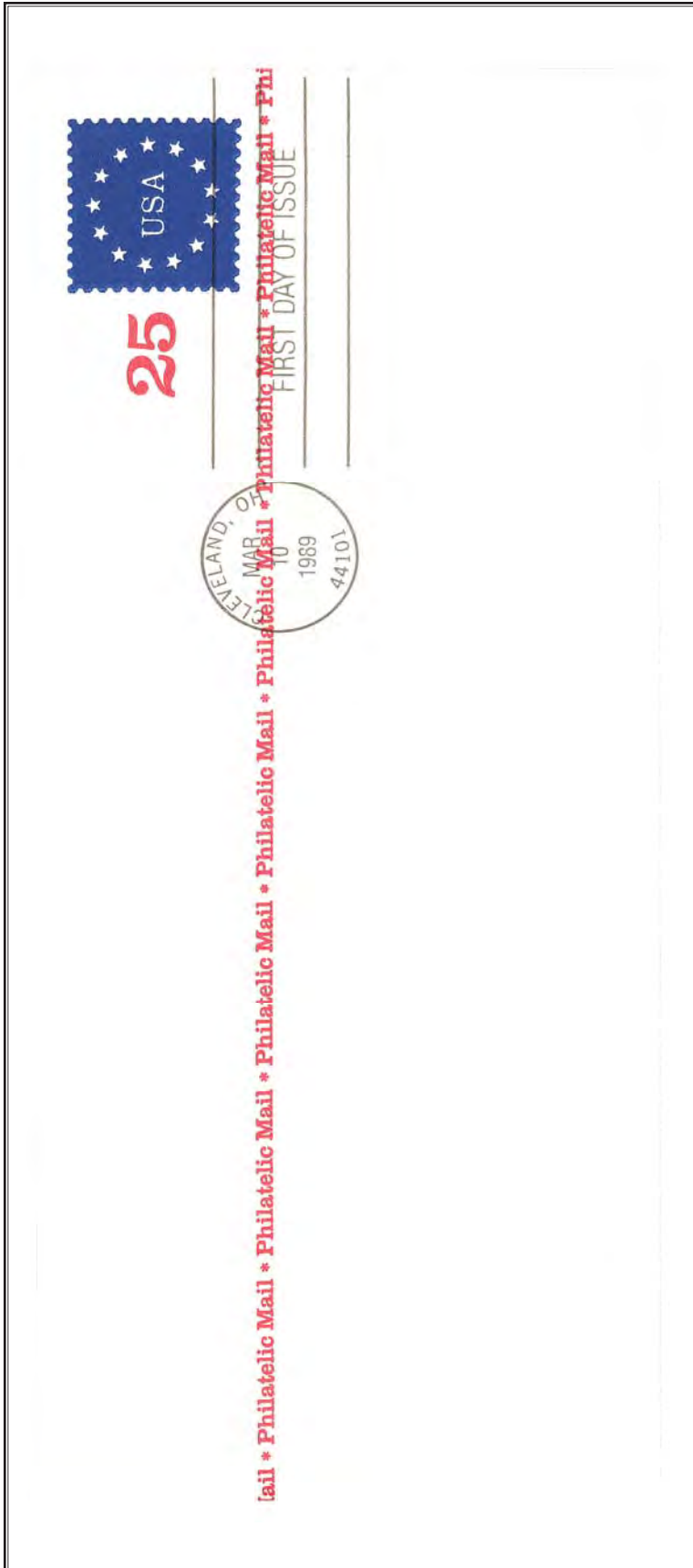
The Expert Committee issues its first photo certificate. The 1-tical on 1-solot stamp from Siam is genuine.

**1908**

The APA briefly changed its name to the American Philatelic Society in 1897, but reverted back to the Association within a few short months. In 1908 the name is again changed to the American Philatelic Society, and has remained as such since that time.



# The APS — The First 25 Years



Attendees of the 1908 Convention

## Philatelic Mail Scott U614 • 1989

This stamped envelope was issued for the specific purpose of philatelic mail. The words "Philatelic Mail" are repeated across the cover, with the stamp an embossed circle of 13 stars encircling the letters "USA." Collectors were allowed to submit this stamped, self-addressed envelope for a first day of issue cancellation — a first for the USPS.





# The APS Moves Into The 1920's

The first international show to be held in the United States was in New York, New York in 1913. There was no stamp issued for this show, as there was no division within the U.S. Post Office Department for the promotion of stamp collecting.



## Second International Philatelic Exhibition Scott 620 • 1926

The second international show to be hosted by the U.S. was also held in New York. The Post Office Department was involved in this show, issuing a 2-cent stamp commemorating the Battle of White Plains, New York. In addition to the usual panes of one hundred, the stamp was issued in sheets of twenty-five. The words "International Philatelic Exhibition, Oct 16th to 23rd 1926, New York N.Y. U.S.A." were inscribed in the margin of the smaller sheets.



# The APS — The 1930's

11590

Please Read This Blank Carefully Before Filling It Out.

To The American Philatelic Society:

DR. H. A. DAVIS, Secretary, 2421 Colfax "A," Denver, Colo.

I hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, \$2.00 admission fee is remitted herewith, together with the dues and subscription to the American Philatelist for the current fiscal year,\* at the rate shown on the back of this sheet. These amounts to be refunded to me if my application is not accepted.

Name Franklin D. Roosevelt  
(Applicant must sign in own handwriting)

Street Hyde Park, Dutchess Co., N.Y.  
(Shortest address possible with accurate delivery)

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation Governor

Age 49 Specialty, if any \_\_\_\_\_

If in business state name of firm \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer? \_\_\_\_\_ Collector?  Collector-Dealer? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to Exchange with members? \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCES

NOTE—The By-Laws of the Society, as printed on the reverse side of this sheet, require each applicant to furnish two commercial references, neither of which shall be a bank (nor a firm of which the proposer is a member), as to his character, in addition to one member of the Society, who acts as proposer. A minor's guarantor, instead of applicant, must give references. Full address and business should be given in each case.

Clay T. Dome Tribune Bldg N.Y. City  
Collector's Club nyc

I herewith endorse the above application and propose:  
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt for membership  
Mohlman Membership No. Life

BOND

If the applicant for membership is under twenty-one years of age, the following form must be filled out by a guarantor satisfactory to the Directors:

To the Council of The American Philatelic Society:—  
Gentlemen: In accordance with Article I of the By-Laws of your Society, I hereby agree and bind myself to act as guarantor of above-named applicant, and hold myself responsible for all debts of said applicant to the Society until the applicant reaches twenty-one years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_

\*The fiscal year of the Society expires August 31, and all annual dues are figured commencing September 1. See schedule on other side.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's APS application

## 1931

Due to the depression, only 90 members attend the convention. However, finances are healthy with just under \$50,000 in assets.

July 24, the APS receives an application for membership from Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1933 Roosevelt would become the 32nd President of the United States.

## 1932

Editorials in *The American Philatelist* warn of the danger of mixing philately with politics as Franklin Roosevelt is a candidate in the U.S. Presidential campaign:

"In this era of world-wide depression...every voter must give serious thought to the grave problems that beset our Government and intelligently cast his ballot...And so, as an enthusiast in Philately, we bespeak the favorable consideration by all the members of the A.P.S. of the candidacy of our fellow member, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for the office of President of the United States!"

## 1934

With the depression just having hit the bottom, membership drops below 4,000, with not a single new life member in 1934. However, 150 members attend the annual convention held in Atlantic City.

