APS Summer Seminar on Philately

APS Summer Seminar on Philately is held annually at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity to expand your philatelic knowledge and meet others who share your passion and interests. All courses are led by philatelic experts who are accomplished writers, exhibitors, experts, dealers, and specialized collectors.

4-Day Courses (Monday-Thursday)
- Precancels
- Stamp Technology

Monday & Tuesday: 2-Day Courses
- 19th Century U.S. Cancellations
- Alcohol and Food Products: U.S. Taxpaid Revenues
- Intermediate/Advanced Philatelic Exhibiting
- Introduction to Forensic Philately
- Introduction to Russian Philately
- Topics on Canadian Philately
- Washington-Franklins: Part 1 - Identification

Wednesday & Thursday: 2-Day Courses
- Essays & Proofs
- Introduction to Competitive Philatelic Exhibiting
- Introduction to Forensic Philately
- Introduction to U.S. Postal History
- Manufactured Tobacco Products: U.S. Taxpaid Revenues
- The Evolution of Experimental & Early Machines and Their Postmarks Worldwide: 1850s - 1920s
- Washington-Franklins: Part 2 - Expertizing

Learn more at stamps.org/Summer-Seminar
Precancels with T.G. Rehkop

“I like precancels because of the many ways that they can be collected and their affordability.”

Precancel collecting is a field large enough to suit the fancy of any collector. Whether you choose bureau prints, state or town precancels, or one of the 42,300 types listed in the Precancel Stamp Society’s Town & Type Catalogue of the United States and Territories, there will certainly be an area that piques your interest.

The idea of precanceling stamps dates back to the very beginning of using stamps as prepayment of postage, with the earliest documented U.S. precancel produced in 1844 by Hale & Co. During an in-depth study into U.S. and foreign precancels, live their history and discover their many facets. Enjoy examining their many types: U.S. bureaus, locals, classics, electrotypes, printed dateds, handstamp dateds, silents, and more. Find out how to use a variety of catalogs and computer programs as you develop the ability to distinguish among similar items.

Don’t miss this opportunity to discover a new collecting specialty.

This course is limited to 12 participants

Features of Summer Seminar 2020 include: small group learning, daily general sessions and electives on a wide variety of topics, access to the American Philatelic Research Library, circuit sales, stamp & cover gift shop, the expertizing reference collection, daily lunches, snacks and the Distinguished Philatelist Banquet.

Participants have access to seven hours of learning opportunities each day, five immersed in their chosen subject.

Since class sizes are limited, early registration is highly recommended.
Stamp Technology with Wayne Youngblood

Acquire or refine the skills needed to differentiate postage stamps by their printing types, papers and inks, while gaining an understanding of the technology used to print and process them.

A collector who is knowledgeable about how stamps are produced is better able to properly identify them and make informed decisions when buying and selling. Learn to differentiate stamps and detect some types of fakes and forgeries by the printing technologies used in their production. Fundamentals to be covered during this course include: basic printing processes, stamp separation types, stamp design, the use of color, features of paper, tagging, and principles of papermaking.

If you have a question about stamp technology, it will certainly be addressed during this four-day “deep-dive”. Basic background information, intermediate principles, and advanced details of stamp technology learned by participants will certainly add to their philatelic knowledge and skill.

This course is limited to 16 participants

What have past seminar participants said?

“The quality of Summer Seminar courses is top-notch!”

“Everybody who attends Summer Seminar has a common denominator, stamps. For an entire week over one-hundred people understood me.”

“The fun atmosphere in the classroom made for a relaxed but serious opportunity to learn and study.”

“The best part was the camaraderie with fellow students in my course.”

“Finding treasures in the gift shop was a real bonus.”

“My course and the electives that I attended exceeded my expectations.”

“Absolutely excellent course! For collectors of all levels.”

