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Come Celebrate 50 Years with Us

Come join us as we celebrate 50 years of philatelic knowledge, research and resources.

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania –In honor of National Library Week (April 8-14) and this year’s theme of "Libraries Lead” the American Philatelic Society is proud to announce a golden celebration event to mark the 50th anniversary of the American Philatelic Research Library on November 2-3, 2018 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The event will begin with an informal meet-and-greet on the evening of Friday, November 2 followed by a full day of activities on Saturday, November 3, including author talks, displays of rarely seen items from the APRL archives, a ceremony in recognition of past APRL librarians, special behind-the-scenes library tours, all concluding with a celebration dinner with a very special guest speaker.

“We look forward to sharing this special event with our members and the philatelic community, all of whom made this day possible. With the commitment of their time and the investment of their resources we can proudly look back on the last 50 years and with confidence look forward to the next 50 years and beyond,” said APRL Librarian Scott Tiffney.

APS member Jean Stout, 2013 American Topical Association Distinguished Topical Philatelist, states, “The American Philatelic Research Library is a gold mine of resources and references for philatelists. The hallmark of a good resource library is the ability to serve its patrons’ needs from the simple to the complex. The APRL meets this requirement a thousand-fold.”

Adds 40-year APS member Bill Schultz, “The APRL has been a reliable source over the past number of years for all the desired information I ever need or want. It has made my philatelic life significantly more pleasurable.”

History

In 1967, APS President Edward L. Willard called for the “creation of a Library Service.” On October 28, 1968 the American Philatelic Research Library was officially incorporated and the philatelic home for research and resources for the APS and the philatelic world was born. From its humble beginnings in State College, the APRL has grown to include a vast array of resources that spans the breadth of philatelic knowledge and research. With the grand opening of the APRL’s new $4 million 19,000-square-foot facility at the Bellefonte Match Factory on October 29, 2016 thus began a new chapter in the history of the APRL as the research home of America’s stamp society.

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About the American Philatelic Society

With nearly 29,000 members in more than 110 countries, the APS is the largest, non-profit organization for stamp collectors in the world. Founded in 1886, the APS serves collectors, educators, postal historians, and the general public by providing a wide variety of programs and services.
The mission of the Society is:

- to promote stamp collecting for people of all ages
- to offer services to its membership and to philately in general, including knowledge and education, which enhance the pleasure and friendliness of stamp collecting
- to initiate and coordinate new programs for the benefit of stamp collecting and of all collectors
- to represent the United States of America in the world body of philately
- to assist its members in acquiring and disposing of philatelic materials

The Society is entirely supported by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of publications, souvenirs, and services.

The American Philatelic Society is located in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania and online at www.stamps.org.