## 1935-36

Was 1935 or 1936 to be the American Philatelic Society's Golden Anniversary? The 50th annual convention is celebrated in Washington DC in 1935. However, the Golden Jubilee Year for the APS is not celebrated until 1936 when the convention is held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Another well-known philatelist joins the ranks of the Society at the annual convention held in Washington DC. James Waldo Fawcett, APS member and editor of the Washington Post, recommends former U.S. President Herbert Hoover to membership. (Note: application shown on page 10 shows that Hoover did not pay the admission fee, nor did he have the required references.)

### American Philatelic Society Souvenir Sheets (shown on page 9) Scott 730-731 • 1933

A Century of Progress International Exposition was the name of a World's Fair held in Chicago from 1933 to 1934 to celebrate the city's centennial. On May 25, 1933, two stamps—a green 1-cent and a violet 3-cent—were issued to celebrate the exposition. The 1-cent stamp depicts the restoration of Fort Dearborn, a pioneer outpost on the site of Chicago; the 3-cent shows the new art deco Federal Building in Chicago.

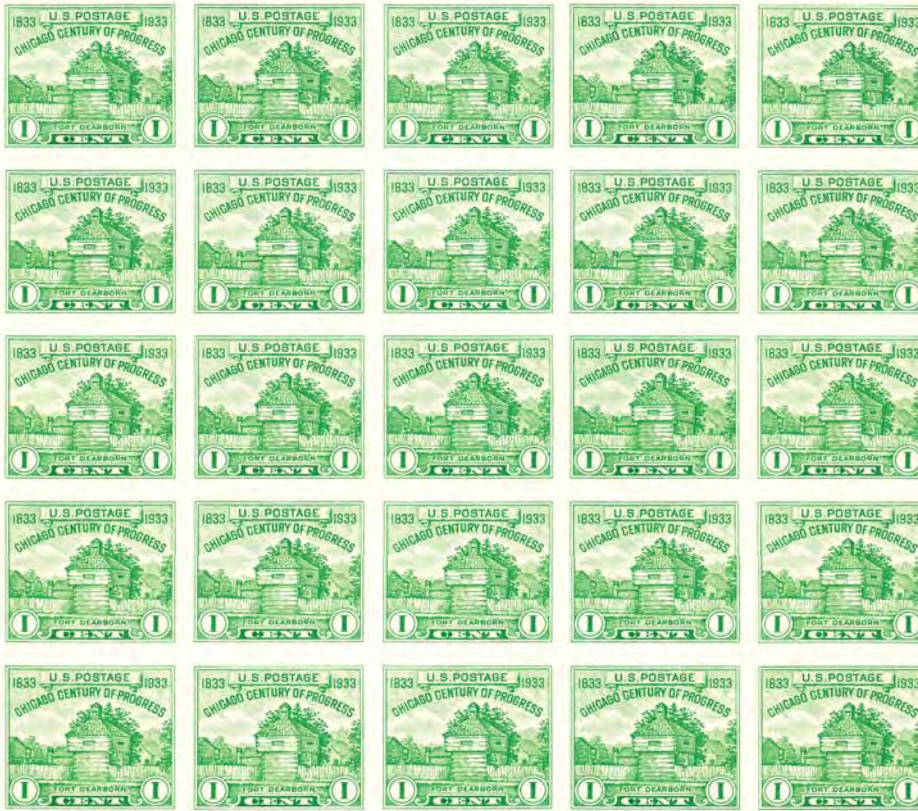
The stamps were reissued on August 25 in imperforate souvenir-sheet form without gum to mark the American Philatelic Society convention being held in Chicago's central business district.



# The APS — The 1930's

UNDER AUTHORITY OF JAMES A. FARLEY, POSTMASTER GENERAL AT A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

PRINTED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING



IN COMPLIMENT TO THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR ITS CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 1933. PLATE NO. 21145

POSTAGE



IN COMPLIMENT TO THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY FOR ITS CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

PRINTED BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 1933. PLATE NO. 21146



# The APS — More of the 1930's

Please Read This Blank Carefully Before Filling It Out

S-1 \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

**To The American Philatelic Society:**  
Dr. H. A. DAVIS, Secretary, 3421 Colfax "A", Denver, Colo.

I hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. \$2.00 admission fee is remitted herewith, together with the dues and subscription to the American Philatelist for the current fiscal year,\* at the rate shown on the back of this sheet. These amounts to be refunded to me if my application is not accepted.

Name Herbert Hoover  
(Applicant must sign in own handwriting.)

Street Palo Alto  
(Shortest address possible with accurate delivery.)

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State Calif. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Specialty, if any \_\_\_\_\_

If in business, state name of firm \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer? \_\_\_\_\_ Collector? \_\_\_\_\_ Collector-Dealer? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to Exchange with members? \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES**

**NOTE**—The By-Laws of the Society, as printed on the reverse side of this sheet, require each applicant to furnish two commercial references, neither of which shall be a bank, (nor a firm of which the proposer is a member) as to his character, in addition to one member of the Society, who acts as proposer. A minor's guarantor, instead of the applicant, must give references. Full address and business should be given in each case.

Admitted to membership by the 50th Annual Convention, Washington, D. C. August, 1935.  
No other data, no fee.

I herewith endorse the above application and propose:

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ for membership.  
*Sign of J. S. ...*

R. C. \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

**BOND**

If the applicant for membership is under twenty-one years of age, the following form must be filled out by a guarantor satisfactory to the Directors:

**To the Council of The American Philatelic Society:—**  
Gentlemen: In accordance with Article I of the By-Laws of your Society, I hereby agree and bind myself to act as guarantor of above-named applicant, and hold myself responsible for all debts of said applicant to the Society until the applicant reaches twenty-one years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Business \_\_\_\_\_

\*The fiscal year of the Society expires August 31, and all annual dues are figured commencing September 1. See schedule on other side.

Herbert Hoover's APS application

Until now the files of the Society have been kept at the homes of the various Board members. The Board feels that the time has come to collect and properly arrange these files, especially those involving the activities of the Board of Vice Presidents. An archivist is appointed, with the task of collecting all material that is delivered to him.

Junior memberships for applicants younger than 15 years of age are approved at the 1939 meeting — a first for the American Philatelic Society.

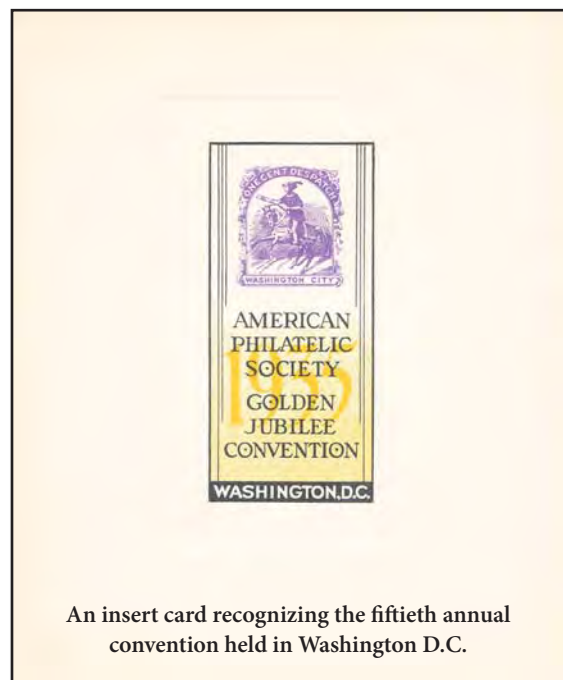
## 1937

The Board notes that 5,244 new members have been approved between 1927 and 1937, but only 700 of that number are still on the rolls. The Great Depression and the Recession of 1937 is blamed for these statistics, as the Board is more concerned that only five charter members, those who helped organize the original APA in 1886, are still living.