“Sign me up for next year! I don’t want to miss a thing!”
19th Century U.S. Cancellations with Roger Curran

When the Post Office Department first introduced stamps in 1847, postmasters had a new responsibility, one of canceling stamps to prevent reuse. Their decisions and practices over the years produced a remarkable variety of cancellation types, designs, sizes, and colors.

As you trace the evolution of U.S. cancellation approaches from 1847 – 1900, you will learn how stamps were canceled and why postmasters used different practices over time. Major innovations will be highlighted. Attention will be given to cancels typical of each of the several time periods involved. Historical context will shed light on the decisions made by postmasters.

Enjoy two days discussing the principal factors that resulted in the use of the various types of cancels. Through examination of representative cancels, you will gain a deeper understanding of this era and enhance your identification skills.

This course is limited to 12 participants

Alcohol and Food Products: U.S. Taxpaid Revenues with Ron Lesher and Eric Jackson

How can one properly identify revenue stamps?

The Springer’s Catalog holds important information for understanding taxpaid revenues.

The Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue lists less than half of the revenue stamps authorized and issued by the federal government. The Springer’s Catalog contains a much more comprehensive view. Use the Springer’s Catalog to explore the stamps used for; distilled spirits, oleomargarine, adulterated and process butter, mixed flour, filled cheese, meat inspection, and much more. Be privy to the stories driving the tax increases and decreases for each category of alcohol and food product.

At the conclusion of this focus on revenues, you will be able to: recognize the categories of U.S. federal taxpays for alcohol and food products, decipher listings for a selection of taxpaid revenues found in the Springer’s Catalog, and recognize printing methods used to produce the revenues discussed.

This course is limited to 12 participants
Intermediate/Advanced Philatelic Exhibiting  
with Dr. Edwin Andrews

Got an exhibit?  
Take it to the next level by applying advanced techniques.  
Got questions about judging?  
Be privy to how scoring guidelines are interpreted by judges.

From intermediate to experienced veterans, you will learn new techniques and ideas for starting an exhibit or improving what you have. Refresher on basic guidelines, including in-depth discussion on how guidelines are interpreted by judges. Workshops on preparing new exhibits/subject areas; advanced mounting techniques for odd-sized material. Emphasis on preparation of the title page, exhibit treatment and synopsis.

Participants are encouraged to bring examples of their title pages, examples of various exhibit sections and their synopses for group review, discussion and critique.

This course is limited to 14 participants

Introduction to Forensic Philately  
with Garfield Portch

What is a VSC6000?  
The Video Spectral Comparator is used by the APS, Royal Philatelic Society, National Postal Museum, and the Greene Foundation to examine philatelic material. Its use has changed the world of authentication.

The VSC6000 is one of the most comprehensive forensic tools available outside scientific laboratories. Through a generous donation, the APS now has its own VSC6000 and students in this course will be able to use it.

Develop your forensic philatelic observation abilities and strengthen your analytical skills while using illumination, magnification, overlay techniques, and spectral analysis.

Through discussion and hands-on experiences, learn the expertizing techniques employed by the Expertizing Committee at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto for identifying genuine, altered, faked, and forged items.

This course will be offered twice; as a Monday/Tuesday course and as a Wednesday/Thursday course.  
This course is limited to 8 participants
Introduction to Russian Philately with John Seidl

Travel through history exploring the evolution of Russian philately from the time of the Russian Empire to the Russian Federation

Some collectors may identify a stamp as “Russian”. Another, more knowledgeable collector, will call the same stamp by the specific political entity that issued it. Which collector are you?

During this odyssey that will span 300+ years, discover how historical events impacted “Russian” stamp issues from various eras; Russian Empire, Russian Civil War, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, and Russian Republic. Points of interest to be visited during your journey include; postal, back-of-the-book, occupation, local overprints, and foreign offices issues.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn the historical and political stories behind Russian philately.

This course is limited to 12 participants

Topics on Canadian Philately with Leopold Beaudet

O Canada.

