

Learn More, Do More, Enjoy More Through the APS!

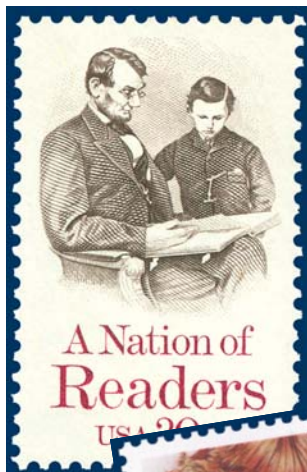


September — Summer's Coming To an End

There will be a good number of stamps appearing this month. By the time you read this column the Post Office will have issued the second ten of the State Flag stamps, followed quickly by another printing of the Sea Coast coil stamp. Then a stamp for Latin Jazz and one for Bette Davis, and finally, on the 23rd, the 2008 version (42-cent) of the Eid stamp. This year Ramadan starts at the beginning of September, and its Eid (when the stamp is most likely to be used) is celebrated at the end so the stamp is being issued a month ahead of the traditional Christmas, Kwanza, and Hanukkah stamps.

I am sure you will enjoy what is left of the summer at your favorite vacation spot, but you will also want to visit the many stamp shows — including PNSE (Philadelphia), Omaha, Milwaukee, and SESS (Atlanta). Besides these shows, there are a great number of smaller shows and bourses and, for the really adventuresome, a European show in Vienna and an International show in Prague!

So, there's lots to do this month. Enjoy the weather, the latest stamps, and the plethora of stamp shows.



State Flags

In June the USPS issued the first ten of fifty stamps showing the flags of our states and territories. And early this month another ten will appear. I hope that you are all using and enjoying these stamps. I certainly am. They are lovely double-width coils, designed to be used by consumers, not commercial mailers, so you won't see them on the typical mail that comes to your door. If your local Post Office doesn't yet have them, ask the Postmaster to order some of the coils. Use them on letters to your friends, and encourage them to do the same. Remember, they were conceived as a "stamp" equivalent of the statehood quarters, so the more that get circulated, the more likely that you will get non-collectors interested — and perhaps even become APS members!



Let Your Stamps Breathe

In July I talked about plastic films and the necessity to let your stamps breathe. I hope that you looked at your collection before going off on vacation and disposed of all those yellowed glassines and old stamp mounts. Let me suggest that you check the website of our Preservation and Care of



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Philatelic Materials committee. Its website (<http://www.stamps.org/CARE/Pcpm.htm>) is the result of the work of many people over many years and has a wealth of information about preservation. It is well worth spending time exploring it. There is even a section on how to remove Scotch tape!

Recently I received a message from a member pointing out that the Smithsonian, the British Museum, and the "Royal Collection" use MYLAR (Polyethylene terephthalate). I have been using it for some time now, particularly when I mount my covers (two sides open) for exhibition. You will be very safe with this material.

Membership

Membership promotion is the challenge for all of us, not just the staff or the Board. It is no longer satisfactory for us to sit back and let collectors find and join us. We, each and every one of us, need to be proactively recruiting. One member recently spent a weekend at a local stamp show and, by focusing on that alone, was able to recruit four times the number we recruited at a WSP show the same weekend! The Society is doing its part by making our products and services better known and more attractive, and we are expanding our web services and presence every month. We also are making available to members

materials that can be used by each of us in our recruiting efforts. But, the most important factor is you. The selling point in recruiting is your enthusiasm and obvious joy in being a stamp collector. If you approach a potential member with this joy, recruitment will be easy!

E-Mail Newsletter

I hope you are enjoying our monthly e-mail newsletter. We want you to know what is happening at the APS, and in the hobby, on a timely basis. The purpose is to enhance and accelerate our communications with our members. If you haven't yet received one and want to receive our newsletter let us have your e-mail address. For our members who don't have a computer, but use one at their local library, our newsletter can be found online on our website: www.stamps.org.

Finally, check out our *American Philatelist* reprints on our website (www.stamps.org/Services/ser_ArchivedArticles.htm). The featured article this month is Thomas C. Kingsley's "Tax Paid Revenue Stamps and the Infamous St. Louis Whiskey Rebellion," which traces one of the largest monetary frauds in American history through the use of revenue stamps.

And above everything else, enjoy our hobby, tell others about it and share the joy of philately!