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## Steven J. Berlin and James W. Milgram Win Inaugural USSS–Barbara R. Mueller Award



The first annual United States Stamp Society–Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article published in a single year of *The American Philatelist* has been awarded to co-authors Steven J. Berlin and James W. Milgram for their engaging and colorful piece, “Early Mail Robberies in the United States.” The 12-page article appeared in the November 2007 *AP*.

Dr. Steven J. Berlin is a podiatrist who has been a stamp collector for more than 50 years. He now has a major interest in interrupted and disaster mail. Dr. James W. Milgram is an orthopedic surgeon who has collected covers and letters since high school. He has a wide range of interests in United States postal history, including Civil War patriotic stationery and transcontinental mail.

At the winter 2007 APS AMERISTAMP EXPO in Riverside, California, the American Philatelic Society proposed re-establishing an annual award for the best

Boldly marked “recovered from a / Mail stolen by the / Indians in 1860,” this 1860 Pony Express letter franked with a 10-cent Washington Type V is among the colorful covers that illustrated “Early Mail Robberies in the United States,” featured in the November 2007 issue of *The American Philatelist*. Co-authors Steven J. Berlin and James W. Milgram will share the \$1,000 prize as the winners of the first annual United States Stamp Society–Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article of 2007 in the monthly magazine of the American Philatelic Society.

article published each year in *The American Philatelist*. The new United States Stamp Society–Barbara R. Mueller Award consists of a \$1,000 cash stipend and recognition on a permanent plaque to be displayed in the editorial office of *The American Philatelist*. This year’s winners will be honored in a ceremony at the STAMPSHOW 2008 Awards Banquet, to be held on Saturday, August 16, at the Marriott Hartford Downtown in Hartford, Connecticut.

APS members voted online and by mail using ballots from the inside front cover of the January 2008 *AP* for their favorites from among the 78 qualifying articles by 46 authors published in 2007. After the polling closed March 1 and the votes were tabulated, the USSS-Mueller Award Committee selected the winner from the top five as voted on by APS members and the top five as selected by the staff of *The American Philatelist*. The USSS-Mueller Award Committee, led by Peter Butler, included Cheryl Ganz and Kent Wilson.

Runners-up for the 2007 USSS-Mueller Award included “Afghanistan’s Broken Postal System” by Lawrence Cohen, “The Legendary Parks of Africa — A Philatelic Journey” by Matthew V. Cassetta, “Iraq Railway Post 1928–c.1942” by Rainer Fuchs, “Kansas/Nebraska Overprints with Perfins” by Steve Endicott, “The Pitcairn–Norfolk Connection” by Steve Pendleton, “They Flew Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease: A Brief Review of U.S. Airships” by Richard Martorelli, and “Case Files from an Estate Advisor,” an In My Opinion column by Scott Troutman.

The United States Stamp Society (USSS) founded the award not only to promote research and philatelic writing, but also to promote the USSS, its goals and its mission — to expand the study of and knowledge about U.S. postage and revenue stamps — to the nearly 40,000 members of the APS, approximately 75 percent of whom collect U.S. material. *The American Philatelist*, which has been the journal of the society for the past 120 years, publishes articles on the stamps, postal history and collecting specialties of all nations, and goes to APS members in 110 countries around the globe.

Barbara R. Mueller is one of the most prominent USSS members, chairing committees including the Postal History and Markings Committee and the Essays-Proof Committee, editing *The United States Specialist* from 1972 to 1977, and contributing prolifically to that journal over six decades. A member of the USSS Hall of Fame and the APS Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame, Mueller was the recipient of the APS John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research in 1956.

Tracing its roots back to 1926 when it was known as the Bureau Issues Association, the United States Stamp Society — the nation's preeminent organization devoted to the study of U.S. stamps — is a non-profit, volunteer-run association of collectors to promote the study of classic and modern postage and revenue stamps and revenue stamped paper produced for use in the United States and U.S. administered areas. It is Affiliate No. 150 of the APS. To learn more about the USSS, visit [www.usstamp.org](http://www.usstamp.org).