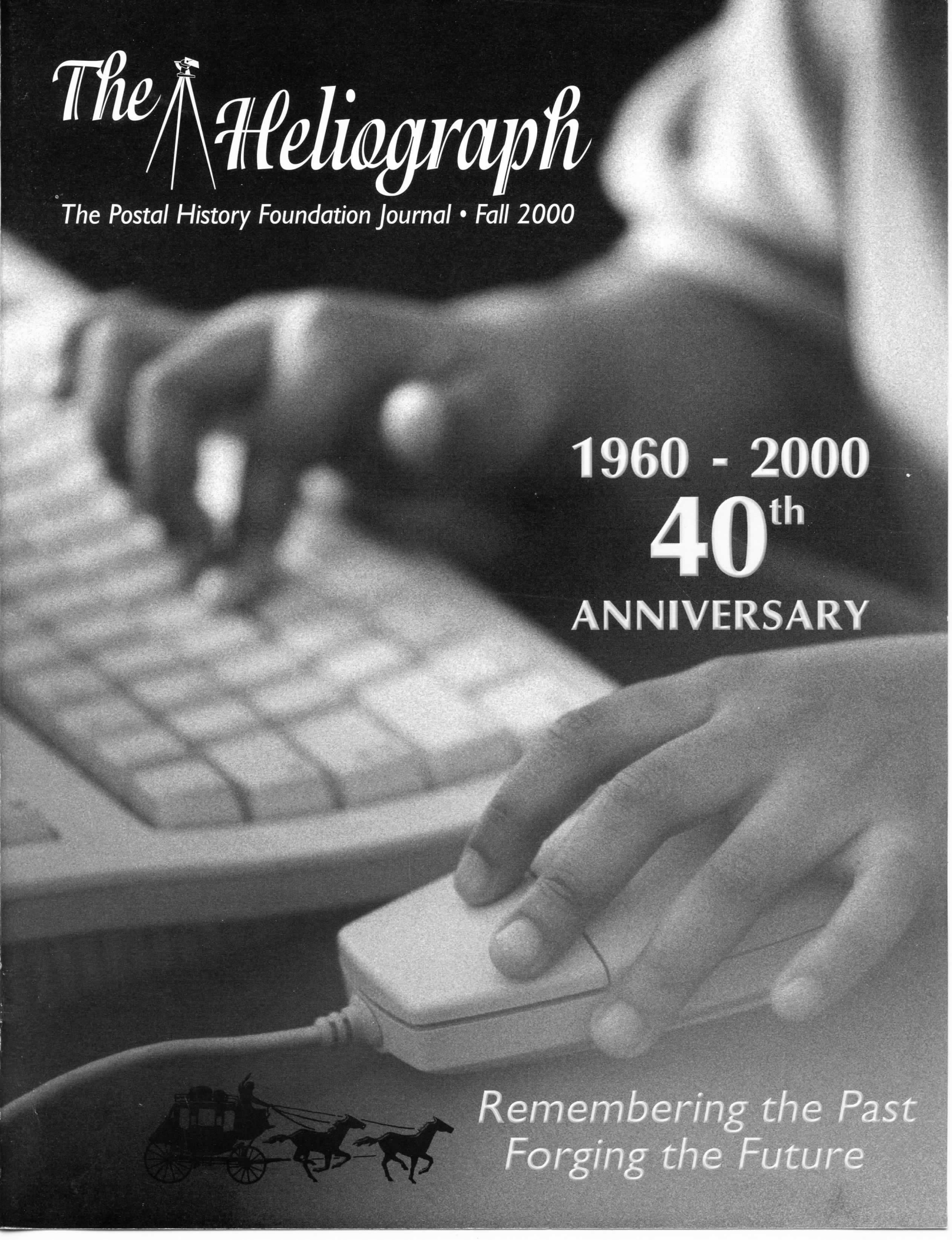

The Heliograph
The Postal History Foundation Journal • Fall 2000
1960 - 2000
40th
ANNIVERSARY
Remembering the Past
Forging the Future

On the Cover

October 2000 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Western Postal History Museum, now The Postal History Foundation. This issue is dedicated to remembering our history as we launch into a new century with renewed commitment to mission.



The Foundation houses a section of the original Naco, Arizona, post office, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Medigovich of Tombstone. Naco, located in Cochise County, Territory of Arizona, was the main port of entry on the international border of Mexico.

Visiting the Sahuaro School with Carl Rueth (center standing), editor of Linn's Stamp News.



Revisiting Our Past



The museum "family," Christmas, 1968.

The Postal History Foundation

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Fall 2000

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Frank A. Mallalieu, Editor

Articles for, and correspondence to, *The Heliograph* can be addressed to The Heliograph, ATTN: Editor, P.O. Box 40725, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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The Postal History Foundation is an Arizona nonprofit corporation chartered to be used exclusively for historical, research, scientific, and education purposes in the advancement of postal history, including, but not limited to, the collecting, assembling, preserving, recording and publishing of postal history.

Membership donations over that for annual membership, and donations of cash, acceptable stamps, covers, books, postcards, periodicals and postal history material are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes and are most gratefully received. The Foundation is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Prepayment of dues several years in advance is greatly appreciated.

Annual membership	$25
Sustaining membership	$40
Overseas membership	$40
Patron	$100
Donor	$500
Benefactor	$1,000

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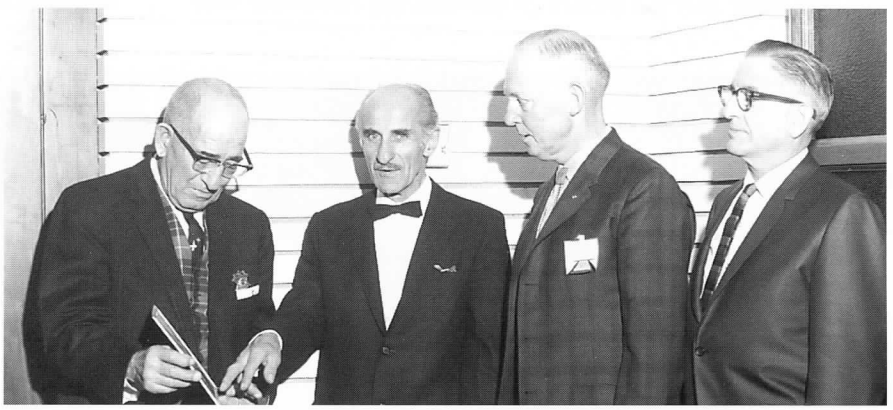
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Don't forget the Postal History Foundation's auction site on ebay!

Log on to **http://www.ebay.com**. Click on "Search" and scroll down to "Seller." Type in the PHF address "**phf@azstarnet.com**" to view the PHF lots for sale. The Postal History Foundation will give the usual 20% discount off the purchase price to members who are successful in their bidding.

From the Editor

by Frank A. Mallalieu

This issue of *The Heliograph* celebrates the 40th anniversary of the founding of The Postal History Foundation (and its predecessor, The Western Postal History Museum). In honor of its founders we have reprinted articles from the 30th anniversary issue which pay tribute to the efforts these men and women made to stimulate interest and growth in many areas of stamp collecting, including that of postal history (long before it became an "in" collecting interest), as well as to encourage and support stamp collecting among young people.

The Director of The Postal History Foundation, Betsy Towle, shares her thoughts and concerns about the direction(s) in which stamp collecting is going, particularly with regard to encouraging the youth of this nation and world to discover the wonderful world of stamps and make the hobby a part of their lives.

Throughout this issue of *The Heliograph* the reader will note the many photographs of the myriad of individuals that have been part of The Postal History Foundation family over the past 40 years. The association of several of these individuals with the PHF goes back to its very beginnings, while others are of more recent vintage, relative to their service. We pay homage to those individuals who are no longer with us and salute the efforts they have made on the behalf of the PHF as well as stamp collecting in general.

Some of you readers may see pictures of yourselves. We hope that you enjoy seeing a picture of yourself, but remember that most of these photographs are candid, and we all know how candid photographs can turn out. Nevertheless, it is fitting and proper to recognize the service of the loyal and hardworking volunteers that have done so much to make the PHF a respected and nationally, if not internationally, recognized organization in the areas of stamp collecting research and youth stamp education programs. To all of you, take a well-deserved bow.

Last, I want to inform the readers that with this issue I am relinquishing the position of editor of *The Heliograph*. I have very much enjoyed being editor these past two years, but the pressing need to spend time on other activities requires that I give up the editorship. I know that the Board will find a most qualified and creative individual to take over the reins. I wish him or her my sincerest best wishes on a successful tenure as editor. I want to express my deepest thanks to all those that have supported me in my efforts as editor, particularly Betsy Towle, Bob Bechtel and John Birkinbine, as well as all those individuals who gave of their time and efforts to assist me, either by suggesting articles for *The Heliograph* and/or submitting actual articles for publication. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Karen Taylor, our graphic artist whose wonderful work has graced these pages for the past two years. I trust that we shall continue to see her achievements on the pages of *The Heliograph* in the years ahead.