## 1939

At the 1938 convention, the Board President urges implementation of a plan to recognize outstanding philatelic service. A committee is organized to investigate the possibilities of following through on such a plan.

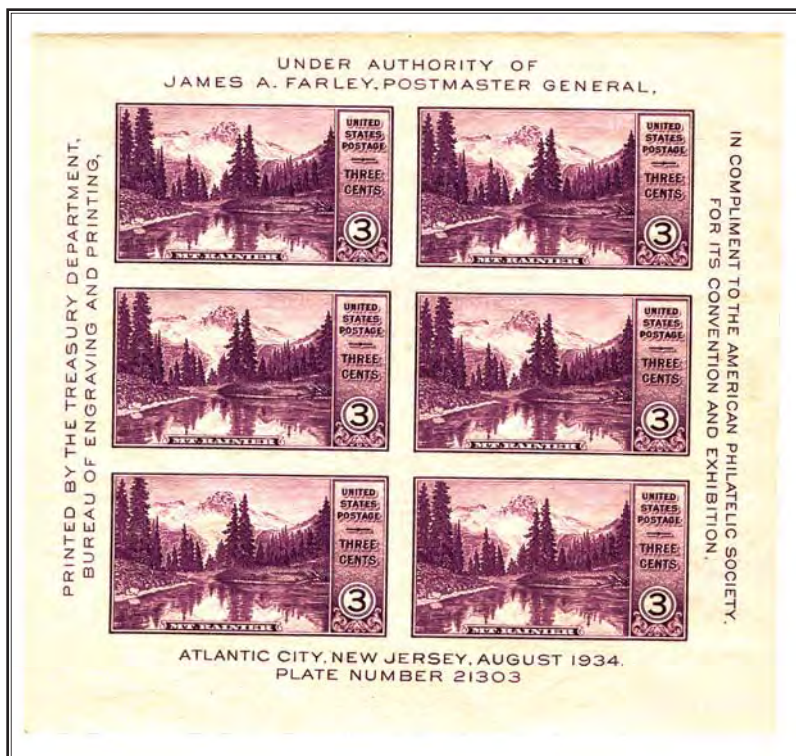
John N. Luff, one of the all-time great American philatelists, passes away before time for the 1939 convention. By resolution the Board creates the John N. Luff Awards, which continue to honor up to three persons each year in one of three categories: distinguished philatelic research, service to philately, and service to the American Philatelic Society.



An insert card recognizing the fiftieth annual convention held in Washington D.C.



# The APS — More of the 1930's



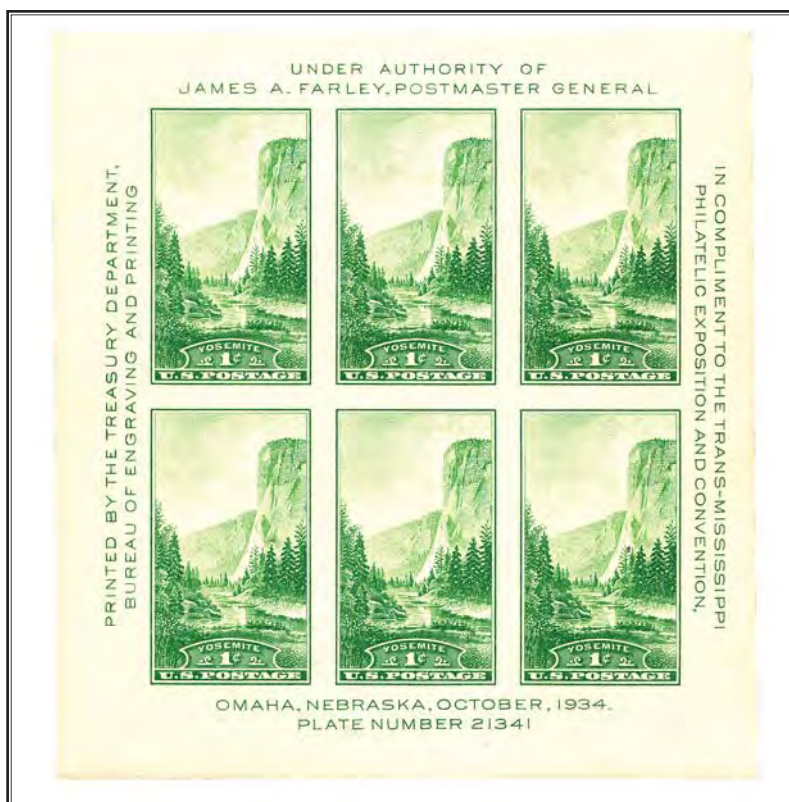
## American Philatelic Society Souvenir Sheets Scott 750 • 1934

In 1934, the Postal Service issued a series of stamps depicting the U.S. National Parks.

An imperforate souvenir sheet of six 3-cent stamps showing Mt. Rainier and Mirror Lake, Washington, was issued on August 28. In the narrow margin on the four sides of the sheet in small Gothic lettering is the following wording: "Printed by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, under authority of James A. Farley, Postmaster General, in compliment to the American Philatelic Society for its convention and exhibition, Atlantic City, N.J., August 1934."

## Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition Issue Scott 751 • 1934

A souvenir sheet of six 1-cent stamps depicting El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, California, was issued on October 10, 1934. This souvenir sheet commemorated the 1934 American Philatelic Exhibition and the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition. The following inscription is printed on all four margins "Printed by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, under authority of James A. Farley, Postmaster General, in compliment to the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Exposition and Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, October 1934."



# The APS — The 1940s — A Time of Growth

## 1942

By 1942 the APS membership has dropped to 4757. Donald F. Lybarger, a member of the Board of Vice Presidents gives a paper “A Long Range View of the American Philatelic Society.”

He reminds the convention of unresolved issues: procedures for the condemnation of counterfeits, standards for the conduct of auctions, acceptance of a code of descriptive terms, and establishment of standards of values. He suggests the Society should seek to enroll 10,000 members, proposes revision in the work of the Board of Vice Presidents to become a protective arm of the Society, notes that conventions should be “inspirational and promotional rather than political,” denounces the proxy system, yields to a mail ballot or referendum of the full membership and recommends “a central office be established; away from a large city; but near the center of the philatelic population. It should be a repository, a general filing center, and a source of information for the officers...” Additionally, he “proposed that an executive secretary be appointed to exercise the authority of the existing offices of secretary, treasurer, and archivist, as well as that of the business manager of *The American Philatelist* and the recruitment committee.”

Over the next few years most of Lybarger’s recommendations are adopted.

## 1944

The Board of Directors makes some major decisions at their annual meeting. First, they direct that a “central office is to be established.” They abolish the usage of proxy system which has been used (sometimes unethically) since the beginning of the APS, and they waive dues for members in the armed services. This is the year that the first woman vice president is elected to the Board – Dorothy B. McEntee.



The first APS located in State College, PA, was located on the second floor of this building.

Meeting reports are now to be published in the *AP* in a condensed format.

## December 1944

Board chooses State College, Pennsylvania, a small town in the center of the state to be the location of the new central office and H. Clay Musser is appointed executive secretary.

## 1945

On April 1, 1945 the new permanent office located at the corner of Allen Street and Beaver Avenue in State College, PA, is open and operating. APS membership soars above 6,000.



