



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

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2009 Will Be a Year to Learn with APS

In 2009, the Education Department of the American Philatelic Society is doing more than ever before to bring philatelic learning to collectors where and when they want it, in forms and formats that suit their schedules and lifestyles. Mark your calendar now for these exciting philatelic course selections coming your way throughout the year.

APS Courses ‘On The Road’

“On the Road” courses are short, intensive surveys that are offered in conjunction with APS World Series of Philately shows, which take place throughout the country.



April 22-23 prior to WESTPEX (San Francisco, California)

Pressing Issues: How Stamps are Printed, with Wayne Youngblood, lifelong collector and noted philatelic writer and journalist, covers in detail the four printing types — intaglio, photogravure, letterpress and offset — showing collectors how to effectively distinguish between them. The course also will enable collectors to understand plate varieties and accurately identify the causes of most errors, freaks and oddities. This course has no prerequisites. Although appropriate for newer collectors, it has enough information to challenge the more advanced collector, too.

Expertizing CSI, with Mercer Bristow, 27-year veteran and current head of the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX), this course will reveal more than meets the eye! Students will learn the process of formal certification by experiencing the day-to-day operations of the oldest expertizing service in the United States, first offered to the hobby by the American Philatelic Society in 1903. Tools used by examiners and the necessary published works that supplement the review process will be included. Discover the importance of a good reference collection containing both genuine and forged material. Learn of little-known websites that assist examiners in their studies — and bring along your problem stamps, too.



May 13-14 prior to ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW (Denver, Colorado)

Exhibiting for the Prize, with Rich Drews, will explore how judging takes place in all the various exhibiting divisions. Discover what considerations — including treatment, succinctly conveying knowledge and research, and difficulty of acquisition — will affect award level, and gain insight into what is in the mind of judges as they make their decisions. Students will learn what separates Silver and Vermeil from Gold, and what it takes to reach the sought-after Grand Award level. Exhibitors are encouraged to bring their exhibits for assistance and comparison with a wide range of successful exhibits in all disciplines. *[Also to be offered October 7-8 prior to SESCAL (Los Angeles, California).]*

In addition, two special courses will be offered August 10-11 at APS Headquarters in

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, immediately following STAMPSHOW 2009 in Pittsburgh.

Fakes and Forgeries, with Bill Dixon of APS Circuit Sales, will provide you with the knowledge to more successfully identify questionable material. The first day will cover the history of the problem of these relatively low-priced forgeries, the rudimentary tools of the trade for spotting fakes and forgeries, a short list of helpful reference works, how to use the library to build your reference clipping file, and techniques of examining an item to determine its authenticity. Day two will be hands-on with several hundred of the more common fakes and forgeries that you may find in lots for sale.



Collecting the Expos, with Ken Lawrence, will cover some of the most popular and attractive U.S. postage stamps that have been issued to promote and commemorate world's fairs. Stamped envelopes for the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition at Philadelphia; stamps and envelopes for the 1893 World Columbian Exposition at Chicago; stamps for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha; and 20th and 21st century fairs since the 1901 Pan-American Expo comprise this area of collecting. A noted philatelic journalist and author, Lawrence will show how specialists gather expo material into great collections that can be treasured and displayed with pride.

The 30th Annual APS Summer Seminar on Philately 2009 — June 21-26



Rounding out three decades at the acme of learning in the stamp hobby, this week-long combination of philately, fun, and fellowship will feature seven main courses embracing a broad range of interests. Hosted in the education wing of the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, Summer Seminar begins with a Sunday evening reception. The remainder of the seminar week, Monday to Thursday, features 4½ hours daily of class time, plus a wide array of afternoon elective workshops, a student auction, a Buy/Sell/Trade Night, and two dinners. Friday finishes off with a morning session with the staff of the American Philatelic Center, and one last opportunity to use the library, sales division, expertizing reference library, and other resources at the Center.

A General Session is held each morning for all participants, with topics including local postal history, a panel discussion of the Internet's effects on the stamp hobby, and the future of the postage stamp.

