



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

Contact: Dana Guyer

American Philatelic Center • 100 Match Factory Place
814-933-3803 ext. 207

e-mail: dana@stamps.org

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

For Immediate Release

8/21/2008/1619

6,000+ Enjoy APS STAMPSHOW in Hartford



Throng of collectors register to enter STAMPSHOW 2008 in Hartford, Connecticut. Show attendance started out strong on Thursday, August 14, spurred by two first day ceremonies, but remained remarkably steady through mid-afternoon on Sunday.

Attendance started strong on the first three days of the show, propelled in part by four first day events, but Sunday's turnout was robust as well, with a steady stream of visitors arriving less than three hours before the show closed Sunday afternoon at 4.

One star attraction that saw a steady stream of visitors was the "Stamps in Your Attic" booth, staffed by volunteers from the National Stamp Dealers Association, which offered casual professional evaluations of old collections and accumulations. Some of the non-collectors who came to see what they had inherited left with a new interest in continuing in the hobby, and everyone learned more about what they brought in.

Also busy throughout the show was the American Philatelic Society booth, which received applications from 62 new members, including two Life Members. Along with answering questions, offering advice, and selling show covers and other Society merchandise, the APS introduced a new service at the show: bundled circuit books from the APS Sales Division. Under the helpful guidance of Bill Dixon, a nonstop stream of

Magnificent weather, diverse attractions, a vast bourse with something for everyone, and plenty of promotion in the local media all contributed to success at APS STAMPSHOW 2008, which took place August 14-17 in Hartford, Connecticut. The four-day-long annual summer convention, exhibition, and bourse of the American Philatelic Society was co-sponsored by the United States Postal Service and American Stamp Dealers Association.

Attendance was estimated at 6,000 to 7,000, based on registration forms that all showgoers completed on their way into the spacious venue at the Connecticut Convention Center. That number includes many collectors who came to the show on multiple days.



American Philatelic Society members — many of whom had never seen APS sales circuits — search for stamps with the help of Circuit Manager William A. Dixon. New at STAMPSHOW 2008, this service was one of many that attracted collectors to a booth that was very busy throughout the show.





Most dealers at the 155 booths on the show floor at STAMPSHOW enjoyed strong sales during the four-day show, and a free seat to browse through stamps and covers was hard to find at many of the most popular booths.

was a three-session public auction showcasing more than 3,200 lots of U.S. and foreign singles, covers and collections, conducted by Regency/Superior Stamps.

One of the most popular places to find stamps at the show was also the most affordable. Located near the USPS Kids Zone and the Stamp Camp USA Station near the back of the show was “Stamps by the Bucket,” designed for those with small budgets and a big appetite for adhesives. A million used stamps were dumped out onto an oversized table for collectors to examine, sort through, and carry home, at just \$1 per bucket for kids (\$5 for adults).

Controller Rick Banks was among those who was busy at the APS booth all four days. Examining the balance sheet, he judged the Hartford convention to have been on a par with last year’s very successful STAMPSHOW 2007 in Portland, Oregon.

Exhibit applications already are being received for the combined APS AMERISTAMP EXPO/TEXPEX 2009. The three-day exhibition and bourse — the annual winter meeting of the American Philatelic Society — will take place February 20-22 at the Arlington Convention Center at 1200 Ballpark Way, in Arlington, Texas.

STAMPSHOW 2009 will be held in Pennsylvania’s City of Steel next August 6-9, when the four-day show comes to the five-year-old David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

APS members — many who had never seen or used them before — browsed the sales circuit books and made purchases. More than 100 members took advantage of the opportunity, with many saying it was a great idea, and telling Bill that they were able to view material that they couldn’t find elsewhere at the show, even though most purchases were under \$30.

Another of the 11 American Philatelic Center staffers at the show was American Philatelic Expertizing Service Director Mercer Bristow. He handed out many APEX forms for submissions by mail, and received 120 items for authentication.

Dealers offered a wide range of wares for every budget at the 155 booths on the show floor, and open seats were hard to find at many. Most of those who came to buy and sell pronounced themselves satisfied with their results of the show. Also featured



A million stamps — the contents of 15 photocopier paper boxes full to the brim — were carried home by collectors young and old from the “Stamps by the Bucket” table, one of the most popular destinations on the floor at STAMPSHOW. At \$1 per pail for children (and \$5 for adults), it may well have been the most affordable entertainment in Hartford, Connecticut.