# The APS — The 1940s — A Time of Growth

## Third International Philatelic Exhibition Souvenir Sheet Scott 778 • 1936

Franklin D. Roosevelt, an avid stamp collector, was U.S. President when the Third International Philatelic Exhibition (TIPEX) was held in 1936. Postmaster General James A. Farley issued a series of souvenir sheets, one of which was issued at TIPEX, which bore his name. This imperforate sheet reproduced the Connecticut Tercentenary, California Pacific International Expo, Michigan Centenary, and Texas Centennial, printed in their original color, arranged in a block format. Included in the marginal inscriptions were “In compliment to the Third International Philatelic Exhibition of 1935, New York, N.Y., May 9–17, 1936” and “Under Authority of James A. Farley, Postmaster General.”



## Fourth International Philatelic Exhibition

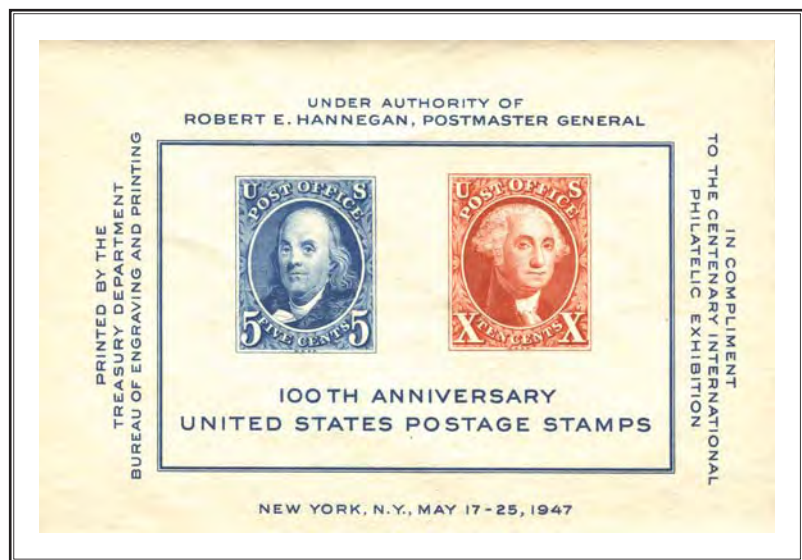
### Stamp Scott 947 • 1947

The fourth international exhibition to be held in the United States was held in 1947 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the first United States postage stamp. Called the Centenary International Philatelic

Exhibition, New York, (or CIPEX) the event was commemorated by the postal service with the issuance of a stamp and a souvenir sheet. The stamp features several types of postal transportation — the Pony Express, an airplane, old and new locomotives, and a steamship. Portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin appear on the stamps — the same portraits used on the first U.S. stamp issue of 1847.

### Souvenir Sheet Scott 948 • 1947

The souvenir sheet issued for CIPEX also featured reproductions of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. This imperforate sheet showed Franklin on a 5-cent blue stamp and Washington on a 10-cent orange-brown stamp. The text on the sheet in part reads “In compliment to the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition,” “100th Anniversary United States Postage Stamps,” “New York, N.Y., May 17–25, 1947.”



# The APS — The 1950s

## 1955

APS Membership is now reported to be more than 11,500.

The news of Ethel McCoy's block of four of the 1918 US Airmail Invert, Scott C3a, stolen from the exhibit at the APS Convention in Norfolk, Virginia, rocks the philatelic world. (It would be more than 25 years before a single stamp from this block would reappear.)



## 1956

An APS translation service is inaugurated. The membership has asked for more definitive programs for attacking phony issues and thefts of stamps. The Board responds by putting some new guidelines into place. Even though there is a continuing demand for more services, the membership defeats a referendum to raise dues to \$4.

## 1957

Post Office Department creates the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, which is directed to choose the new stamps that are to be issued by the POD.

The first ever "Mid-Year" meeting of the APS is held in Cleveland, Ohio. At this meeting, the APS Board decides to move the Sales Division to State College, where the executive secretary assumes responsibility for its operation. The Sales Division had been located off-site, with J.E. Guest being the head of this program for many years. Many APS members have a number of concerns about the way the Sales Division is being handled, among them what is considered an excess amount of profit being earned by Mr. Guest.

The Board also decides the APS committee will no longer expertise rare and very valuable stamps, they will be contracted to Philatelic Foundation of New York.

## 1959

Sales Division officially moves to State College. J.E. Guest refuses to send his records for auditing. He is suspended from membership and later expelled (1960) from the APS.



# The APS — The 1950s

## Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition

FIPEX, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in the United States took place in 1956.

### Scott 1075 • 1956

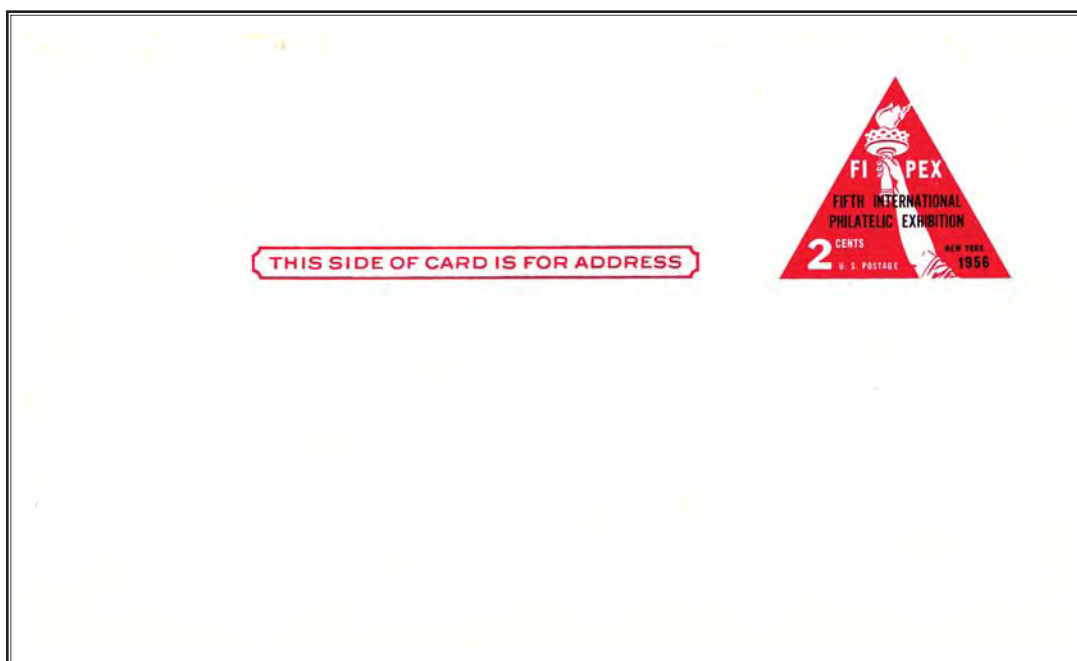
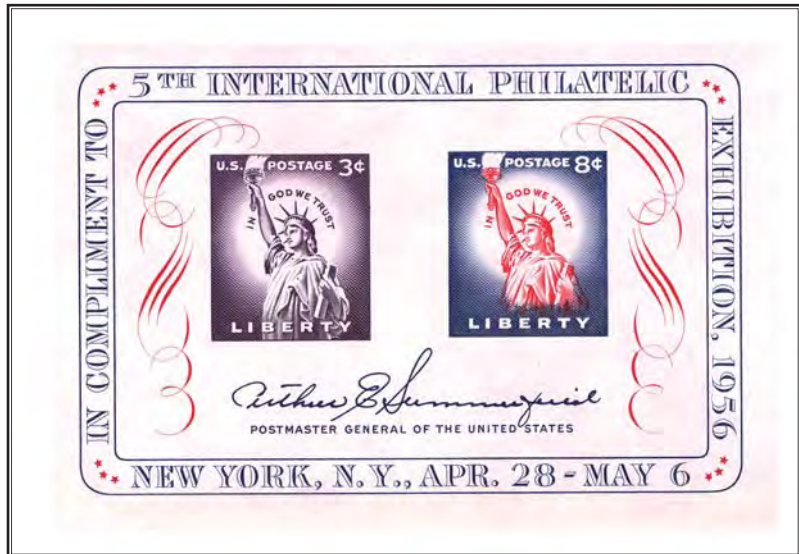
The souvenir sheet issued features oversized reproductions of two stamps depicting the Statue of Liberty. The stamp values were 3-cents (the first-class letter rate in 1956) and 8-cents (the surface-rate for an international letter.) The writing on the souvenir sheets reads “In Compliment to 5th International Philatelic Exhibition 1956, New York, N.Y., Apr. 28–May 6.”

