



# News from the American Philatelic Center *Home of the* American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library

Contact: Wendy Masorti

American Philatelic Center • 100 Match Factory Place •  
814-933-3803 ext. 202

e-mail: [wendy@stamps.org](mailto:wendy@stamps.org)

Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-933-6128 (Fax)

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## Wreck & Crash Mail Society Joins APS

The Wreck & Crash Mail Society was welcomed as American Philatelic Society Affiliate Nos. 259 by the APS Board of Directors at their meeting on Thursday, January 10 at APS AmeriStamp Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Organized in 1994, the Wreck & Crash Mail Society has 73 members, 28 of whom are already APS members. Worldwide in scope as well as membership, the Society is devoted to the collecting and study of all aspects of delayed and damaged mail and interrupted mail service, including but not limited to mail salvaged from accidents in transport by land, sea or air, in war or in peace, and mail delayed by conflict, crime, and other man-made misadventure or natural catastrophe, such as fires and earthquakes.

The Society consists of four study groups: the Air Crash Study Group, Railroad Wreck Study Group, Ship Wreck Study Group, and Suspended Mail/Conflicts Study Group. Each contributes articles to the society's quarterly English-language journal, *La Catastrophe*, which has articles on all aspects of wreck and crash mail, news on new discoveries, auction realizations, and questions from members seeking information on their crash and wreck covers and the stories behind them. Sample copies of *La Catastrophe* are available to non-members for \$8 U.S., plus postage.

The society also has a website at [www.wreckandcrash.org](http://www.wreckandcrash.org). Among its highlights is Norman Hoggarth's well-illustrated 12-page overview of "Aspects of Interrupted Mail," helpful links to air crash, aircraft accident, train wreck and ship wreck lists, databases and archives available on the

Internet, a complete online index to a dozen years of *La Catastrophe*, and member pages.

The Wreck & Crash Mail Society normally holds an annual meeting (to date, all have been held in London, England), where members display parts of their collection, meet other collectors of wreck and crash mail, and exchange information and material with fellow collectors of this fascinating area of postal history. A society auctioneer has been appointed and annual members-only auctions are being planned. Annual membership dues are \$25 U.S. (£12.50 in the United Kingdom), which includes a subscription to four issues of *La Catastrophe*. Membership applications are available at the website above, or from Wreck & Crash Mail Society Membership Application, Dr. Steven Berlin, 12407 Dover Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136.

The American Philatelic Society is delighted to welcome the Wreck & Crash Mail Society to its family of nearly 200 active affiliates. To learn more about the APS, visit [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)

