



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

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The First Fifty Women on U.S. Stamps Promotes Festival for Philatelic Women May 28-31



On May 28-31, the Festival for Philatelic Women comes to the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, with 22 hands-on seminars, “how-to” demonstrations, workshops, and other practical programs to help women get the most from the stamp hobby. In conjunction with that event, the American Philatelic Society has created a new 10-page album of *The First Fifty Women on United States Stamps*.

Like the *Abraham Lincoln on U.S. Stamps* album introduced in February for the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth, *The First Fifty Women on United States Stamps* is intended chiefly as a pictorial meditation in philatelic form. It shows the ways women were portrayed during their first 80 years on U.S. postage — from 1873, when the first 1-cent postal card pictured in profile a female allegory of Liberty, to 1953, when women appeared in supporting roles on two 3-cent commemoratives. Though the color-illustrated album can accommodate any of the 52 stamps and three postal cards it showcases, some of the earliest stamps are elusive and valuable. Outstanding among these is the \$4 Columbian featuring cameos of Columbus and Queen Isabella, one of six stamps depicting the Spanish monarch in the 16-stamp issue. The key value in the nation’s first commemorative set, copies of the \$4 have sold for as much as \$20,000 (although collectors who just want to show the design in their collections can get the 1992 version, which catalogues at \$7 mint and \$4 used).

The album’s rear cover promotes Women Exhibitors (WE), Affiliate No. 260 of the APS. The Festival for Philatelic Women is a WE event, co-sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and hosted by the APS and American Philatelic Research Library at the APC in Bellefonte. You can get on the mailing list for the Festival of Philatelic Women by sending an e-mail with “Festival Information” in the subject line to WEfestival@comcast.net, or pre-register for the Festival by using this form: <http://www.aape.org/docs/WERegistration.pdf> The rear cover also promotes APS STAMPSHOW 2009 — the largest show in the U.S. this year — August 6-9 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in the heart of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. To learn more about STAMPSHOW 2009, please visit <http://www.stamps.org/Stampshow>

The mini-album includes a blank page for “Women on U.S. Stamps.” Created for free use in the public domain — with generous permission from Scott Publishing Co. to use its copyrighted catalogue numbers — it is available as a pdf file that can be viewed or downloaded and printed at <http://www.stamps.org/Albums/Women.pdf>

At the beginning of May, APS will follow up in promoting the Festival for Philatelic Women with a special album for *Women on U.S. Stamps 1959-2009*, featuring selected stamps — one per year throughout the last half-century — that again demonstrate changing styles, roles and portrayals of women in the ever-evolving American album.

To learn more about the American Philatelic Society — “America’s Stamp Club” — visit us online at www.stamps.org