### Scott 1076 • 1956

The New York Coliseum is featured on the stamp issued by the Post Office to commemorate FIPEX. The Coliseum was constructed as a low building with 323,000-square-foot of exhibition space and a 26-story office building. The building opened on April 28, 1956, with three exhibitions including the FIPEX. The writing on the stamp reads “Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, New York Coliseum 1956.”

### Scott UX44 • 1956

The Post Office also issued a postal card to commemorate the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition. A red triangle is embossed on the postal card, with the torch and arm of the Statue of Liberty. The words “FIPEX, Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, New York, 1956” are imprinted within the triangle.



# The APS — The 1960s and 70s

## 1964

The APS Headquarters moves to larger facilities on September 15, 1964. Located just one block from the first facility, this office allows more space for the ever-growing Sales Division.



Inside the “new” headquarters in 1964.

## 1965

American Philatelic Congress and APS Executive Secretary James DeVoss meet to “create an “umbrella” organization [Academy] to draw all the various societies and elements of philately together...building, lending library, code of ethics, common glossary, an educational department (attached to some university or college), insurance, and other matters...” Board advises DeVoss he can not be involved in this as it is a conflict of interest, and the Academy dies.

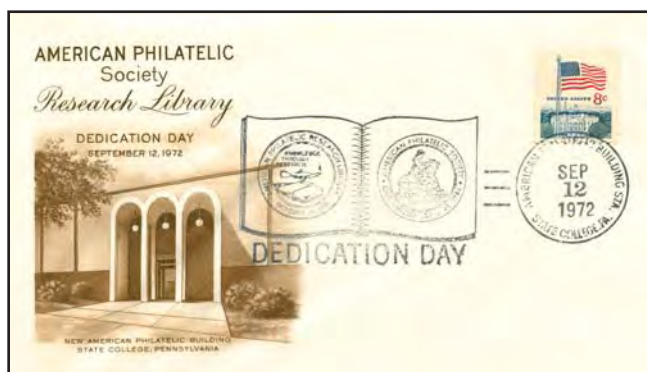
## 1966

Membership reaches an all-time high of 15000.

The Board approves the idea of a lending library. Dan Vooy raises an endowment of \$100,000 to start this library.

## 1967

Board approves the incorporation and financing of the American Philatelic Research Library.



## 1972

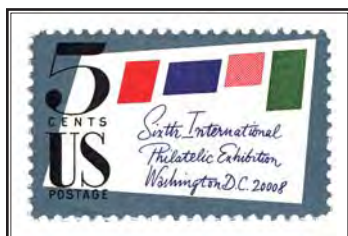
First American Philatelic Building is dedicated. The building is located on Fraser Street, still in downtown State College.

## 1973

Membership is now over 32000.



# The APS — The 1960s and 70s



## Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition

Scott 1310 • 1966

The Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX) was held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., in 1966. This was the first U.S. international show to be held outside New York City. The stamp issued to commemorate SIPEX shows an envelope addressed to “Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, Washington D.C. 20008.”

Scott 1311 • 1966

A souvenir sheet was also issued to celebrate the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition. The postal service noted that “Both a commemorative stamp and a souvenir sheet were issued as a tribute to the stamp show, a type of which is held in this country every 10 years.” The sheet showed the stamp that was issued at the show along with the wording “Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, Washington D.C. 1966.”

## 1976 Interphil: International Philatelic Exhibition

Scott 1632 • 1976

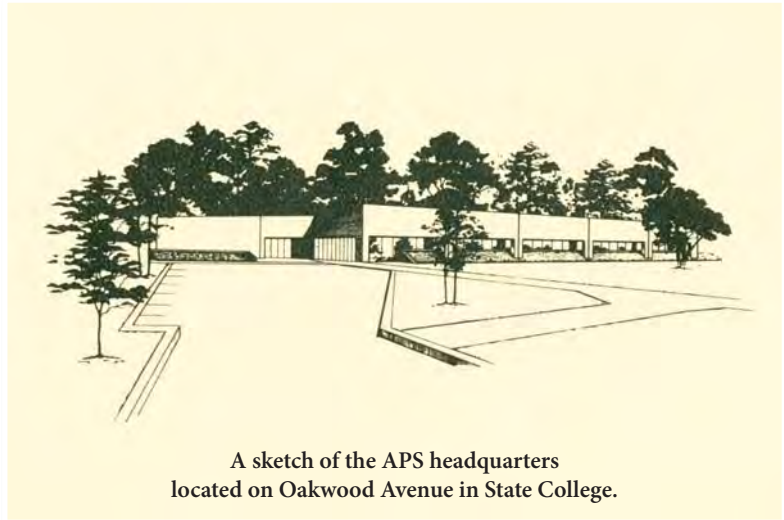
In 1976 Interphil — the International Philatelic Exhibition — took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the United States’ bicentennial year. It was the seventh such major international stamp show to be held in the United States. The stamp depicts a red, white, and blue ribbon with the words “Interphil, International Philatelic Exhibition, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 23–June 6.”



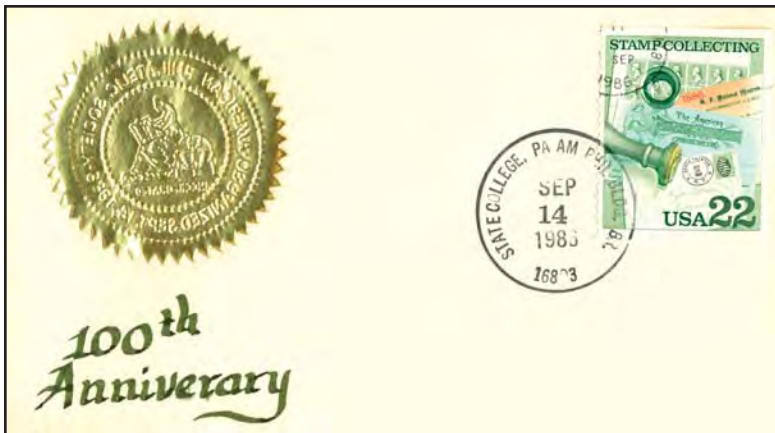
# The APS — The 1980s

## 1982

The APS has outgrown the building on Fraser Street. The headquarters moves to a new building on a 5-acre site located on Oakwood Avenue, just outside the boundaries of State College. The new building provides 20,000 square feet of space for the ever expanding APS services.



A sketch of the APS headquarters located on Oakwood Avenue in State College.



## 1986

Membership is now over 52,500, with members in every state in the union, as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. More than 3,000 members live in 65 different foreign countries.