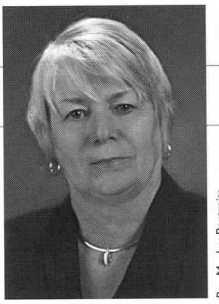
Goodbye and best wishes to you all.



Early photo of Western Postal History Museum supporters.

Director's Corner

by Betsy Towle



Ray Manley Portraits

The Times, They Are A'Changing

In the forty years since the birth of the Postal History Foundation we have seen immense changes in the culture of this country that have affected our youth philatelic education program and youth stamp collecting in general.

Starting as a program for asthmatic children as an adjunct to their studies, the PHF went on to specialize in youth philatelic education in the public schools. For more than 35 years our volunteers worked with thousands of children teaching the tools and joys of our hobby while helping them learn in the classroom. Our teachers taught in classrooms with order and discipline and an atmosphere with which they were familiar. Over the past ten years or so the classroom has gradually changed—as have the work place and home life.

High Tech Times

Where once children were satisfied, even thrilled with the black and white snowy images of "Howdy Doody" on the TV screen years ago, now they "must" have their own color TV, stereo, VCR, color monitor computer, Internet connection or even a satellite connection. It seems that the telephone (except cell phones, of course) has become passé. Chat rooms are the rage for those with computers and Internet connections. Noise and the "beat" surround solitary time. In short, the Norman Rockwell image of the youth stamp collector is a thing of the past.

Even obtaining stamps to collect has become a major problem. Forty years ago people paid their bills and sent greeting cards and letters using postage stamps. Mail came into the household with collectable stamps for the young collector to discover. Today, unless you have a collector in the house who receives mail from other collectors, the only stamps that a prospective youth collector might see on the incoming mail is bulk-rate, metered mail, or the ubiquitous peel and stick varieties so commonly found. Modern commemoratives are even difficult to find in the post office branch stations. With the advent of electronic equipment in the window clerk sales area, postage stamps are even more difficult to find. It is easier for the window clerks' drawer accountability if they use metered mail from the machine than to count every piece of paper, *i.e.*, stamps, in their drawers. Therefore, clerks are reluctant even to display postage stamps and one has to speak up right quickly to get a postage stamp on one's piece of mail. In the business arena, fax machines and e-mail have taken the place of domestic as well as foreign letter mail to a great extent.

The local stamp store is as much an endangered species as the local candy or "mom and pop" bookstore. Those stamp stores that still exist are places that very few children get to experience. Like most stamp clubs, they are places primarily for adults. While many stamp dealers welcome children to their shops, for the most part the shops are not children-friendly.

Over the past forty years the working mother and the ever increasing after school scheduled activities have severely cut into time for hobbies (for adults as well as children). Children are busily running to lessons, to team practice, or racing home to watch TV until the family's adults return from work. For many children the desegregation of schools meant the end of the neighborhood school concept. With the spreading out of residential neighborhoods many children have to run to catch a school bus and then ride a distance to their school and back.

Vanguard Philatelic Programs

Even the classroom atmosphere has changed. The PHF has been extremely successful in introducing stamp collecting through classroom instruction. Working with the teachers to use stamps that reinforce the curriculum, over the past forty years we have been able to find teachers who were willing to try something different, and when they saw the benefits they were willing to continue and support our efforts. In 1997 the PHF had more than 2000 children in our classes each year. However, we now see our teachers with new challenges and, in some cases threats. The buzzword of accountability has become popular, and in order to measure

accountability the state mandated testing. In some instances the classroom teacher has taken on the responsibility of the family, teaching morals, reproduction, and in many cases carrying out social service activities. The classroom may have students who are learning or hearing impaired, or have a variety of emotional or physical disabilities. The classroom day has not lengthened but the teacher's responsibilities have increased. We still have teachers who work with us, but unfortunately the numbers are shrinking.

The stamp collecting hobby as far as children are concerned has changed as much as it has for adults. Learning to soak the adhesive stamps, learning new terminology such as *linerless coils,* and even finding new sources like the Internet for wanted items, are all changes that have occurred over the past forty years. If we want to pass on the hobby to the youth of today and tomorrow, the teaching methods and the teachers must adapt to the new age instead of trying to plug today into yesterday's mold. We must find a way to help children become aware of stamps and help them find them.

The general attitude persists that, even though we live in the age of space technology, children should collect stamps in the same manner and use the same methods as their grandparents and be turned on to the hobby by the same elements that the adults so fondly remember with nostalgia. The same grandparent who is bidding on ebay and sending electronic mail all over the country takes a time warp concept when working with younger children. We seem to have lost an entire generation of collectors who traditionally passed on the love of the hobby to their children. Suddenly we do not have enough collecting parents to pass on the joys of stamp collecting.

So then, how do we pass on the hobby? How do we encourage future stamp collectors?

Market the Hobby

My first suggestion would be to go to where the children are with materials that are in keeping with their style of life. As with any marketing, and we are a marketing hobby, you must catch the attention first, then "sell" fun and long-time pleasure. Beginning in 1997, the PHF has been working on the development of a series of computer programs using US stamps as the focal point. The first programs, a series of games, are used in the USPS youth areas at the Mega shows, the APS conventions and ARIPEX. They were also in use at the recent World Stamp Expo held in Anaheim, California.

These youth areas have the more traditional youth philatelic activities. But the computer programs and the Geo Safari games are the most popular. We have recently introduced the "Design-A-Stamp" computer activity and that also has proven to be very popular. We are almost finished with the "Arizona History through Postage Stamps," a program that we used to teach in the conventional method. This program will be a gift to the school children of Arizona when we find a sponsor. It is designed to support the state curriculum guide, and we feel that it will be used in many classrooms as it can be used as a teaching tool on an individual or class basis. The children get daily exposure to stamp images. The next step is the actual exposure to stamps themselves. You advertise a product before you can sell it! The computer programs are hobby advertisements.

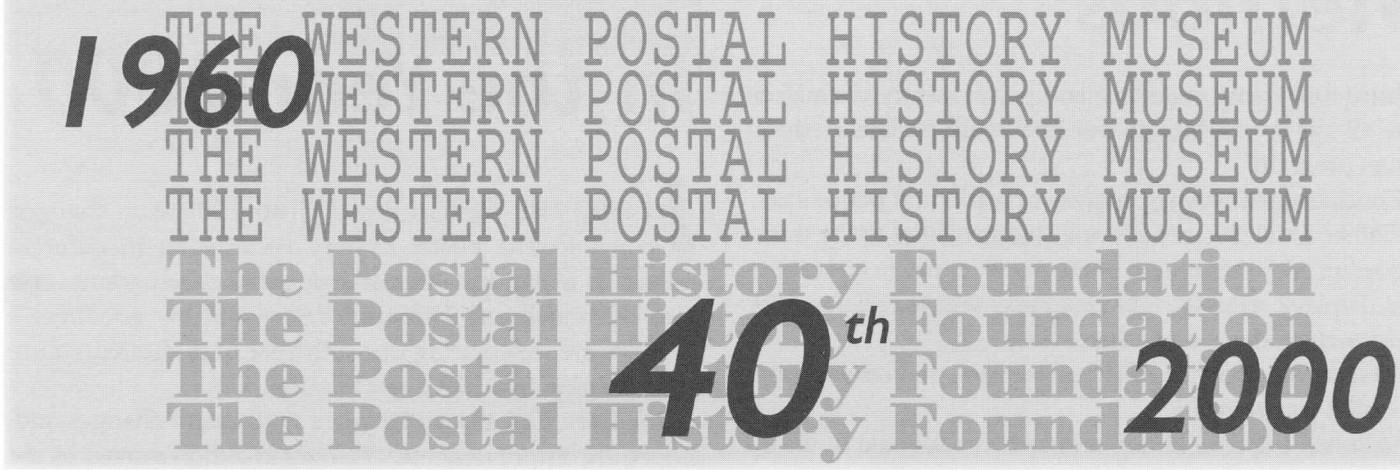
Nurture Young Philatelists

The next step is the nurturing of the hobby. That takes more work and time on the part of stamp collectors, and is the most difficult part of solving the problem. Unfortunately, time and understanding are the commodities that stamp collectors are least willing to part with. They will give stamps and money if someone else will do the rest of the job. We at the PHF have been most fortunate to find volunteer stamp collectors who are willing to work with children. We will continue to search for new ways to share the love of the hobby.



Happy Fortieth Anniversary

Adapted from the 30th Anniversary Issue by Frank A. Mallalieu
with Year 2000 Update by Betsy Towle



THIS OCTOBER 2000 is a very special month. In addition to being National Stamp Collecting Month, October marks the fortieth anniversary of the Postal History Foundation, reaching back to its origins as The Western Postal History Museum. This institution, unique among philatelic organizations in the United States, is a nonprofit, charitable corporation dedicated to promoting postal history through education and research; and, for forty years has grown to be a leader in the advancement of philately among people of all ages.

