

VISITING PHILATELIC LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES

It is a given that today's stamp collectors don't just paste colorful pieces of paper into album squares. While that activity may have given pleasure to fledgling collectors a century ago, modern philately is a hobby with a thousand branches of interest. Collectors no longer are content simply to *have* philatelic items, they want to know more about them. From the technical details of stamp production, to methods of mail delivery, to historical context, to design features, to the human story behind the mail — all these and more are now of intense interest to us. And where do we go to find the answers we seek?

First of all, if you have a specific interest, you may find that one of the APS-member specialty societies will be delighted to provide you with assistance. Their members can be a treasure trove of resources, and often the societies have archived newsletter material as well. Just go to www.stamps.org/ and click on Clubs & Societies on the left-hand side of the page.



But near and dear to the heart of most researchers is a visit to a library — in this case, a *philatelic* library — and we are fortunate to have a number of fine facilities throughout the United States. Although the American Philatelic Research Library located at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, has the largest holdings of philatelic literature in the United States (in fact, it is the largest *public* philatelic library in the world), there are other libraries closer to where you live that you may want to visit if you have the opportunity. They come in a variety of sizes, but all have philatelic material — sometimes items that can be found nowhere else — available to tempt the researcher.

Below is an alphabetical listing of U.S. Philatelic Libraries, including address, hours, and contact information. The links provided (in most cases) are to the parent organization of the library, although several of the libraries do have information about their holdings available online. A helpful hint: before traveling to visit one of these facilities, you may want to call ahead to ensure that there is someone there to assist you in finding the materials you want to see. Many of the libraries are staffed only by volunteers.

Another “pre-trip” suggestion would be to go to the APRL's online catalogue (accessible at www.stamplibrary.org) and look for information on the topic you would be researching. Even if you can't visit Pennsylvania, you *can* print out a list of what is of interest to you that is available at the APRL and take it with you to the other library. Perhaps they won't have everything that can be found at the APRL, but often there is a substantial amount of duplication.

Have we missed anyone? Please let us know. We would like to be able to offer APS members a complete current listing of U.S. Philatelic Libraries. Contact Doris Wilson with your updates at doris@stamps.org.

American Philatelic Research Library

100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-933-3803

Open Mon–Fri 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

E-mail: gini@stamps.org Website: www.stamplibrary.org

Collectors Club of Chicago Library

Ed Waterous, Librarian
Cabeen House
1029 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610, USA
312-642-7981

A list of publications can found at www.askphil/b60.htm. All of the books are available from the Collectors Club of Chicago, Attn: Duane Larson, P.O. Box 415, Park Forest, IL 60466.

Website: www.askphil.org (general philatelic information and sponsored by the CCC)

Collectors Club of New York

22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016
212-683-0559

Open Mon–Fri 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Please call ahead.)

E-mail: collectorsclub@verizon.net Website: www.collectorsclub.org

Florida Philatelic Foundation Library

8520 South Tamiami Trail, Ste.1
Sarasota, FL 34238
800-927-3351

Open Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution

2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
202-633-5555

Open seven days a week 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., except December 25.

Website: www.postalmuseum.si.edu

Northwest Philatelic Library

4828 NE 33rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97211
503-284-6770

Open 2nd and 4th Saturdays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 7–8 p.m.

E-mail: nwpl@qwestoffice.net Website: www.nwpl.org

Postal History Foundation

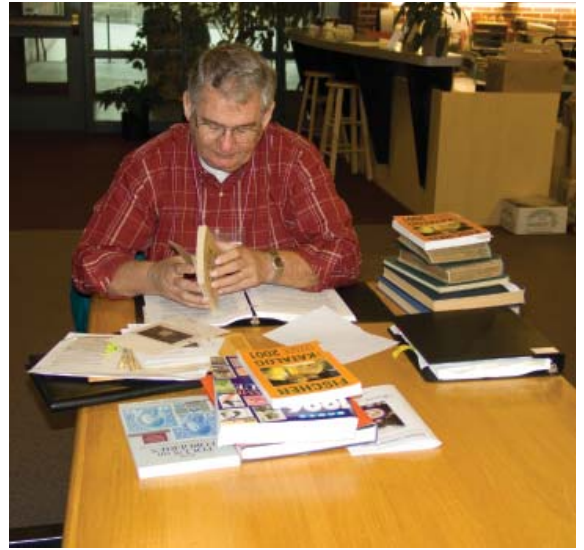
920 North First Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
850-623-6652

Open Mon–Fri 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

E-mail: Phf3@mindspring.com Website: www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

2038 South Pontiac Way
Denver, CO 80224



303-759-9921

Open Mon–Wed, Fri & Sat 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thur 2–8 p.m.

E-mail: rmpl@qwestoffice.net Website: www.rmpldenver.org

San Diego Philatelic Library

330 West Felicita Avenue, Suite A-3

Escondido, CA 92025

760-738-4533

Open Mon 3–6 p.m.; Tue 9 a.m.–3 p.m. & 5:30–8:30 p.m.; Wed 1:30–4:30 p.m.; Thur 9 a.m. –Noon & 6–9 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. –Noon, 1–4 p.m. & 5:30–8:30 p.m.; Sat Noon–3 p.m. (Please call ahead.)

Website: www.sandiegophilateliclibrary.org/sdcpl.shtml

Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History

235 Wellesley Street at Regis College

Weston, MA 02493

781-768-8367

Open Thur–Sun, Noon–5 p.m. Closed Sundays in July & August

E-mail: info@spellman.org Website: www.spellman.org

Western Philatelic Library

1500 Partridge Avenue, Building 5, Room 6

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

408-733-0336

Open Tue & Sat Noon– 5 p.m.; Wed 5–9 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and 7–9 p.m.; and by appointment. (Please call ahead.)

E-mail: stulev@ix.netcom.com Website: www.fwpl.org

Wineburgh Philatelic Library

800 West Campbell Road

Richardson, TX 75080

972-883-2955

Please contact for hours

E-mail: libwebhelp@utdallas.edu Website: www.utdallas.edu/library/uniquecoll/speccoll/wppl/wppl.htm