



# Understanding and Identifying U.S. Grills

with Rich Drews

## Course Description:

The course will focus on how and why the grills of 1867-68 were produced. By studying the patents and the essays, students will learn what the grills were intended to do and how the grill sizes and shapes changed while the National Banknote Company experimented with different production methods. While designed to prevent reuse of stamps, the grills were also designed to win another printing contract. If the NBN Co. could convince the Post Office that grills or some other patented method would prevent a loss of revenue, then the NBN Co. could be the only bidders able to win the contract for stamps in 1869.

Students will see and work with the different grills and learn how to identify the different types of grills, even when they are on cover. Techniques used to expertize grills will be shown and students are encouraged to bring their own material for discussion and expertizing. Every type of grill will be discussed and shown and students will receive a PowerPoint presentation summarizing all that they have learned. Rich Drews, an expertizer for the American Philatelic Society's APEX Service and an APS Instructor, offers a "can't miss" opportunity.

## Instructor Biography:

### **Rich Drews, Palantine, IL**

A collector with wide-ranging interests since 1951, Rich is an APS- and FIP-accredited philatelic judge, was an APS Champion of Champions Award-winner in 1997, and has won International Large Gold. Among the many important roles he has played in Chicago-area philately during the past quarter-century, Rich served as Director of Volunteers and Club Coordinator at AMERIPEX 86, and as Executive Director of the World Columbian Stamp Expo in 1992. Proprietor of Stamp & Coin King and Richard E. Drews Philatelic Auctions, which conducted five official APS show auctions in the 1990s, Rich sold his store inventory and retired in 2000.