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# WE *think*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF WOMEN EXHIBITORS

*WE did it! The Festival for Philatelic Women was a success no matter how one measured it. Missed it? Come to the next one...*

## Festival for Philatelic Women wrap-up

Forty-three women and men attended the Festival for Philatelic Women held at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania May 28-31, 2009.

The program of events opened on Thursday evening, May 28 with a pizza party reception at which every participant received a program that contained a stamp along with instructions on how to participate in the "Fest Quest." Each participant was invited to find three others who had a matching stamp and then over the course of the next day this "team" would complete a questionnaire. At Friday evening's

reception all of the teams reported to the assembled masses. These reports were instructive, creative, and quite frequently hilariously funny.

Friday morning at the American Philatelic Center began with a tour of the facility led by Interim Executive Director Ken Martin. A program of seminars and workshops began at 10:00 a.m. The schedule was packed with events, many of which were occurring simultaneously and causing a fair amount of angst as attendees had to choose one over another. The frustration was easily overcome as bowls of chocolate made their rounds. What



Liz Hisey welcomes attendees to the Festival for Philatelic Women opening reception on Thursday evening.

would WE do without chocolate???

Saturday's events began at 9:00 a.m. with another full day of workshops and seminars.

Seminars and workshops held over the two days were:

- Philatelic elements for thematic exhibiting by Denise Stotts
- Layout & design for albums and exhibits by Barb Boal



Denise Stotts entertains a full house with her seminar about philatelic elements in thematic exhibits.

- How to do research & where to get information, including family correspondence by Charles Verge
- Learn, do, teach — mentoring by Janet Houser
- Creating & judging display exhibits by Liz Hisey
- Using photoshop for philatelic exhibits by Barb Boal
- Beyond googling: Using a computer for hobby fun, research & promotion by Janet Klug
- Using the APRL by Gini Horn
- Tools to build a philatelic talk by Nancy Clark
- Stamp Saturday instruction for beginners by Gretchen Moody
- Creating a philatelic exhibit by Ruth Caswell
- How to get what you want from a stamp dealer by Sue Dempsey
- Creating 3-D exhibits by Cheryl Edgcomb
- How to organize your collection by Janet Klug
- Evolution of a philatelic exhibitor by Marj Sente
- Collecting & exhibiting picture postcards by Barb Harrison
- Artful philately by Betsey Carter
- Title pages & synopsis by Pat Walker
- Personalized postage stamps by Joann Lenz
- Tips & tricks of exhibiting for intermediate & advanced collectors by Pat Walker
- Roundtable discussion on how philatelic exhibits are judged
- Collecting & exhibiting stamps that glow by David Eeles
- Where & how to publish your philatelic research by Nancy Clark

Even with all of this going on, attendees found time to do research in

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This is a publication of WE — **Women Exhibitors** — Whose mission is to be the vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.

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"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it."

MARGARET FULLER

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Anne Harris (foreground) and Ruth Caswell (background) put up their exhibits in Sundman Hall at the American Philatelic Center.

mitted for sale by APS members in the APS Sales Division.

The closing event was Saturday evening's banquet. Our keynote speaker was Cheryl Ganz, chief curator of philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Cheryl told us about the history of women in philately in a most engaging and entertaining way, honoring not only those women who were pathfinders in the hobby but also the men who encouraged them as mentors. It became clear from listening to Cheryl that we have come a long way and our future in the hobby is a golden one.

Festival attendees were asked to fill in an exit survey to help the Festival committee determine whether or not there would be a "next time." It took only a few hours at the Festival to realize that there must be a "next time."

Many good suggestions were put forward for future events, including a plea to **not** schedule the Festival in conjunction with a stamp show and one that suggested to **have** a festival in conjunction with a stamp show. Other suggestions included having morning and afternoon breaks, a 10 minute session in the morning for announcements and more down time to speak with others (several of us used the free time in the evening in the hotel lobby to accomplish this important and fun goal).

There were 84 frames of exhibits on display at the American Philatelic Center during the Festival, all of which were provided by attendees. Exhibits covered the gamut of traditional,



The opening reception on Thursday evening had everyone looking for their teammates in the Fest Quest game.

the library, shop for goodies in the APS Rummage Sale that was hosted by volunteer Richard Nak-

les, buy stamps by the bucketful and go through the material sub-

"Sharing knowledge occurs when people are genuinely interested in helping one another develop new capabilities."



Keynote speaker Cheryl Ganz discusses *Women in Philately: Where we've been, where we are, where we are going.* By the time she completed her talk, everyone was up singing and dancing to the disco hit "We are family!"