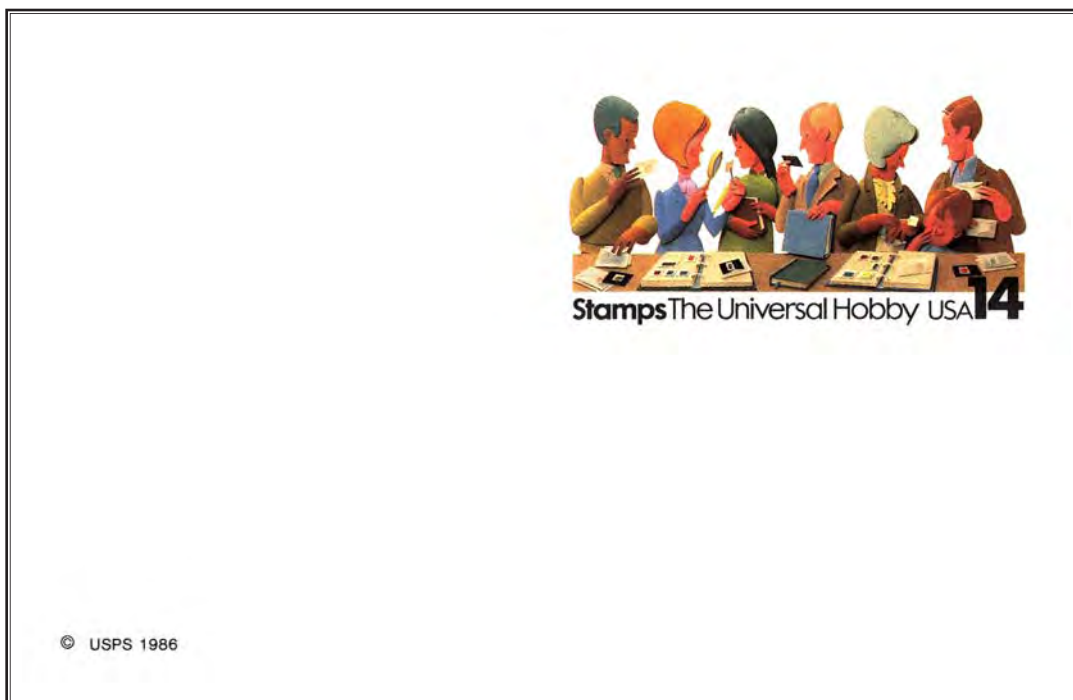
The APS celebrates its 100th anniversary. Since there was no convention in 1944, the 100th convention is now the same year as the anniversary of the Society.

A record number 6,626 registrants

attend the annual convention and exhibition held in Washington D.C. The annual budget is now more than \$2 million, with annual dues remaining at \$18 with a \$3 discount if paid by December 31.



# The APS — The 1980s



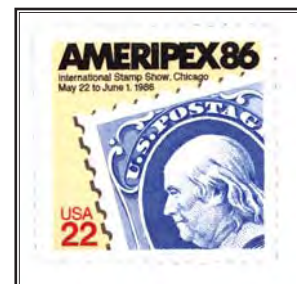
## Ameripex '86

Scott UX110 • 1986

A postal card was issued in conjunction with Ameripex '86 to promote stamp collecting. "Stamps the Universal Hobby" is the theme of this postal card which shows six adults and one child with their stamps and stamp collecting tools. This postal card portrays what Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1986 states "To define what 'stamp collectors' collect is tantamount to setting boundaries for outer space; it cannot be done."

## Scott 2145 • 1985 (right)

In 1986 the international stamp exhibition was held northwest of Chicago in Rosemont, Illinois. The Postal released a stamp a year prior to the show as an advertisement for the upcoming event. The stamp, which shows a part of a Benjamin Franklin stamp issued 100 years earlier, reads "Ameripex '86, International Stamp Show, Chicago, May 22 to June 1, 1986."



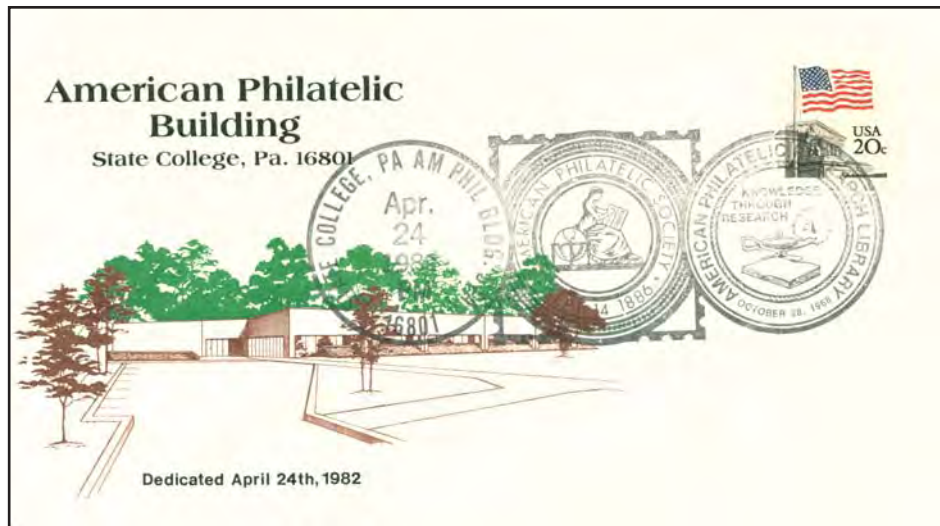
## Stamp Collecting Booklet (below)

Scott 2198-2201 • 1986

This Stamp Collecting booklet was the first commemorative stamp booklet issued by the United States Postal Service. The Swedish postal administration issued a similar stamp booklet on the same day, making this a joint issue. The four designs feature a hand-stamped cover, a boy examining a stamp collection, a magnifying glass examining a stamp, and a 1986 Presidents miniature sheet first day cover. The USPS commemorative booklet was issued at the American Philatelic Society when the headquarters was located in State College, Pennsylvania. The booklet cover served as a free admission ticket to the Ameripex 86 show.



# The APS — Into The 1990s



Completed in 1982, an addition to house the ever expanding American Philatelic Research Library was completed in 1989.

## 1989

Because of the rapidly expanding Library, the current APS building is expanded.

An Education Department is created to run the Summer Seminar on Philately, create slide programs for APS member clubs, and other educational programs.

WORLD STAMP EXPO '89 is held this year. This is the first stamp show and exhibition ever directly sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service. Free passes to the show are printed on some U.S. stamp booklets.

The U.S. Postal Service estimates that a record 10 million children are introduced to stamp collecting through the Ben Franklin Stamp Club program.

## 1990

*The American Philatelist* publishes its first full-color article, "Heroes and Dragons: Myth Meets Reality in Prehispanic Mexico."

The Board of Directors creates an "APS Computers in Philately Committee" to serve as the experts to initiate a point of contact at the international level for philatelic computer applications.

## 1994

The APS Board of Directors agree to soon have the APS accept credit card payments for transactions with the APS and the APRL.