In honor of this special event, this issue of *The Heliograph* is devoted to the story of the Foundation—its history, purpose, methods, departments, volunteers and programs. In these pages the reader will find the following items:

- A clear and concise statement of our purpose, objectives, and methods,
- When, how and why the organizations was started,
- Significant events in our history,
- The people who have made this organization successful,
- Accomplishments and impacts,
- Development of our various departments and their programs ,
- A little history ...and more.

Yes, this issue of *The Heliograph* is self-serving. Frankly, it's time to take some space in our own journal to tell you, the membership, who we are, why we exist, and what our philosophy is. We need your support. We can't exist without you. You deserve to know as much about us as it is possible to present in these pages. If this issue of *The Heliograph* doesn't answer your questions, write, fax, E-mail, or call us; we'll be happy to talk to you. We are here for you. We look back to the accomplishments of the past but we don't rest on our laurels. We work hard at making what we do today relevant, interesting and important for our members. We look forward to tomorrow with enthusiasm and optimism, trusting that our efforts will be successful.

"I am not afraid of tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday and I love today."
—William Allen White

Objectives

EDUCATION To increase youth awareness of the hobby of stamp collecting by exposing them to the "painless education" of how stamps and postal history (that is, collecting envelopes, or covers, with the stamps still on them) relate to other curriculum subjects; to increase appreciation of the hobby by the adult collector in the belief that the more knowledge of the subject, the greater their satisfaction and enjoyment.

RESEARCH To increase the body of knowledge of postal history and to inspire the studious inquiry, examination, investigation and interpretation of facts and theories relating to postal history.

Methods

1. Introduce stamp collecting and postal history to children of all age levels through our free youth philatelic education program.
2. Conduct a publishing program of books and periodicals.
3. Gather a collection of historic objects related to the transporting and distribution of the mails for use in educational displays, exhibits, and programs; and for reference by research students and others.
4. Produce seminars, workshops, lectures, and other stamp-related programs.
5. Maintain a special library and archives devoted to the literature, documents, and ephemeral items of the field of postal history.
6. Foster the study and research of postal history.
7. Support and promote local, regional and national postal history societies and publications.
8. Act as a clearinghouse of postal history activities, projects and information.

"A man doesn't know what he knows until he knows what he doesn't know."
—Doug Kelsey

Scope

WE CHOOSE AS OUR DEFINITION the broader, inclusive definition of postal history—anything related to the history of the delivery of the mail. This definition includes, among other things, the combination of local history, people, environment, and their relationship to postage stamps, covers, postmarks, or the distribution of the mails. The extent of our geographical interests include all postal history with a particular emphasis on the United States and matters of foreign administrations which affect U.S. postal history.

"The present is the period when the future pauses for a short while before becoming the past."
—Dr. Laurence J. Peter

In the Year 2000

IN 1990 THE Western Postal History Museum changed its name to The Postal History Foundation in order to reflect its expanded interest and outreach programs. We also celebrated our 30th anniversary and my goodness—here we are, celebrating our 40th year of dedicated volunteers helping to achieve our mission.

We have had a busy 10 years with many changes and, hopefully, improvements. The organization moved to the present location at 920 N. First Avenue in 1978. At that time it seemed we had plenty of room to grow, especially after occupying the few cramped rooms in the basement of the Arizona Historical Society where we first started. The 920 N. First Avenue building, originally a church and minister's quarters, was adapted to meet our needs, and frankly, since that time has continually undergone changes. By1990 we were severely cramped for space and looked at new buildings, expansion of our existing quarters by adding a second story, and purchasing the property next door to the present building to expand.

PHILATELIC CENTER

The first major change to the building came by necessity. We were able to obtain a postal contract for a philatelic station in the building. In order to make space and meet Fire Marshall regulations with regard to traffic patterns, etc., we altered the front entrance of our building to create another room. With a black and white square tile pattern we created a striking entrance, with a view to our beautiful turn-of-the-century postal station front. With this change we increased our volunteer staff, as we needed a daily staff of postmasters to run the postal station. This station has brought an ever-growing increase in traffic into the PHF. We get the casual customer, who has found us a quick outlet for business postage, as well as those who wish to pick a stamp in quantity for those special invitations and announcements. It also has brought us a new type of collector—the collector who collects US mint stamps. These are not collectors who read *Linn's Stamp Weekly* or join

stamp clubs. Many do not even mount their stamps in albums. They do not know anything about plate numbers or positions or printing methods. They are happy collecting US stamps in their own way. Some become more interested in what I will call more advanced collecting by meeting with other collectors, and some just leave the building happily clutching their recent issues.

PEGGY J. SLUSSER LIBRARY

The second, and greatest change to our facilities came with an extremely generous donation of three-quarters of a million dollars from the family of Peggy Slusser, to build a new philatelic library building. After much discussion we decided to stay where we are, purchase the property next door and go through the historic rezoning process.

The PHF property is in a historic district of homes built in the 1920's, when soldiers from World War I moved to Tucson to recover their health after the terrible toxic gas problems of the war. The property that we purchased was one such house but was in horrible physical shape, full of termites and not at all suitable for a philatelic library. We began what was to become a two-and-a-half year battle with the homeowner's association, The County Historical Commission, and the Mayor and Council of the city of Tucson. We were denied demolition permits until we finally took the case to court and proved that we met the city code requirements for demolition.

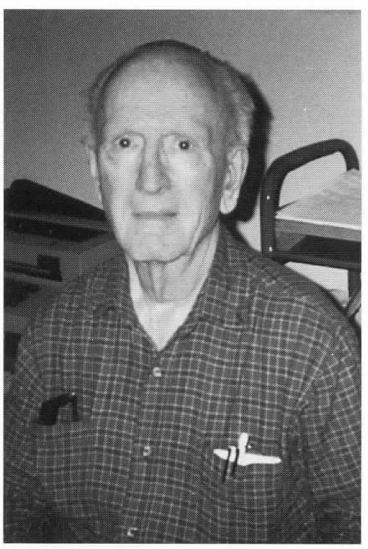
While this entire struggle was going on we were happily planning for the new library with our architects. The new plans called for alteration to the main building as well as a new entrance and courtyard. The librarians packed up the books to make room for the alterations and to get ready for the move. We wanted to take with us some beautiful oak cases made for us by a former librarian. We had book boxes everywhere. Then came the exciting day when they finally demolished the old house after the asbestos was removed. There was not much stamp work done that week. Everyone was out watching the action. The next ten months or so of construction brought turmoil in the parking lot as well as considerable excitement. While our parking lot is adequate for our volunteers and customers, construction workers and cement trucks certainly put a strain on the use of the area. In October of 1996 we were finally able to have our dedication ceremony for the new Peggy Slusser Library. **Dr. Tirso del Junco**, Chairman of the USPS Board of Governors, was the guest speaker for that event. We have finally finished with the building and the decoration projects in the library. Our new facility is really beautiful and we are certainly grateful to the Slusser family for making it possible.

THE PAST IS BUT PROLOGUE

In the past ten years we have lost some of our long time volunteers and supporters. My husband, **Charles Towle**,



The reading room of the Peggy J. Slusser Memorial Library



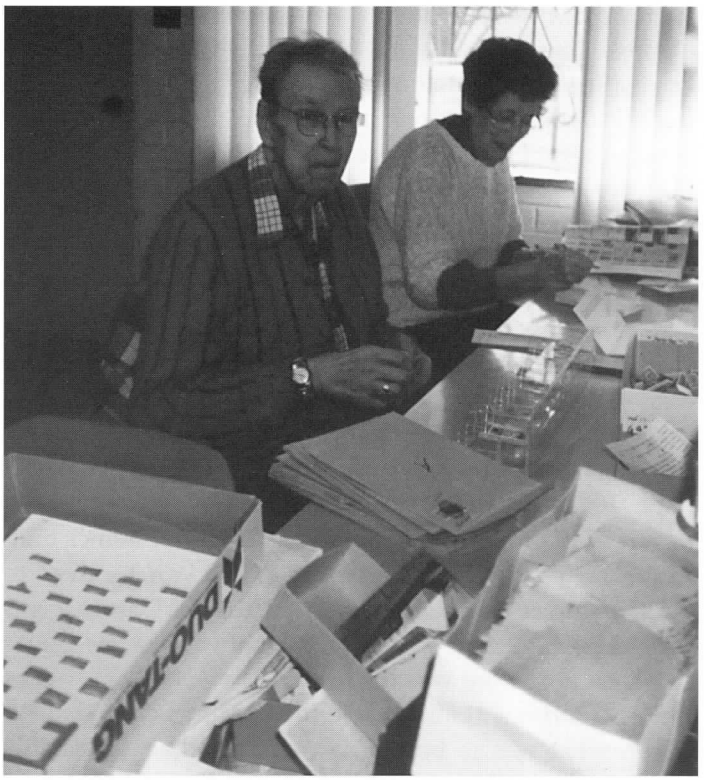
Carl Spitzer, librarian

Charles Nettleship, **Palmer Moffet**, **Art Springer** (a former Director), **Omega Williamson**, and **Peggy Ashwood** all served the PHF for many years. Other volunteers like **Ruth Gorton** and **Ferd Lauber** have retired. However, new volunteers have found a home and place with us.