Assemble an Admiral collection.
Compile a specialized Centennial collection.

Canadian philately offers a wide range of collecting areas, from stampless to modern, has readily available material and is supported by extensive philatelic literature.

Delve into two definitive issues that introduced major innovations in plate making, stamp production, and postal usages. Explore the dies, plates, lathe work, shades, re-entries, retouches, precancels, and postal rates of the 1911-1928 Admiral issue. Examine the printing, paper, gum, perforation, and tagging changes that marked the 1967-1972 Centennial issue.

Identify and evaluate the significance of various types of errors, plate flaws, and varieties. Familiarize yourself with philatelic literature, online resources and specialist societies.

Enjoy the philatelic challenges of collecting items from Canada and British North America.

This course is limited to 12 participants
Washington-Franklins: Part 1 - Identification with Guy Gasser

Investigate the different designs, perforations, printing methods, and watermarks of the Washington-Franklin U.S. definitive series (1908 - 1922) and determine Scott Catalogue numbers for major varieties.

Engage in numerous hands-on exercises as you gain the knowledge and skills to properly identify the nearly two-hundred varieties of the Washington–Franklin series of definitive stamps. During this two-day course, learn how to recognize face-different designs, sort by perforation, distinguish by printing method, identify watermarks, and differentiate between the types of the 2c and 3c designs.

This course may be combined with Washington-Franklins: Part 2 – Expertizing to create a continuous 4-day experience.

This course is limited to 16 participants

Cancellation/Refund Policy

The APS reserves the right to cancel courses with inadequate enrollment numbers. In the event of this type of cancellation, students will be notified by May 1. Students may then register for an open alternate course or the APS will issue a full refund of the registration fee (but will not be responsible for any other charges incurred by the registrant due to the cancellation of the course).

Registrants canceling on or before May 1st, may receive a refund less a $50 cancellation fee. Registrants canceling after May 1st, are not eligible to receive any refunds. Registrants who fail to attend Summer Seminar will forfeit all funds.

Requests for refunds must be made in writing to Director of Education, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823; e-mail education@stamps.org. In the case of a medical emergency after May 15, contact the Director of Education.

Refunds will only be issued in the same form of currency used for the payment; i.e., if you paid using a credit card, the refund will be applied to that same card.
Many collectors ask, “Where do essays and proofs come from?” Do you know?

The release and availability of essays and proofs from the portfolios, files, and archives of artists, bank note companies, and the Post Office Department provide the material for compelling and interesting stories. During this two-day course, journey through the history of essays and proofs and experience the evolution of the various series of postage stamps issued between 1847 and 1893.

Learn about the development of the designs, engravers, and production methods employed to produce these beautiful artifacts of the stamp production process. Differentiate between an essay and a proof. Distinguish among the many differing forms of proofs. Enjoy the stories that help to explain where essays and proofs actually come from.

This course is limited to 16 participants

Introduction to Competitive Philatelic Exhibiting

with Ken Martin

The stamps and covers in your collection have stories to share. Reveal their tales in your next exhibit.

Let’s start at the very beginning, the basics for putting together a competitive philatelic exhibit. Define subject & scope. Identify material. Establish a story line with a beginning, middle, and end. Design and layout pages. Prepare a title page and synopsis.

Master the steps for preparing an exhibit. Discern the process for entering an exhibit into competition. Use jury feedback sessions, judges’ evaluation forms, and “at frame” critiques to enhance the stories that your stamps and covers have to tell.

This course is limited to 10 participants

Introduction to Forensic Philately

with Garfield Portch

This course will be offered twice; as a Monday/Tuesday course and as a Wednesday/Thursday course. See Page 7 for the complete description.