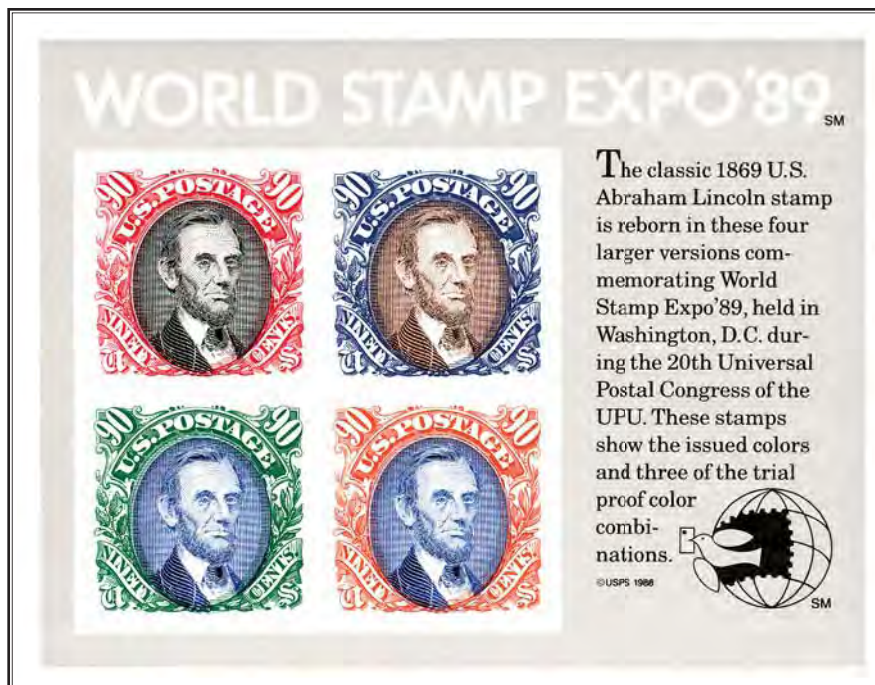


# The APS — Into The 1990s



**World Stamp Expo '89**  
**Scott 2410 • 1989**

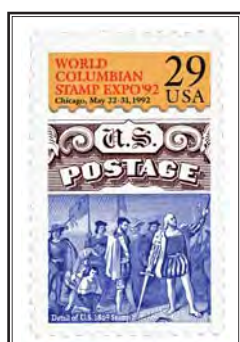
In 1989, for the first time in its 214-year history, the United States Postal Service directly sponsored an international stamp show — World Stamp Expo '89. The event took place in conjunction with the twentieth Universal Postal Congress held in Washington D.C. In March of 1989, the event received its own commemorative stamp. The stamp incorporated a stamp-on-stamp motif that featured a slightly smaller reproduction of the classic 90-cent Lincoln stamp that was issued in 1869.



**Scott 2433 • 1989**

A souvenir sheet was also issued to commemorate World Stamp Expo '89. The sheet featured four reproductions of the 90-cent Lincoln stamp, which, when issued in 1869 covered the one ounce rate for international airmail. One stamp on the sheet appeared as the original version with the remaining three shown as trial color proofs.

The printing on the souvenir sheet reads “The classic 1869 U.S. Abraham Lincoln stamp is reborn in these four larger versions commemorating World Stamp Expo '89, held in Washington, D.C. during the 20th Universal Postal Congress of the UPU. These stamps show the issued colors and three of the trial proof color combinations.”



**World Columbian Expo '92**  
**Scott 2616 • 1992**

An international stamp show was held in 1992 in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's historic voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Called “World Columbian Expo '92,” this stamp show was held in Rosemont, Illinois. A commemorative stamp was issued several months prior to give publicity to the show. The design was a stamp-on-stamp motif showing a portion of the design of one of the first commemorative stamps issued in the U.S. — the Landing of Columbus, one of the stamps from the Columbians of 1893 series. The words “World Columbian Stamp Expo '92 – Chicago, May 22–31, 1992” were printed on the top of the stamp and “detail of U.S. 1869 issue” was printed on the bottom.



# The APS — Finishing The Century

## 1999

The APS finishes the century with a slowly dropping number of members — just over 52,000.

The Board forms a committee to make proposals as to how the APS should use the Internet to expand its range and better serve the membership.

The APRL is continuing to grow. The Board determines that they should be planning for expansion of the facility.

The Board President notes that “The computer has also become an important time and money-saving tool for APS headquarters; and we will be making more use of it in the future for presenting and efficiently handling member services, for conducting the business aspects of the Society..”

### Pacific '97 (shown on page 23)

The Postal Service issued two stamps and two souvenir sheets to honor Pacific '97, the ninth international stamp show. The show commemorated the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the first U.S. postage stamps.

#### Scott 3130 • 1997 (top left)

#### Scott 3131 • 1997 (top right)

Scott 3130 was printed in blue and depicts a clipper ship, while Scott 3131 was printed in red and shows a stagecoach, both means of delivering mail to the Pacific coast residents in the 1800s. The stamps were the first triangular stamps ever issued by the United States Postal Service. They were issued in panes of 16, eight of each design, arranged in four blocks of four stamps each. The words “Pacific 97 International Stamp Exhibition San Francisco, California May 29–June 8, 1997” are printed on the margin of the sheet.

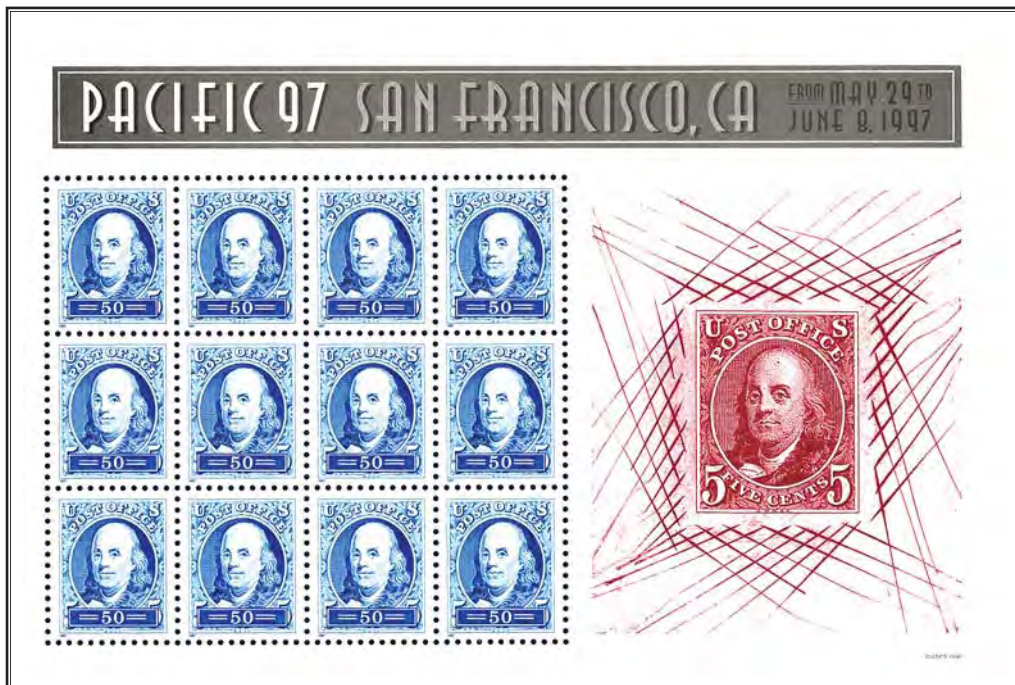
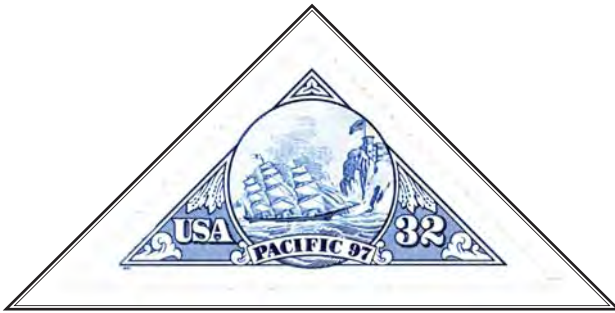
#### Scott 3139 • 1997 (top)

#### Scott 3140 • 1997 (bottom)

The souvenir sheets issued to commemorate Pacific 97 depict Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. The first U.S. stamp, printed in red-brown showed Franklin. This stamp is reprinted in the margin of Scott 3139. The useable stamps on this souvenir sheet are also of Franklin, but are printed in blue with a 50¢ denomination. The second U.S. stamp, printed in blue and showing Washington, is shown on the margin of Scott 3140. The useable stamps on this sheet are also of Washington, but are printed in red-brown with a 60¢ denomination. The words “Pacific 97 San Francisco CA from May 29 to June 9, 1997” is also printed in the margin of each sheet.