The Festival organizing committee: Liz Hisey (hotel & catering arrangements), Pat Walker (festival chair), Ruth Caswell (WE chair), Janet Klug (seminars, facility, program), Denise Stotts (publicity). Not in photo: Joann Lenz (exhibits chair).

postal history, display, thematic, revenue, picture post cards, one-frame, illustrated mail, postal stationery, first day covers and cinderellas, thus proving that members of WE have varied interests and exhibiting skills. The exhibits were well appreciated by all who attended.

Exhibit titles and exhibitors were:

- Battlefront nurses by Ann Byerly (Thematic)
- The creation of an oil painting by Betsey Carter (Display)
- The tag-a-long 1¢ inkwell and quill by Ruth Caswell (Traditional)
- U.S. advertising covers for book publishers and sellers, 1855-1910 by Ruth Caswell (Illustrated mail)
- Got postage by Nancy Clark (Postal history)
- Way mail in Maine by Nancy Clark (Postal history)
- Three-cent stamps of the 1954 liberty series by David Eeles (Traditional)
- Why United States stamps are tagged by David Eeles (Special study)
- The golden age of horses by Anne Harris (Display)
- The American horse-drawn buggy by Anne Harris (Illustrated mail)
- Golden age of postcards by Barbara Harrison (Picture postcards)
- Grandma's house by Barbara Harrison (Display)
- Christmas dinner by Liz Hisey (Display)
- Apple pie by Liz Hisey (Illustrated mail)

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."





We Festival attendees: BACK ROW: Kurt & Joann Lenz, Sandy Strazalkowski, Linda Cox, Nancy Swan, Pat Walker, Kathryn Johnson, Ruth Caswell, Virginia Eisenstein, Harry Winter, Marge & Jim Faber, Kristin Patterson, Nancy Clark, Ann Triggles, Anne Harris, Janet Klug, Lois McGuinness, Betty Nettles.  
 MIDDLE ROW: Ken Martin, Jane Childs, Marj Sente, Suzanne Haney, Liz Hisey, Sue Dempsey, Vera Felts, Dottie Winter, David Eeles, Betsey Carter, Barb Harrison, Maria Rodriguez, Diana Sadler.  
 FRONT ROW: Shane Guyer, Dana Guyer, Charles Verge, Miriam Weisz, Denise Stotts, Hillary Griffin, Cheryl Ganz, Cheryl Edgcomb, Ann Byerly, Missing: Bonnie Smith.  
 All photos courtesy of Barb Boal and the APS staff. More are available on the APS website at [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

- Elbert Hubbard, his life and the Roycrofters by Janet Klug (Display)
- I'll be seein' ya' - Five years as a POW in Stalag VII-B by Janet Klug (Postal history)
- E-COM and its forerunners by Joann Lenz (Postal history)
- "Little women" shown on postage stamps of the United States and photographs of original source material by Catherine Manning (courtesy of the NPM and Cheryl Ganz)
- (Topical, shown in the early 1950s)
- The Iolani Palace postal card; its production and selected usages by Elizabeth Nettles (Postal stationery)
- The Louisiana Purchase Exhibition and the mails by Elizabeth Nettles (Display)
- Funding the U.S. Civil War with first issue "playing cards" by Kristin Patterson (Revenue)
- Five-Cent Washington bicentennial stamps by Marjory Sente (Traditional)
- Howard County, Maryland by Patricia Stilwell-Walker (Display)
- A trip down the yellow brick road by Denise Stotts (Thematic)
- Sanitary inspection fee stamps of Rosario, Argentina by Ann Triggles (Revenue)
- "L" is for Lenz by Charles Verge
- Michigan Birthdays 1935 & 1987 by Dorothy Winter (First Day Covers)
- Penguin Cinderellas by Dorothy Winter (Cinderella)

"We need 4 hugs a day for survival. We need 8 hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth."



Some of the most poignant comments about the festival came after we were all safely back home and had a chance to reflect. Kathryn Johnson e-mailed this: "The seminar has really revitalized my love for my dear old hobby of stamp collecting. I came to the seminar hoping to reconnect with the hobby and APS, and just to learn a little as a refresher and see the new APS headquarters for myself. Basically, I've been away from the hobby for 30 years and have recently started collecting again. Well, the seminar delivered all of that well beyond my expectations.

"What I really enjoyed about the seminar was the warmth of the people and how it provided for me a new-found feeling of the hobby as a social and not just a solitary pleasure. What a grand group of gals! It was wonderful to have the seminar at the APS headquarters, to get a chance to see how the APS has grown and changed, and especially to see how the APS as a group did so much to support and make the event possible - an event for women in philately!

