

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

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Two New Affiliates Welcomed to APS

At their Wednesday, August 13, meeting prior to STAMPSHOW 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut, the American Philatelic Society Board welcomed two national societies as the newest of the Society's more than 200 active affiliates around the world.

The **Methodist Philatelic Society** (MPS) was founded in September 1970 in the United Kingdom for the study and encouragement of philately associated with Methodism and the Methodist contribution to United Churches and ecumenical activities worldwide. A movement within Protestant Christianity, Methodism traces its roots to the evangelical awakening in 18th-century Great Britain, and follows chiefly from the work of John Wesley, an Anglican clergyman. Today the faith claims 75 million members worldwide.

The President of the Society is Rev. Roger Lee, President of the British Methodist Conference. Fully half of the Society's 36 members are members of the APS. MPS members collect stamps, covers, postcards, and miscellaneous Methodist postal history. Annual membership dues are currently \$20 U.S., and members receive four illustrated copies of the *Methodist Philatelic Society Newsletter* annually. This year the Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London EC1Y 1AU on Saturday, September 27. Correspondence to the MPS can be sent to its APS Representative David N. Grayson, 226 Cambridge Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-1819, or via e-mail to davidgrayson@aol.com. For additional information, visit the Methodist Philatelic Society on the

Internet at <http://methodistphilately.blogspot.com>



Organized in 2006, the **Mourning Stamps & Covers Club** (MSCC) has 64 members. Its President is Thomas C. Breske. The Society's purpose is to study and do census work on mourning covers, identify and prepare a list of mourning stamps, and facilitate the exchange among members of mourning stamps and covers. From the last third of the 18th century to the dawn of the 21st century, black-edged envelopes and stationery informed recipients of the death of a loved one, expressed sympathy and grief, or offered thanks for expressions of condolence. These mourning covers had their heyday in the late 19th to the mid 20th century, when some stamps also were issued edged in black as a solemn salute to mark the death of a variety of leaders and notables.

The MSCC publishes a quarterly journal, *Mourning Notes*, and works to develop and provide lists of what exists, to offer discounts on relevant literature, and to organize periodic meetings at national stamp shows. Annual dues are \$15. Applications for membership may be sent to Jim Bailey, P.O. Box 937, Brownwood, TX 76804, or e-mail jfbailey238@earthlink.net

The American Philatelic Society is delighted to welcome both these fine specialty societies to its family of affiliates. To search a list of active APS affiliates, go to http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_specialtiesocieties.htm