# The APS — Finishing The Century



# The APS — Beginning a New Century

## 2002

The APS Board and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) Trustees realize the need for membership services to expand. After looking at several possibilities, the APRL purchases a complex of historic buildings in nearby Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, which once housed a Match Factory.

## 2004

The first phase of construction is complete and the APS moves into the new American Philatelic Center (APC.) (Further construction will be completed as the funds allow.) A week-long celebration is held in conjunction with the Summer Seminar on Philately.



The American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The Junior Philatelists of America disbands at the end of the year after 41 years of service to youth philately.

## 2005

The APS creates a new program called the Young Stamp Collectors of America to promote the hobby to youth collectors.

Renovations of an APS Educational Wing are completed, housing a 2,000 square-foot meeting room on the first floor and six classrooms with a 1,352 square-foot reception area on the second floor of the building.

## 2006

The APS, APRL, and the National Postal Museum (NPM) start a joint venture to draw together historians, scholars, academics, and philatelists to present papers on diverse aspects of postal history. The first Postal History Symposium is held at the NPM, with future Symposiums to alternate between the NPM and the APS.

### Washington 2006 (shown on next page)

Scott 4074 • 2006

The tenth international show held in the U.S. was Washington 2006, held in Washington, D.C. For this event, the Postal Service issued a joint issue with Canada. This souvenir sheet also commemorated the 400th anniversary of the 1606 voyage of Samuel de Champlain. The Champlain description is printed in English and in French. The words "Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition" are printed on the margin.



# The APS — Beginning a New Century

WASHINGTON 2006 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



## The 1606 voyage of Samuel de Champlain

### Le voyage de 1606 de Samuel de Champlain

A skilled cartographer, Samuel de Champlain played a key role in French exploration of North America. In 1606, he served with a coastal expedition that began in what is now Nova Scotia and sailed as far south as modern-day Massachusetts.

Habile cartographe, Samuel de Champlain a joué un rôle clé dans l'exploration de l'Amérique du Nord au nom de la France. En 1606, il a participé à une expédition côtière, prenant la mer dans la région qu'on appelle aujourd'hui la Nouvelle-Écosse et naviguant loin au sud, jusque dans l'actuel Massachusetts.



USA 39



USA 39



Canada 51



Canada 51

Washington 2006  
Scott 4074 • 2006



# The APS — 125 Years of Growth

## 2007

The Board approves a \$10 increase in dues for the following year — \$45 for U.S. members, \$55 for Canadian members, and \$65 for members living outside the U.S. or Canada. Dues are used to support APS operations, programs, and services. No dues money is used for construction/renovations of the APC.

## 2008

The Headsville Post Office, which has served as an exhibition and working U.S. Post Office, is moved to the APC.



The entrance into the Headsville Post Office.

## 2011

The American Philatelic Society is celebrating its 125th anniversary with special events planned over the next year.

In addition to the 34 staff members, many volunteers assist with the day-to-day tasks at the APC.

Member services include:

- Audio visual programs
- Classes held at shows across the United States
- Estate Advice
- Exhibitions
- Expertizing
- Internet StampStore
- Mail Sales Circuits
- Mentor Service
- Quick I.D.
- Research Library
- Stamp Insurance
- Summer Seminar on Philately
- Translation Service
- Young Stamp Collectors of America

As of July 31, membership stands at 32,294.

The APS budget for 2011 is \$3.95 million, down from a high of \$4.19 in 2008.



# The APS — 125 Years of Growth



## Washington 2006

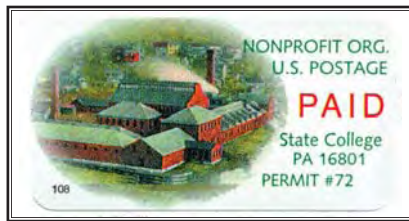
Scott 4075 • 2006

A second souvenir sheet was issued at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, which was held May 27–June 3, 2006. This sheet contained three stamps. A \$1 stamp shows the Lincoln Memorial, a \$2 shows the U.S. Capitol, and a \$5 shows the Head of Freedom Statue. The words on the margin are “Washington 2006, World Philatelic Exhibition.”



# The APS — Postal Permits

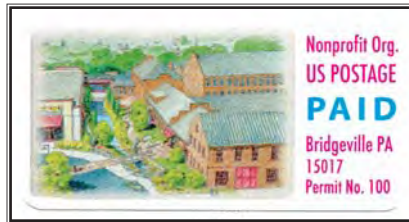
2002



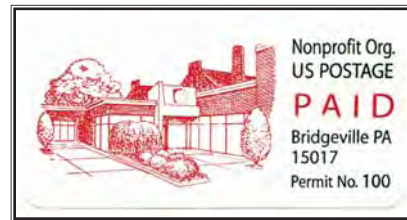
2003



2004



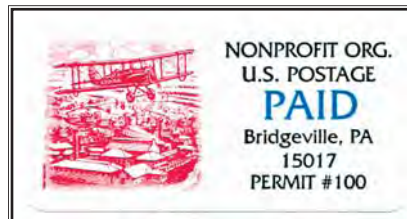
2005



2006



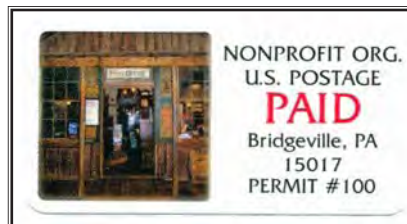
2007



2007



2008



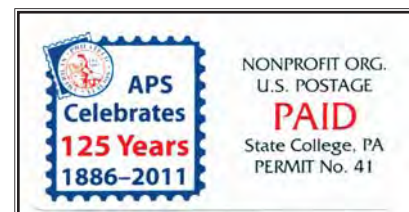
2009



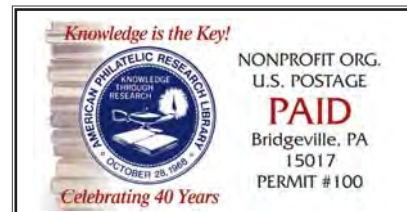
2010



2011



2008







# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## AMERISTAMP EXPO 2012 January 27–29, 2012

Admission is FREE

Plan to attend AMERISTAMP EXPO 2012, the winter show of the American Philatelic Society, to be held at the Cobb County Galleria Centre, Atlanta Georgia, January 27–29, 2012.

Whether you are eight or 80, learn the ins and outs of one of the world's greatest hobbies. Stamp exhibits, world-class rarities, and priceless historical mail will be shown. Helpful seminars and how-to sessions, catering to interests of every kind will be held every day.

Dealers from the U.S. and abroad will have everything you need to pursue the stamp hobby — stamps, covers, supplies, and more.

Experts will be available to give free thumbnail evaluations of your collection. This booth, entitled "Stamps in Your Attic," is sponsored by the National Stamp Dealers Association.

AMERISTAMP EXPO is open Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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