In keeping with the times, the PHF now sells stamp material on ebay, the Internet auction house. We have created computer programs that are currently used by USPS, and others are in various stages of completion. We still have our traditional school programs and our volunteers visit classrooms and work with teachers. Our computer programs will be a supplement to our traditional classes.

We look forward to our 50th anniversary. We will adapt to the hobby of the future while still promoting the hobby of the past.

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."
—Abraham Lincoln



Don Amesbury and Ranyta Sullivan at work in the Education department.

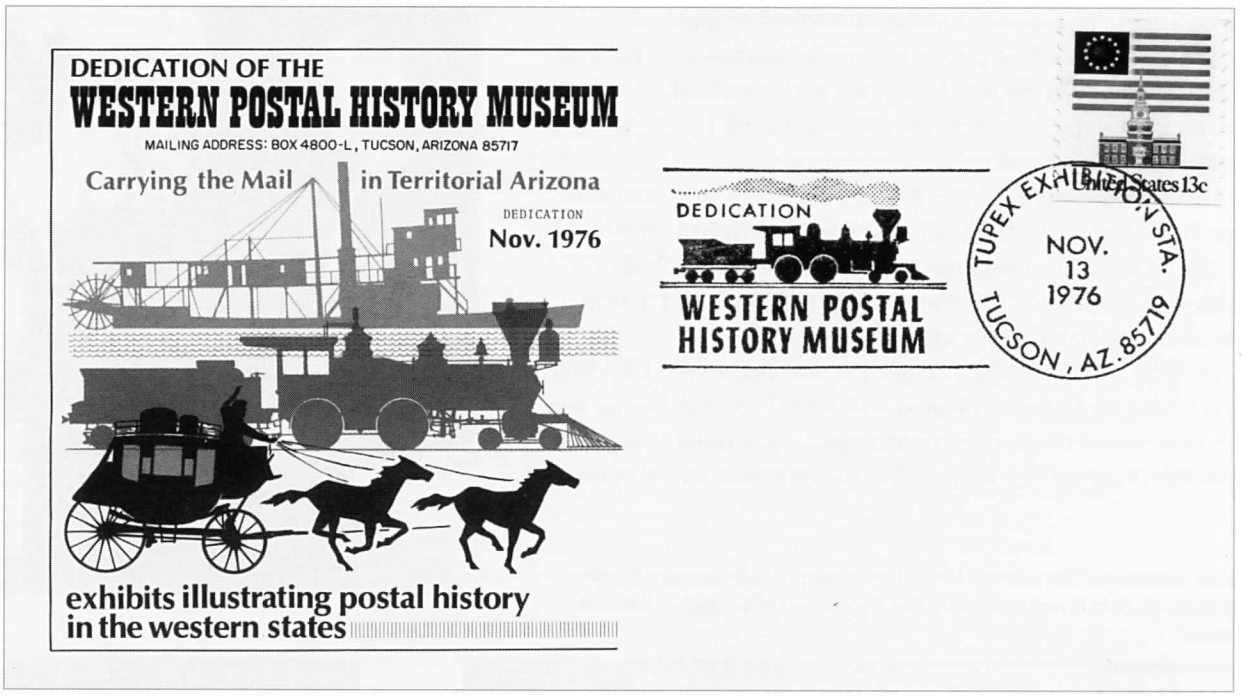
Volunteers Beppie Lutgendorf and Anne Reck prepare lesson materials.



Board Chairman Bob Bechtel processes stamps and covers.



History of the Western Postal History Museum



WHAT HAS BECOME the Postal History Foundation that we know so well today had its origins in the **Western Postal History Museum**. The idea from which the Western Postal History Museum grew originated in the imagination of **William (Bill) L. Alexander**. Moving to Tucson in 1959 he enlisted the cooperation of **Dr. Ray Brandes** of the Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society in establishing a postal history department. The original program objectives were these:

1. Organize a youth educational program to bring philatelic and postal history knowledge to youth of all age levels.
2. Obtain and preserve specimens of the mail of all periods for the Western States.
3. Gather a collection of historic objects related to the transportation and distribution of the mail.
4. Foster the study and research of postal history.
5. Organize a sponsoring society of philatelists, historians and others who are devoted to this fascinating and important aspect of our country's postal activity.

In support of these objectives a special library devoted to the literature of this field of study was to be developed. The first large donation to the postal history program was received in October, 1960, when the **Raymond H. Weill Company** of New Orleans donated several philatelic books as well as a six-volume collection of general philatelic material.

Within a few short months Alexander and associate curator **Albert W. Evans** had produced the museum's first exhibits, "Arizona Postal History" and "Wells, Fargo and & Company Stamps."

At the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society's annual meeting in 1961, Alexander was able to report that the new department had attracted the attention of collectors in many parts of the country. Twelve people already had enrolled to be "**Philatelic Rangers**" whose purpose was to "aid the financing of postal history projects, contribute philatelic material and equipment, and raise funds in support of the Postal History Museum."

Many gifts, contributions and donations began to arrive from all over the country. Roger and Raymond Weill supplemented their previous gift by adding 34 more albums containing approximately 81,000 postage stamps. Other donations were received from friends and donors from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Albuquerque. California and Arizona. An exhibit of Civil War mail from both the Union and the Confederacy was assembled in February, 1962. A philatelic exchange with the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh was also arranged.

A youth education program was begun at the Sahuaro School, a residential school operated by the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children. The first year four children participated in the new youth philatelic program

The first research project to be initiated was to search Arizona newspapers for all facts and references concerning postal history. **Omega Williamson**, **Elizabeth R. Taylor**, and **Ionne Ladd** volunteered for this important project.

The Museum's first public auction of stamps was held on March 18, 1967. In the first four years of the philatelic auctions conducted by the Museum $87,000 was raised for the benefit of the Museum's youth philatelic program.

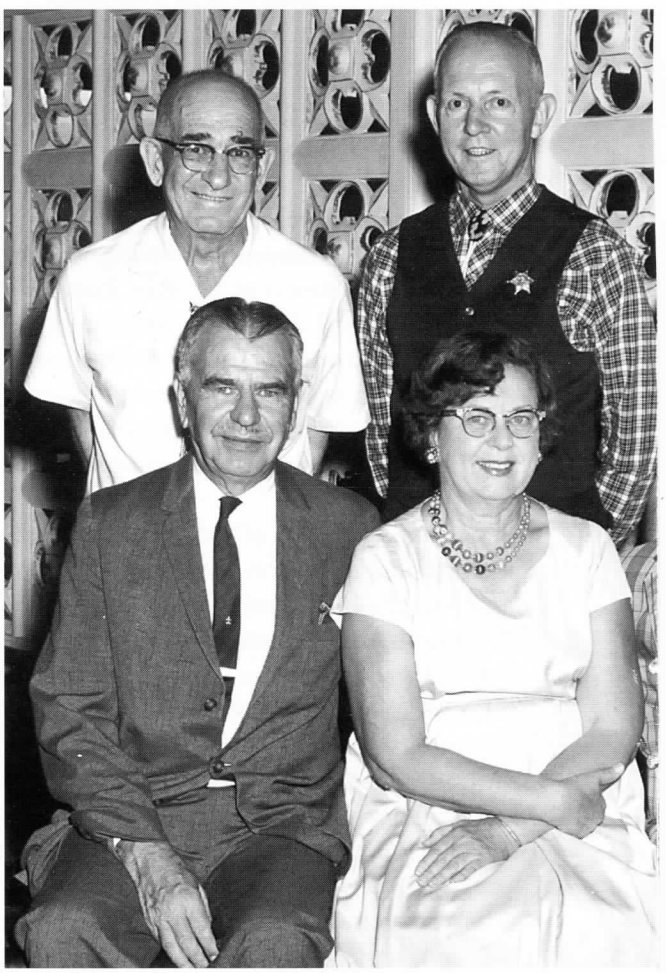
Official dedication of the Western Postal History Museum was held during ARIPEX '69. **Edward L. Willard**, president of the American Philatelic Society, and **Mrs. Emery C. Johnson**, president of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Museum, officiated at the ceremony.

In 1969 the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children found itself in financial distress and leased the facilities at the Sahuaro School to another organization. As a result, the youth philatelic program was taken to the Tucson public school system.