Each year, the staff of the American Philatelic Center selects a Distinguished Philatelist to share his or her unique insights and perspectives with Summer Seminar participants. This year, Cheryl Ganz, Chief Curator of Philately for the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, and a renowned Zeppelin mail scholar and exhibitor, has agreed to join us and share stories of interest.

This year's Summer Seminar promises to be the largest ever, with openings for up to 100 participants. Plan now to join us for the celebration, and choose any one of these seven main courses for 2009:

Philatelic Marketplace, with Irv Miller and Clark Frazier, navigates you through the maze of valuing, buying, and selling stamps and philatelic material. Learn how to accurately assess the value of philatelic collectibles — from items already in your collection to material that you're interested in buying or selling. Explore the many philatelic sales venues available today: APS Sales Division, the APS StampStore, the Internet, auction houses, and more. Identify factors that affect value, with some hands-on practice and application in the philatelic marketplace.

Stamp Technology, with Wayne Youngblood, will help you explore how stamps are produced and why it is important to learn about their physical qualities. The class covers the topics of printing methods, watermarks, perforations, luminescence, color, fakes and forgeries and will include a field trip to a printer to see course processes and topics in action. This is a bedrock course for any knowledgeable stamp collector.

The Washington/Franklin Issues, with Dennis



Gilson, leads you on a four-day exploration of the more than 200 individual stamps that make up this challenging early 20th-century series. You will learn how to identify the different issues, while detecting the most obvious fakes and alterations. This class is not just for the expert collector, but also for anyone who has collected, wants to collect, or is considering collecting these fascinating and important U.S. issues. Included are hands-on sessions where you will receive a variety of stamps from the series and be guided through the identification process.

Postal History, with Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris, is a new course in United States postal history – a “behind-the-scenes” tour of how the mail actually worked, particularly at times of reform or innovation: the mapping of the system, the introduction of the first postage stamp, registry, money order, Rural Free Delivery, Air Mail, and much more. Students will work from the evidence backward, a hands-on approach to understanding the markings on mail by using covers and documents from the 1830s to the 1930s. Students are encouraged to bring their own examples, especially the puzzling ones!

Computer Technology in Philately, with George Fekete and *American Philatelist* Editor Barb Boal, will provide students with a toolkit designed to optimize use of the computer for a variety of philatelic tasks in this hands-on course. Software and technology that can be used to take advantage of graphics, drawing, scanning, database, publishing, and specialized commercial applications will be covered. Although the software and technology presented in this course can be used on a PC or Mac, a PC with Windows operating system will be used in the classroom. Enrolled students are invited to suggest topics not mentioned in this course description for possible integration into the curriculum. Students must bring their own laptop to class to participate in this course.



More Stamps of the British Commonwealth, with Ian Kimmerly, will focus on what is collectable among used stamps and stamps on cover. Part I of *British Commonwealth Stamps* (in 2008) focused on the varieties which result from the production of stamps. Part II will continue with postmarks in all their glory, as well as rates, postal and non-postal usages, and Commonwealth postal history will be covered in some depth. There will be an emphasis on stamps that are reasonably available and reasonably priced. A CD will be provided with lots of information and images, which will mean there is no need to take notes. The course is recommended for collectors who took the 2008 course, or those with a good background in British Commonwealth stamps.

It's All About Thematics!, with Peter Butler, will focus on current ideas about obtaining stamps, organizing and mounting collections, researching themes, using new materials and up-grading techniques for creating unique and personal albums and reviewing guidelines and experimenting with new tools to build exhibits. Copies of *Columbo Chronicles* (Mary Ann Owens & George Guzzio's handbook on thematic exhibiting, reprinted with permission) will be distributed prior to the course and used as a reference text throughout the sessions. Special guests will join the class discussion, bringing their specific insights not heard anywhere else. Students should bring their ideas, materials, and examples to share and, come with challenges needing solutions.



Additional details on Summer Seminar is available at www.stamps.org/education/edu_SummerSeminar.htm. Information on all other courses, including a link for online registration, are available at www.stamps.org/Education/edu_Courses.htm

To learn more about these and other educational opportunities, contact APS Education Director Gretchen Moody by e-mail at gretchen@stamps.org or call 814-933-3810.