"The seminar really allowed me to gain an insight into the depth of knowledge and professionalism of the women in philately, but more, too, into the friendliness and helpfulness of the speakers and exhibitors that are really looking to advance the hobby. I thought of exhibiting before as somehow competition over the pleasure of the hobby at home, and that was a detractor. Instead at the seminar I found it more that exhibiting was a path to bettering speciality knowledge in chosen areas of study with an emphasis on showing an exhibit to learn and share - and that is just wonderful! The sessions on how to attract others to the hobby whether through 3-D exhibiting, YouTube, etc. spoke to the commitment and caring of the leaders in the hobby, it was just really touching to me.

"What the seminar has done for me is brought out the diversity of the hobby, by this I mean the many avenues to take and explore within and through philately - this is the old pleasure of the hobby that I really enjoyed. Barbara Harrison's detailed works on post card



Festival attendees Lois McGuinness, Maria Rodriguez and Suzanne Haney find treasures in the APS Rummage Sale.



Kathryn Johnson and Miriam Weisz listen attentively during one of the seminars held in the education atrium at the American Philatelic Center.

collecting had such depth and expert development - it excited me because I knew nothing at all about the topic. The topical aspects and display exhibiting

were new to me, the horse exhibit impressed me with its reach, study and historic consideration. Postal history exhibits also just surprised me with their

"There are two ways of spreading light...to be a candle, or the mirror that reflects it."

EDITH WHARTON

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attractiveness and depth of study. My last time spent with exhibiting was when all of these were typed and just not at all as graphically pleasing.”

Lois McGuinness provided this: “A week has gone by and I can't imagine how much fun I had at the WE festival! It was so great to have the energy of women all around. It was so great to be thinking of stamps every minute. It was so great to be imagining putting together an exhibit that would win a medal. I had so much fun making new friends, learning new things, buying new items.”

So what's next? Discussions were taking place by some members of the organizing committee to have another festival the day before the **Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition , May 14-16, 2010 in Denver, Colorado.** WE had already committed to providing 120 frames of competitive exhibits (come and exhibit....*please!*) Plans are far from being confirmed, so watch news developments in future issues of *WE Expressions*.

**Dates for your Calendar:**  
**Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition**  
**May 13—Festival II?**  
**May 14-16 Show**

## From the Festival



In the next couple of issues of *WE Think* we will be publishing notes and PowerPoint presentations that were made at the Festival for Philatelic Women. In this issue, **Nancy Clark** discusses how to write and publish your philatelic research.

## How to...

# Write and publish for philatelic publications

By Nancy Clark

You've done the research, kept good notes and are ready to write and publish...but where? (The following is taken from a PowerPoint presentation given at the Festival for Philatelic Women)

### Determine your target audience

What is the purpose of your publishing this information?

Are you primarily interested in presenting research (ready for further building upon) or are you primarily looking for answers to questions you pose (could do by writing letters to scholars or friends...do your work first. If all leads turn to a dead end, then that quest can be part of an interesting story)

Are you looking to “sell” an aspect of the hobby, using your research as an interest “hook”

Is there a time element to the publishing of the information How much of a backlog? (*AP* versus Massachusetts Postal Research Society *Spy*)

Do you really just want to help a publication that needs articles?

Are you writing so you claim credit for the work you have done? (Your discoveries earn you bragging rights)

Is your writing for the general public or for fellow researchers

### Decide on your approach to the subject

How you approach the subject and the focus of the material help to determine the possibilities. Writing for the general public is different than writing for fellow specialists. (Expository as opposed to Research writing) Survey: rate and town marking in different colors, Mandel in *Chronicle*: new look at material.

How much of your research will you cover?

From this, decide the article length (estimate of pages?) pamphlet length? Book length? (Just how many years have you been working on this!)

Are you bringing in social and political considerations as well as philatelic knowledge?

Casual/Studious/Formal approach to your writing?

### Decide which “Marriage” works best

Overview of philatelic publications

Society publications: article, pamphlet, flyer, book, newsletter

News: *Linn's*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, club newsletter

Overview of non-philatelic options

local papers, local news rags, national magazines, newspapers

On line options

Other considerations:

Will the editor proofread carefully and check your facts (rigorous editing)?

Will there be peer review (PH Society has this now)

Will your writing style be respected? (some editors re-write)

Will you be going through a section editor?

Will there be compensation? (money or copies)

### Publisher's guidelines

Aspects of editorial policies often include

Use and format of footnotes or endnotes, bibliographic format and use, article format, illustration technical requirements

*ATA Handbook*, *Philatelic Congress Book*, *American Philatelist*, *USPCS Chronicle*

“Knowledge is the asset; innovation is the process.”

DEBRA M. AMIDON

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