Official dedication of the WPHM, 1969. Left to right: ***Bill Alexander, Sidney Brinkerhoff, Mrs Emery Johnson, Cal Peters,*** *and APS president* ***Edward Willard.***



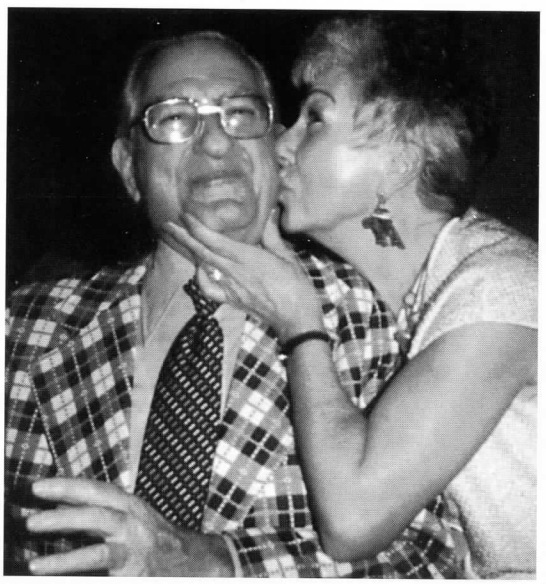








Top left: Arizona ***Governor Goddard*** *along with student* ***Steven Bonilla****, Tucson* ***Mayor Davis****,* ***William Alexander****, and a U.S. postal official from Washington, D.C., at a 1965 luncheon. Above: the museum "family" at a gathering in 1968.*



A candid moment at ARIPEX in Phoenix: ***Art Springer*** *and* ***Alphie Kuhm****.*

1963 museum staff: Left to right (standing) ***Al Evans****,* ***Bill Alexander****, and* ***Art Springer****; (seated)* ***Jim Hughes****,* ***Omega Williamson****, and* ***French Anderson****.*

William L. Alexander



Bill Alexander, "Mr. Stamps," was born in Paisley, Scotland, where he first caught the philatelic fever. "My father, a banker, collected stamps in a small way from post offices all over the British colonies," Alexander recalled in a 1976 interview in the *Tucson Citizen.* "I once got a terrible spanking for taking all his stamps and sticking them on the wall."

Thus began the philatelic career of an extraordinary man who came to Tucson, Arizona, in 1959 after spending 40 years as an internal auditor for the Gulf Oil Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Stamps became a big part of his life while in Pittsburgh where he was honored by the Carnegie Museum for the "phenomenal development of the Section of Stamps and Postal History." He was made curator emeritus for life of that division of the museum. Bill's special philatelic interest was a fascination with airmail postal history.

Bill brought his enthusiasm for stamps to Tucson where, in 1960, he co-founded the Western Postal History Museum as a department of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society. Always thinking of others, Alexander consulted with Art Springer and A. B. Sieh, director of the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children, about the inauguration of a philatelic education program for the students at the Sahuaro School. Alexander developed many philatelic friends who generously donated to this philatelic cause.

Bill was elected to the Arizona Philatelic Hall of Fame in 1963 and presented a community service award in Tucson in 1969. On January 31, 1976, he retired as director of the Western Postal History Museum after being the driving force behind the founding and rapid development of the museum for sixteen years.

After his retirement Bill worked on his book about the Arizona statehood post offices and postmasters which was serialized in *The Heliograph.* Bill Alexander died in July, 1979.

The Museum experienced continual growth since it was organized in 1960 due to the generous financial and philatelic contributions of many philatelic contributions of many philatelists throughout the United States and other countries. In 1978, a generous donation by **Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr.**, of a collection of United States proofs and essays allowed the Museum to purchase it own building with the proceeds of the sale of that collection auctioned by the Robert Siegel firm. The 4,400 square foot building originally was a church and rectory. After alterations, the Museum moved its headquarters to the new location.

In the summer of 1985, the board of directors decided to bring the computer age to the museum. One of the building's extra rooms (the kind with porcelain plumbing!) was the perfect size for the new computer department. After being renovated the museum received a gift from a generous member in the form of a Compaq 286 computer with a 20 megabyte hard disk and printer, a significant addition (for the time) to the museum's administrative arsenal. Volunteers to operate the computer were sought, with the result that a few brave souls were found to learn all about computers and tackle this "new" technological marvel. Today, with far more sophisticated computer system installed, the Postal History Foundation uses computers for processing and maintaining records of the financial, membership, and education departments as well as the library and auctions conducted over the Internet.

The Postal History Foundation and its predecessor, the Western Postal History Museum have been featured in such diverse publications as *The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Providence (RI) Journal, The Mesa Tribune, The Arizona Daily Star, The Tucson Citizen,* the *U.S. Postal Service Newsletter, Senior World, Arizona Highways,* the American Automobile Association (AAA) *Travel Guide* and Fodor's *Travel Guide of the United States.* The local Tucson television stations have filmed reports in and about the museum.

The philatelic press has published several feature articles about the both the Western Postal History Museum and the Postal History Foundation and its activities, as well as dozens of announcements, press releases, and short news articles. A special thank you goes to those members of the philatelic fifth estate who saw and continue to see the value of our programs and activities and their importance to the hobby. Among others thanks go to **Carl P. Rueth, James M. Chemi, Arlene M. Van Dahl, Michael Laurence, Ken Wood,** and **Al**

Arthur E. Springer



After serving more than ten years as associate director of the museum, Art Springer became director of the Western Postal History Museum in 1976 after the retirement of Bill Alexander. Art was one of the earliest volunteers who came to the museum, and he served as director for eleven years until his eightieth birthday in 1987, whereupon he retired.

Born in Chicago and later living in Switzerland, Art developed a schoolboy interest in the stamps of Switzerland—a collection which he maintained along with his Arizona postal history collection.

Art's professional career was with the Tucson Realty and Trust Company, from which he retired in 1969 as vice president and manager of the mortgage loan division.

One of the major accomplishments during his tenure as director of the museum was the acquisition in 1978 of the building that now houses the Postal History Foundation. Under Art's leadership the museum's programs grew and became nationally significant. Art continued to serve the museum in an advisory capacity, including his participation in the annotation and inventorying of the museum's (now Foundation's) territorial collection.

Art Springer led a very long and useful life and contributed immeasurably to the success of the Western Postal History Museum and its successor, the Postal History Foundation. He died in June of this year. Art will be fondly remembered by all those who knew and worked with him as well as all those who have benefitted from efforts he made on behalf of philately.

(Pictured above: Bob Bechtel, Art Springer, and Betsy Towle.)

Dedication of the Philatelic Education Department in Honor of Arthur Springer, June 10, 1994



Standing, left to right: ***Don Amesbury, Palmer Moffat, Anne Reck, Howard Moser, Fred Frelinghuysen, Alex Lutgendorf, Carl Le Mar John, Tony Benz, John Birkinbine, Bud Sellers, Ruth Gorton, Anne Dardis, Eileen Weisbard, Phyllis Ashwood, Ray Mariella,*** *and* ***Ranyta Sullivan.***

Kneeling, left to right: ***Ferd Lauber, Dave Hopkins, Norm Vivian, Gene Nelson*** *and* ***Bob Bechtel.***

Seated, left to right: ***Omega Williamson, Arthur Springer*** *and* ***Ruth Springer.***

How the Heliograph Got Its Name

(You Did Ask, Didn't You)



