

Why Do You Need the APS?

You may have seen a copy of *The American Philatelist*, viewed or purchased from sales circuits, or heard about the APS at your local club's meeting and are wondering what the American Philatelic Society has to offer *you*.

A Great Magazine. Honestly, you need look no further than the 100 page monthly journal. Many monthly magazines cost more than the membership fees to belong to the APS, and with your membership you get a lot more than just a superb, colorful monthly magazine.

Prestige. The APS is recognized all over the world as being the largest nonprofit organization devoted to promoting philately and providing services to its members. Your membership in the APS singles you out as an honorable philatelist who has agreed to abide by our respected *Code of Ethics*. Stamp dealers who know you are a member of the American Philatelic Society accept your checks for purchases willingly. Being a member of the APS actually *means* something. It is important in the world of philately.

Knowledge. Knowledge is power. This is true in our daily activities and it is true in philately, too. Our members willingly share their knowledge with you through articles in *The American Philatelist* and by giving seminars and lectures at STAMPSHOW and our winter show AMERISTAMP EXPO. You can take courses on various aspects of philately in your own home with our online StampCampus or by attending the week-long Summer Seminar held in our beautiful education facilities at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte. Your membership in the APS also brings to you membership in the magnificent American Philatelic Research Library, from which you can borrow books, catalogues, monographs and other research materials. The knowledge you gain will enable you to spot a great bargain, recognize a fake, save money, and increase your appreciation of your collection.

Fellowship. Your membership in the APS links you with more than 40,000 stamp collectors throughout the world. Attend a stamp show and meet fellow APS members. Establish swaps, share your research and enthusiasm, and create new friendships with collectors who share your passion for collecting. Find a mentor who will guide you through the difficulties of learning about a new collecting area. You have lots of friends in the APS!

Services. The APS offers so many services to its members that it is unlikely you would use all of the services every year. Nevertheless, it is nice to know they are there when you need them. APS members can buy — or sell — stamps in the circuits that travel from member to member through the APS Sales Division, or through our online marketplace APS StampStore (www.stampstore.org). It is fun and easy to be both a buyer and a seller. Do you have a stamp that puzzles you? Maybe you can't identify where it was from. "Quick ID" is there to help. Are you contemplating a major purchase and want to make sure the stamp in question is genuine? APS members receive discounts on APEX expertizing certificates, which now bring with them guarantees. The APS even offers services to those who inherit a stamp collection and need advice on how to dispose of it.

Website. The APS website, www.stamps.org, provides an immense storehouse of knowledge. Searchable contact information for 1800 dealers, 600 chapters and 200 national specialty organizations.

Supporting Philately. The American Philatelic Society is visible and active in promoting philately. The APS provides materials and support to those who run youth stamp clubs through our All*Star Stamp Clubs. When the Junior Philatelists of America ceased operation a couple of years ago, the APS stepped in and created Young Stamp Collectors of America to fill the void. The APS represents its membership on the National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists. It provides advice, support and programs to the 600 local stamp clubs that are APS chapters, and to its many affiliated specialty societies. The bold new American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, will someday house a museum of philately that will attract and inform current and future stamp collectors.

You get a lot of bang for your membership bucks as a member of the American Philatelic Society. And in celebration of National Stamp Collecting Month for a limited time you can join the APS for half price by completing the special application on the reverse.