



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

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For Immediate Release

7/31/2008/1612

American Philatelic Center Celebrates Stamp Collecting Month October 4



To celebrate Stamp Collecting Month, the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, will host a special Stamp Collecting Open House on Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. All activities are free and open to the public, and the APC cordially invites you to come by for a visit.

Single-frame stamp exhibits selected to appeal to both beginners and advanced collectors will be featured in frames at various locations throughout APC, which is housed in an old Match Factory building originally constructed in 1899. Tours of this fascinating structure that has become the home of stamp collecting in America will be conducted as visitors arrive throughout the day.

Visitors to the APC also will enjoy an Open House at the new home of the Headsville, West Virginia, Post Office, on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. After operating from 1860 to 1914 in the northeastern West Virginia hamlet of Headsville, this 540-square-foot board-and-batten structure served as an exhibit and a working U.S. Post Office for 35 years at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Today, with

its original store counters and Franklin-style stove, this rural post office offers 21st-century contract post office service to patrons in Centre County.

Also during the Open House, visitors can take advantage of the availability the American Philatelic Research Library — the largest library of its kind in this hemisphere — and members may purchase worldwide stamps from the APS Sales Division.

Those who may have inherited or otherwise encountered an accumulation or collection of stamps and would like to know more about them can visit "Stamps in Your Attic," which will



be set up in Sundman Hall during the Open House. Experienced staff will answer questions about the stamps you have and provide a general assessment of their condition and likely market value.

The American Philatelic Society — America’s Stamp Club, with members in 110 nations around the world — will have a booth available with information for interested collectors in the APC Lobby.

All day long there will be stamp collecting fun for children in the Center’s Sundman Hall. As children complete activities at various learning stations, they will discover the enjoyment of the stamp hobby while having fun with postage stamps. Parents are welcome to join them, or can attend the Adult Beginner Class that gets under way at 1:00 p.m.

The following special presentations will be given upstairs in the Education Wing of the APC during the Saturday Open House:



10:00 a.m. The History of Mail (Ken Martin) – Hennig Room

From early days on the American frontier, where mail delivery was a rare event, to the nationwide reliability of the modern, highly mechanized U.S. Postal Service, the history of mail is a colorful saga with lessons for everyone.

11:00 a.m. The Pony Express (Fred Baumann) – Airmail Society Room

Carrying urgent mail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, relays of intrepid express riders crossed the west in 1860-61, completing the first reliable transcontinental messaging system since the days of ancient Rome.

1:00 p.m. ‘CSI: Bellefonte’ (Mercer Bristow) – Airmail Society Room

The American Philatelic Society has provided philatelic authentication to the hobby since 1903. Delve into the process of “expertizing” philatelic material and learn about the process that the examiners use to form their opinions.

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Stamp Saturday Beginner Course for Adults (Gretchen Moody) – Educational Meeting Room

Whether you’re 15 or 75, Stamp Saturday is your introduction to the basics of the hobby! Discover where to find stamps, how to safely store and handle your collection, how to soak (and when not to!), how to use a stamp catalogue, tricks for identifying stamps, and much more, with APS Director of Education Gretchen Moody.

2:00 p.m. Stamp Fakes & Forgeries (Bill Dixon) – Hennig Room

Learning about fakes and forgeries is valuable for anyone interested in collecting stamps. This presentation will introduce you to some of the tools used by experts to spot counterfeits, as well as provide you with information to help you avoid buying them.

For the past 27 years, National Stamp Collecting Month has been celebrated each October to raise awareness about the recreational benefits of stamp collecting for all ages, with a special emphasis on introducing children to this popular and informative hobby. Early in the month, the U.S. Postal Service releases new stamps and postmarks designed for their interesting subject matter and appeal, while many of the America’s hundreds of local and regional stamp clubs put up displays, host demonstrations and shows, and spread the word about the pleasures and virtues of “the hobby of kings and the king of hobbies.”



This year, the USPS will issue a pane of ten Great Lakes Dunes stamps in its Nature of Americas series on October 2. On October 3, the Postal Service will release Tailfins & Chrome stamps showcasing four stylish cars of the late 1950s: the 1957 Chrysler 300C; 1957 Lincoln Premiere; 1957 Pontiac Safari; 1957 Studebaker Golden Hawk; and the 1959 Cadillac Eldorado.



The American Philatelic Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. year round. For additional information, call the APC at 814-933-3803, or visit www.stamps.org