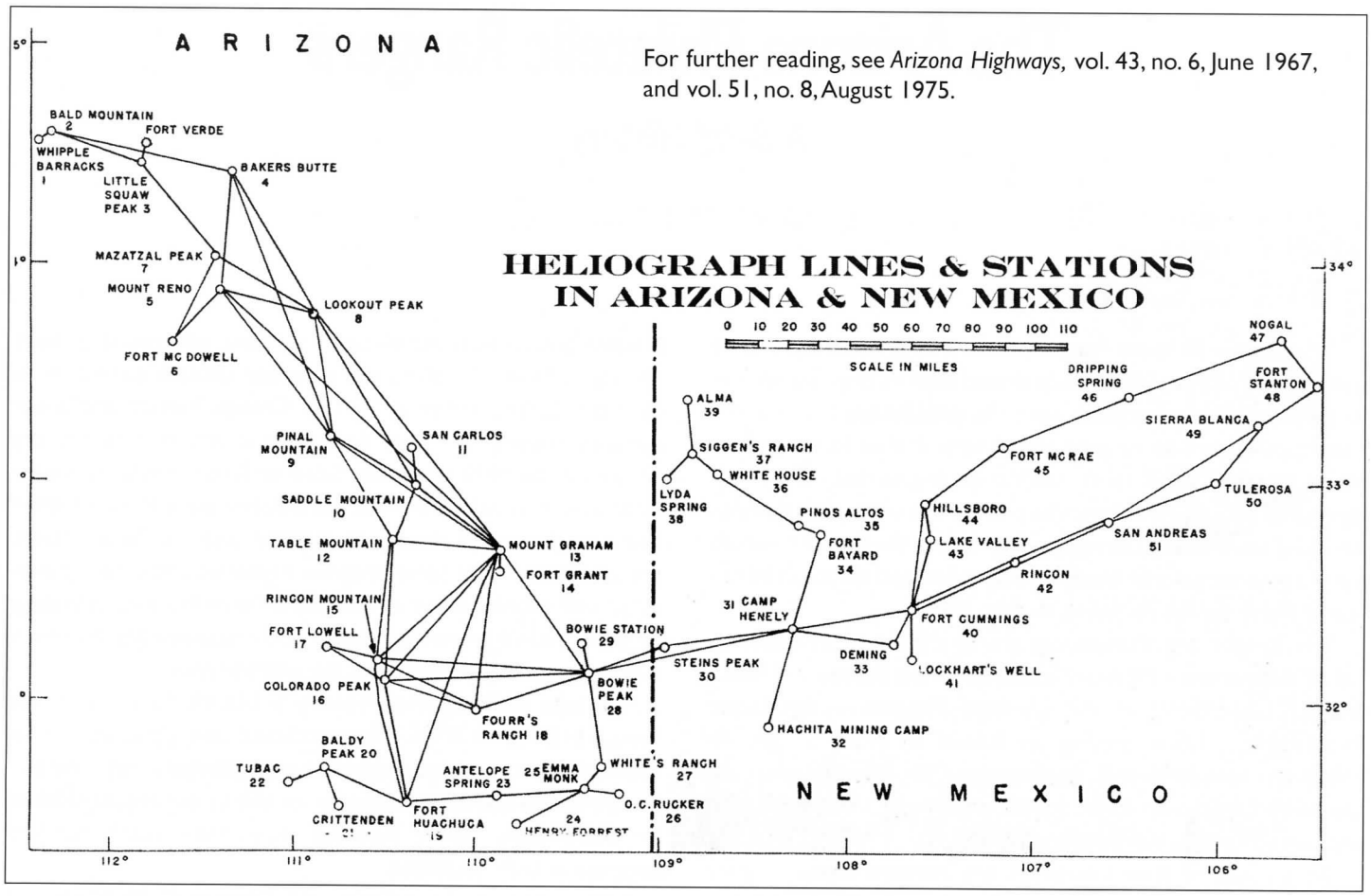
Geronimo and the Heliograph, from Personal Recollections of General Nelson A. Miles.

[Editor's note—-People frequently ask how the name THE HELIOGRAPH was selected for the name of our official publication. In the first issue of our journal, **Charley Towle** explained the invention of the heliograph which, like our journal, is a communication tool. The Postal History Foundation uses this tool to communicate to its members and as a publication outlet for articles from a variety of authors and other sources that we believe will be of interest to our readers. To satisfy the curiosity of all those who have inquired, the following is a reprint of Charley Towle's original article.]

The naming of a philatelic publication poses a most difficult project as over the years a vast number of earlier magazines have used almost every reasonable name under the sun. Temporarily [now permanently—*Ed.*], at least, we have chosen the odd name of THE HELIOGRAPH for several reasons. One of which is, obviously, the centennial of the surrender of Geronimo and Natchez in the Arizona Territory. Using information from the *Personal Recollections of General Nelson A. Miles,* published by Werner Co. in Chicago in 1896, we find that General Miles reported that the heliograph had performed its last and best work in connection with the surrender of two great chiefs at Skeleton Canon, A.T., September 4, 1886, and hence is worthy of recognition as an Arizona tradition.

General Miles was placed in command of the Department of Missouri in July 1885, by President Cleveland and one-quarter of the Army was also placed at his disposal. At this time the Chiricahua Apaches were terrorizing Arizona, New Mexico, and Northern Mexico. After a period of relative quiet, the Apaches had gone on the warpath beginning in May 1885. The Army in the southwest had great communication difficulty and could not keep up with rapidly moving Indian raiding parties. General Miles requested help from General Hazen, Chief Signal Officer, to send corps of skilled officers and men with the best heliograph instruments obtainable. Miles had the Engineers block out the country so that a network of points of observation and communication could be established over an entire area two hundred miles east and west and three hundred miles north and south most frequented by the Apache. On high mountain summits of the region strong posts of infantry guards were stationed with water and provisions to withstand a siege of 30 days. Two to three operators were placed, with from one to five guards. They were given the very best field glasses and telescopes and heliostats mounted on tripods. The heliostat had first been used by the British forces in India and had been used before by General Miles on a small scale in Montana and the Department of Columbia, but he determined to utilize the heliograph fully in the Department of Arizona.

Within a short time the system was fully operational. In tests 25-word messages were sent from the most easterly point to the most westerly and return, a round trip of 800 miles, in four hours. The heliostat alternately interposes and removes an object in front of a mirror that is mounted on a tripod. The sun's rays, so interrupted, can thus show long or short flashes of light which can be used to create letters and words, somewhat similar to a telegraph code. Lt. R.M. Fuller was placed in charge of Arizona Division with fourteen stations, and Lt. E.E. Dravo in charge of New Mexico Division with thirteen stations. Records were kept



For further reading, see *Arizona Highways*, vol. 43, no. 6, June 1967, and vol. 51, no. 8, August 1975.

and soldiers quickly adapted to the new system, especially those from the Signal Corps and telegraph service. The stations, on six- to seven-thousand-foot peaks, were placed against a dark background when possible. Some only communicated with one other, but several such as Bowie Peak, Arizona, reached five other stations. The average distance between stations was 25 to 30 miles. A total of 2,264 messages was sent in Arizona from May 1 to October 1, 1886. The greatest number of messages (807) was from Fort Bowie. Messages averaged about fifty words in length, but 200 words occurred.

The Apaches never did understand the flashes of light from the mountain peaks, but thought they were from the Great Spirits and carefully avoided them. When Geronimo was brought to the Skeleton Canon, to talk about his surrender, General Miles explained the heliostat to him. He was dubious at first, but after the heliograph sent a message to his captive brother at Fort Bowie, 65 miles away, and an answer came right back to Geronimo, he was impressed. So great was his astonishment that he sent a messenger to Natchez to come to the camp and see the heliostat and how the soldiers talked with each other. Chief Natchez soon appeared with his followers and was also greatly impressed by the device. Their surrender followed soon after and hence came General Miles' belief that the heliograph contributed to the Apache surrender.

Apparently, the last use made of the heliograph in Arizona was during the Department of Arizona field exercises in September-October, 1887. A similar device is still in use by the Navy for communication between ships at sea. We decided to adopt this name for our new Western Postal History Museum quarterly publication with the hopes that the sun's rays from our sunny native state can be figuratively utilized to bring postal history and philatelic news to our members in other portions of this extensive philatelic world.

Sir Henry Christopher Mance (1840-1926) was the British scientist and engineer who invented the heliograph. He joined the Persian Gulf Telegraph Dept. of the government of India in 1863 and helped lay the first submarine telegraph cables in the Persian Gulf. After his heliograph was successfully used during the second Anglo-Afghan War, it was adopted generally by the British army and was widely used in India.

The Arizona Philatelic Rangers

A Brief History

By John Birkinbine II

The Arizona Philatelic Rangers evolved forty years ago from a combination of ingredients which shaped both its organization and its purpose. The ingredients were the establishment of a postal history museum, a desire to benefit children in their learning experience by opening the doors stamp collecting to them, and a willingness to roll up one's sleeves to pitch in and work hard towards achieving these goals. During the first decade the purpose requiring the greatest priority became youth education through philately, and this focus has remained so ever since.

The Ranger organization was the brainchild of **William L. "Bill" Alexander**. Bill was the curator of the Stamps and Postal History Department at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon moving to Tucson in 1959 he became acquainted with **Arthur E. Springer** and **Dr. Ray Brandes**, and the three men spearheaded an effort to form a local philatelic organization with a worthwhile purpose.

As a result of their endeavors, the Western Postal History Museum (now the Postal History Foundation) and the Arizona Philatelic Rangers were essentially established at the same time in the fall of 1960, but as separate organizations. The Arizona Philatelic Rangers was formed to be the sponsoring society for the Museum. It was decided to honor the first fifteen enrolled Rangers as Charter Members. The following is a brief description of these early Rangers.

Ranger #l is **Dr. Ray Brandes** who joined on November 9, 1960. He was an official with the Arizona Historical Society. Through his efforts the Western Postal History Museum was made a division of the Arizona Historical Society. The Society provided a small room in their basement for Museum and Ranger administrative purposes, and for the volunteer workers whose main activity was to sort stamps into envelopes by subjects. Some of the volunteers would take those stamps still on paper home to soak in the evenings and on weekends. The tireless efforts of those dedicated volunteers would result in many children learning about stamp collecting.