This course is limited to 8 participants
Introduction to U.S. Postal History with Jeffrey Shapiro

*Covers, like postage stamps, have stories to tell.*

Use clues hidden in plain sight to decipher a cover’s secrets and tell its story. Explore rates, routes, and modes of transportation as you discover the fascinating world of United States postal history. Aspects to be studied include: marcophilately, aerophilately, RPOs, military mail, censorship, and much more.

Become a story teller as you use research strategies to discover the history behind the people, places, and businesses linked to your favorite covers.

**This course is limited to 12 participants**

Manufactured Tobacco Products: U.S. Taxpaid Revenues with Ron Lesher & Eric Jackson

*Springer established the standard for identifying U.S. Revenues. Are you able to decipher the information found in the Springer Catalog?*

The *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue* lists less than half of the revenue stamps authorized and issued by the federal government. The *Springer’s Catalog* contains a far more comprehensive view. Use the *Springer’s Catalog* to explore the stamps used for manufactured tobacco, including; cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing and smoking tobacco. Be privy to the impetus for tax increases and decreases for each category of manufactured tobacco.

At the conclusion of your two-day focus on revenues, you will be able to: recognize the categories of U.S. federal taxpays for manufactured tobacco, locate catalog numbers and decipher information in the *Springer’s Catalog* for a selection of taxpaid revenues, and recognize printing methods used to produce the revenues discussed.

**This course is limited to 12 participants**

Accommodations

The registration fee does not include housing. Check the APS website: stamps.org/Lodging for lodging facilities near the American Philatelic Center.
The Evolution of Experimental & Early Machines and their Postmarks Worldwide: 1850s - 1920s with Jerry Miller

Why did postmark automation become a necessity and how did it evolve over time?

Soon after the introduction of prepaid postage and use of the first adhesive postage stamp, postal authorities recognized the need for improvement in the handling of the mail. There are both obvious and obscure reasons to investigate.


Don’t miss this opportunity to experience the story behind the evolution of postmarking machines.

Washington - Franklins: Part 2 - Expertizing with Guy Gasser

Can you determine if a stamp from the Washington–Franklin series is genuine, altered, or fake? Discover the resources and develop the skills for expertizing stamps from this series.

Practice with artifacts as you learn how stamps of the Washington-Franklin series are commonly altered and/or faked. Identify “look fors” most often used when determining authenticity (or not). Recognize the most common alterations and fakes. Spend two-days becoming more comfortable using a computer and other resources during the examination process.

This course can be taken as a continuation of Washington-Franklins: Part 1 - Identification, or as a stand-alone for those individuals wishing to develop their expertizing skills and already possessing the skills necessary for identifying the stamps in this series.

This course is limited to 16 participants

Learn more at stamps.org/Summer-Seminar
**4-Day Course or Two 2-Day Courses Fees**

Includes:
- All course materials
- Daily general sessions and electives
- Sunday welcome reception
- Four lunches & daily snacks
- Wednesday night reception and banquet

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**Monday-Tuesday Two-Day Course Fees**

Includes:
- All course materials
- Sunday welcome reception
- Mon-Tues general sessions and electives
- Mon-Tues lunches & snacks

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**Wednesday-Thursday Two-Day Course Fees**

Includes:
- All course materials
- Wed-Thurs general sessions and electives
- Wed-Thurs lunches & snacks
- Wednesday night reception and banquet

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**Per Diem Fees**

Includes:
- Daily general session and elective
- Lunch and snacks
- Meals are not transferable

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**Guest Banquet Tickets**

Includes:
- Wednesday Distinguished Philatelist Reception and Banquet

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41st Annual Summer Seminar on Philately
June 21 – 25, 2020

*Summer Seminar on Philately*, a once-a-year opportunity for learning more about your favorite hobby and spending time with others who share your passion!

Register for Summer Seminar at:
[stamps.org/Summer-Seminar](http://stamps.org/Summer-Seminar)

American Philatelic Center
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 814-933-3803 • Fax: 814-933-6128
E-mail: education@stamps.org
Website: stamps.org/Summer-Seminar