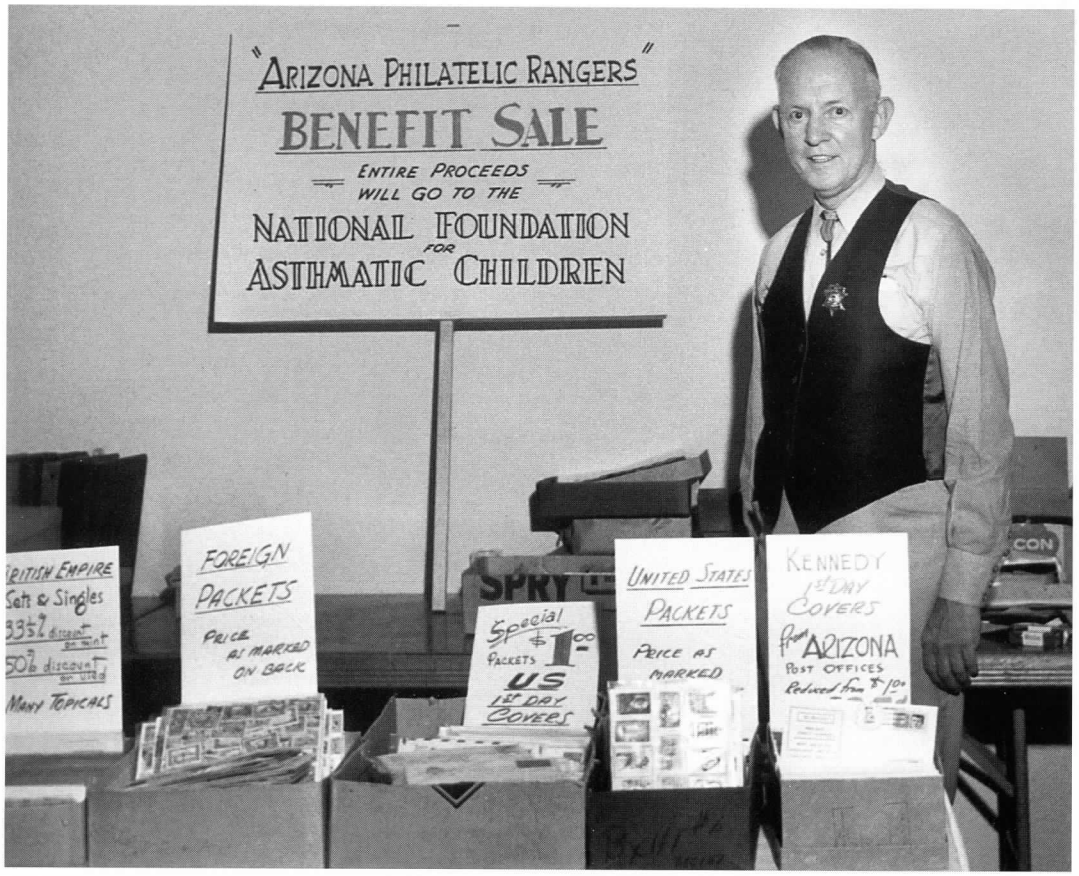
Ranger #2 was **William L. Alexander**. Bill was the first Executive Director of the Museum, serving without compensation for 16 years. It was his concept and his energy that originated both the Museum and the Rangers in 1960, He was instrumental in involving the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children Sahuaro School with the Museum philatelic educational project, starting in 1964. The 50 to 100 asthmatic children came from all over the United States as well as Canada, Mexico and South America, seeking the relief from asthma provided by the dry desert air. In 1969, when the Sahuaro School could no longer function due to lack of finances, the philatelic educational program that was developed there was initiated into the Tucson public school system. That same program continues today, having educated well over a quarter of a million children in stamp collecting, by giving them free stamps, albums, and corresponding lessons in history, geography, cultures, and the arts and sciences.

The next Ranger, #4, was **Henry E. Harris**, Chairman of the famous H.E. Harris & Co. Henry believed strongly in youth education and was an ardent supporter of the Rangers. He constantly contributed albums and supplies for use by the school children for many years, always inquiring about their needs and the progress of their education.

Little is known about Ranger #3, **George E. McElroy**, and Ranger #5, **Norman M. Haas**. As early Rangers they obviously believed in the purposes of the organization. Stamp dealer **James Reynolds** publicly showed support with the local philatelic community when he became Ranger #6 on November 15, 1960.

Raymond H. Weill is Ranger #7. His brother, **Roger G. Weill**, was Ranger #8. The famous Weill brothers have consistently supported the Rangers from the beginning, and have been instrumental in the success of the Western Postal History Museum and Postal History Foundation. Their early donations of stamps were the first major collections received, and really helped a hard working nascent group to meet their goals and to grow into the effective organization that is the Postal History Foundation. Without the Weill brothers, the Museum/Foundation would not be what it is today.

Ranger #9 was **Albert W. Evans**, one of the original founders of the Rangers and a loyal volunteer for many years at the Museum. His devotion to the purposes of the Rangers and his many efforts towards achieving those goals were instrumental in the success of both organizations. **Charles E. Wise** was Ranger #10 and the last person to join the Rangers in 1960. He was an active, constant supporter and was earnestly interested in the development of the Museum and the Rangers.



*Ranger **Bill Alexander** mans the booth for the Benefit Sale for the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children, an early educational program of the Western Postal History Museum and the Arizona Philatelic Rangers.*

Arthur E. Springer enrolled in the Rangers on February 1, 1961, and later was a member of their Board of Directors. Art was a founder of both the Museum and the Rangers, and a tireless volunteer worker ever since the inception of these sister organizations. Art was treasurer of the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children and thus influential in the participation of the Rangers in their Sahuaro School educational program. In 1976 Art became Executive Director of the Western Postal History Museum, and served without any remuneration for eleven years until his retirement at age 80. Under his guidance the Museum building was located, purchased and remodeled with funds donated by Ranger **Stephen D. Bechtel**. His friendliness for all, his sincere concern for others, and complete dedication to the purposes of the Museum and the Rangers resulted in the continued success and growth of both institutions.

Ranger #12 was the well known western artist, **Ernest Cabot**. His jovial nature and concern for youth will always be remembered.

John Birkinbine II became Ranger #13, and later a member of the Board of Directors. In 1987 he was elected Chairman of the Rangers. Under his guidance the Rangers has grown into a nationally recognized organization benefitting philately. He was also responsible for obtaining the generous donation to build the Peggy Slusser Library building.

Ranger #14 was **Walton E. "Gene" Tinsley**. Gene was a consistent supporter of the Ranger projects and was a member of their Board of Directors for many years. His timely guidance of the Rangers was always most helpful and effective.

On March 29, 1961, the last Charter Member of the Rangers was the first woman to enroll, **Omega Williamson**. Omega was the first Dean of Education of the Museum, as was responsible for formulating the policies and programs for the Sahuaro School as well as the later public school projects. She was an active member of the Ranger Board of Directors until her death at age 92.

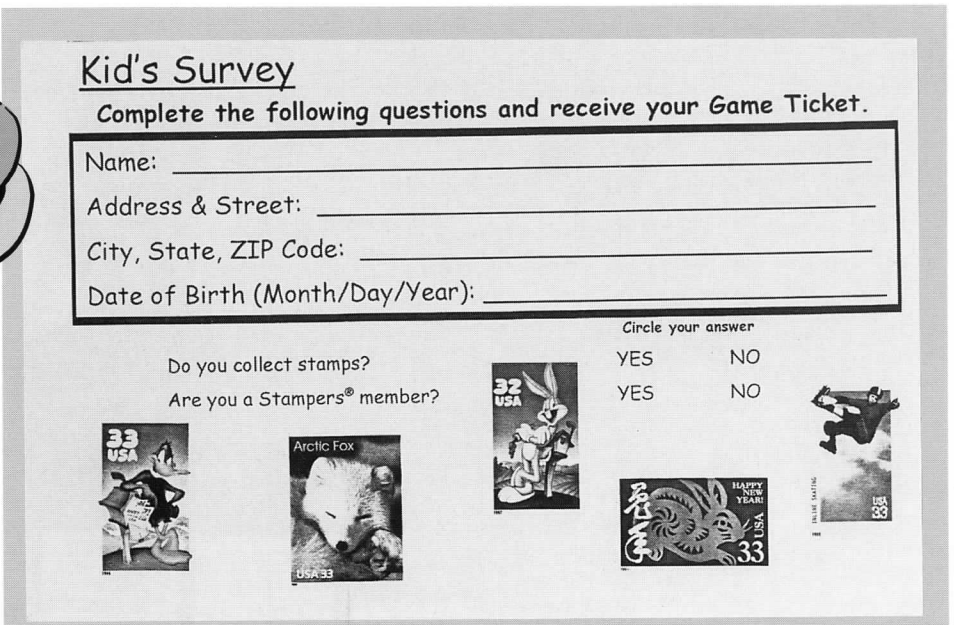
These fifteen Charter Members planted the seed for future Ranger and Museum growth. Many also actively cultivated those seeds over their lifetimes. Today but three Rangers remain from this original group: **Dr. Ray Brandes**, **Raymond Weill**, and **John Birkinbine II**.

Fortunately there are many Rangers who have followed in the footsteps of these Charter Members, philatelists who sincerely care about continuing the hobby through youth education, and who are willing to do something about it. Forty years into the past can be a long time, but with such a solid basis the next forty years can be extremely productive in the efforts towards promoting our wonderful philatelic hobby among young people.



Stampers Stomp at Stamp Expo 2000

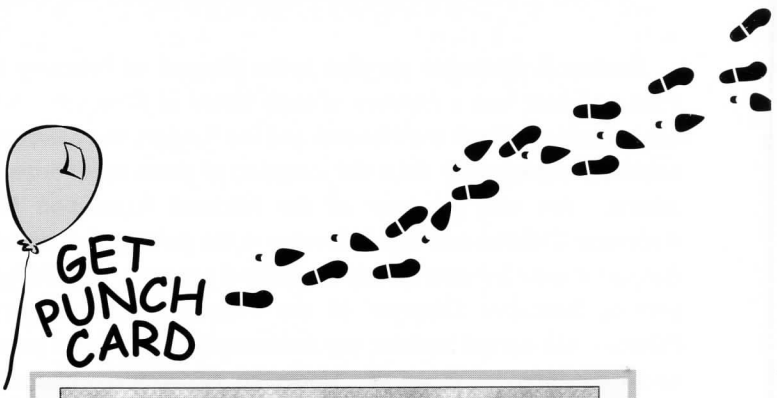
By Robert B. Bechtel



The Stampers youth area at Expo 2000 was a busy place. The large size of the Exposition Hall at Anaheim was deceptive. There was the feeling that nothing could fill the space. The Stampers exhibit seemed to take up a whole acre. Even with 20 to 30 children and parents engaged in activities, the place still looked empty. It was designed for children 8 to 12 years of age, but older and younger kids were seen, along with many parents. After passing through the balloon-festooned entrance, Stampers were asked to register and then each was given a punch card.

The Postal History Foundation, in addition to developing the computer programs used at the Stampers exhibit, also helped the children mail the stamps they designed. After making the rounds of the activity centers and having their punch cards validated, with plastic sacks of earned goodies in hand, the children would come to the Postal History Foundation table. There they would be taught how to mail their stamp designs using the address labels and cachets and stamps provided by Avery Denison. Many children had never mailed a letter, and it was with some excitement that they slipped the designs in envelopes, licked them, and dropped them in the mail box. The old mail box provided by the USPS proved a thrill as the final act of mailing tested the strength of many children in pulling down the heavy metal cover. After this, there was always a quick turn-around to face the applause with a smile.

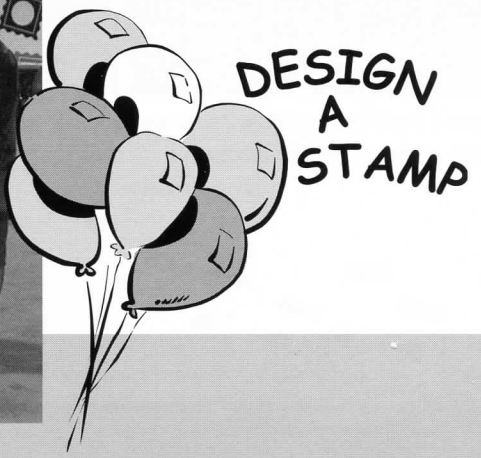
Our Director, Betsy Towle; Board Member Louise Christian; Board Chairman, Bob Bechtel; and many local volunteers helped keep the crowds moving. Estimates were 300 children in attendance for each of the ten days of the Expo. Gift packages, each containing a T-shirt, a stamp album, stamp pins, stamp programs and other memorabilia, were provided by various organizations such as the American Stamp Dealers Association, the US Postal Service, and other entrepreneurs.

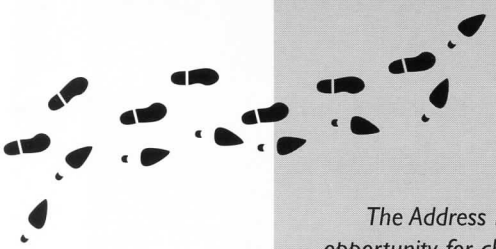


Each Stampers activity was represented on the punch card. Children were to visit at least six of the activities and have their participation validated by a postal employee.



The Design-A-Stamp kiosk allowed the children to manipulate clip art in the computer to come up with their own stamp designs. These would be printed out so they could would have their own designs.





The Address Labels kiosk provided the opportunity for children to enter their own address information and print out peelable labels, which they would use upon exit to mail their own stamp designs to themselves.









At Stamps Around the World, children could discover and keep a selection of stamps from other countries.





The Stamp Wizard area gave children the opportunity to soak stamps off paper and to learn how to preserve them for their albums.



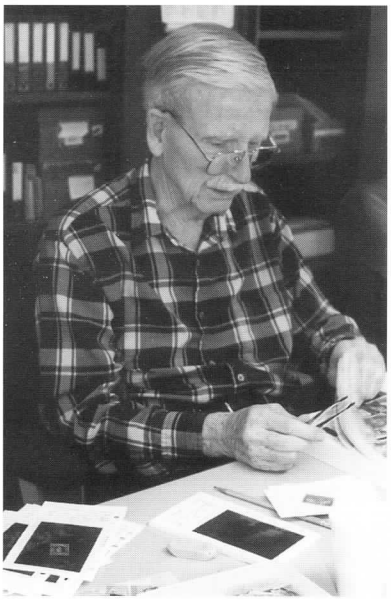
Pencil and paper activities were available also, in the form of puzzles and trivia sheets for older children at Stamp Adventure and younger children could color outlines of stamps at Future Stampers.



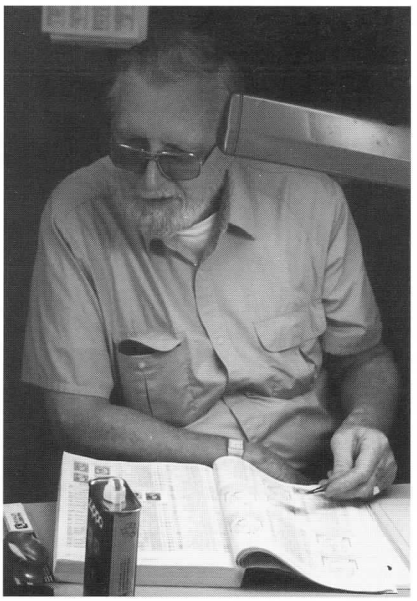






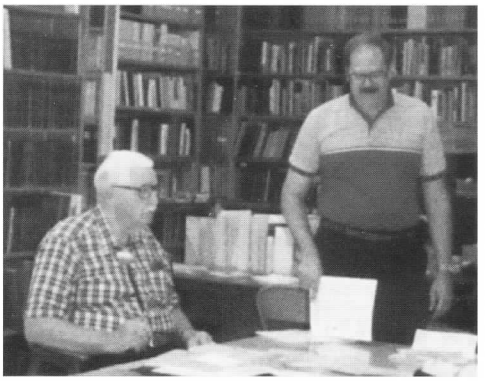


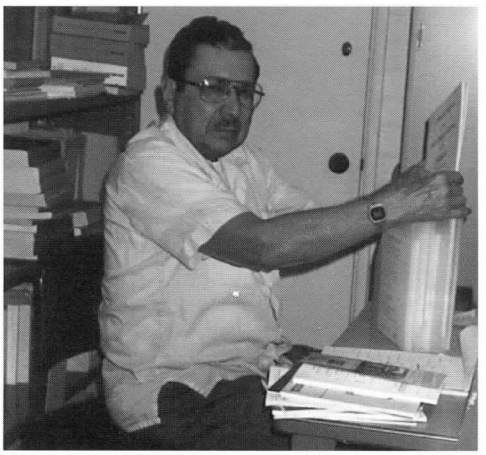
Jim Boylan



Warren Franzen

Charles Towle and Doug Kelsey, a former Director

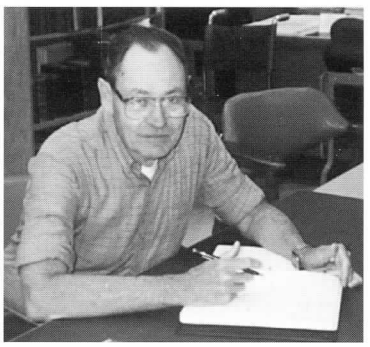




Howard Moser

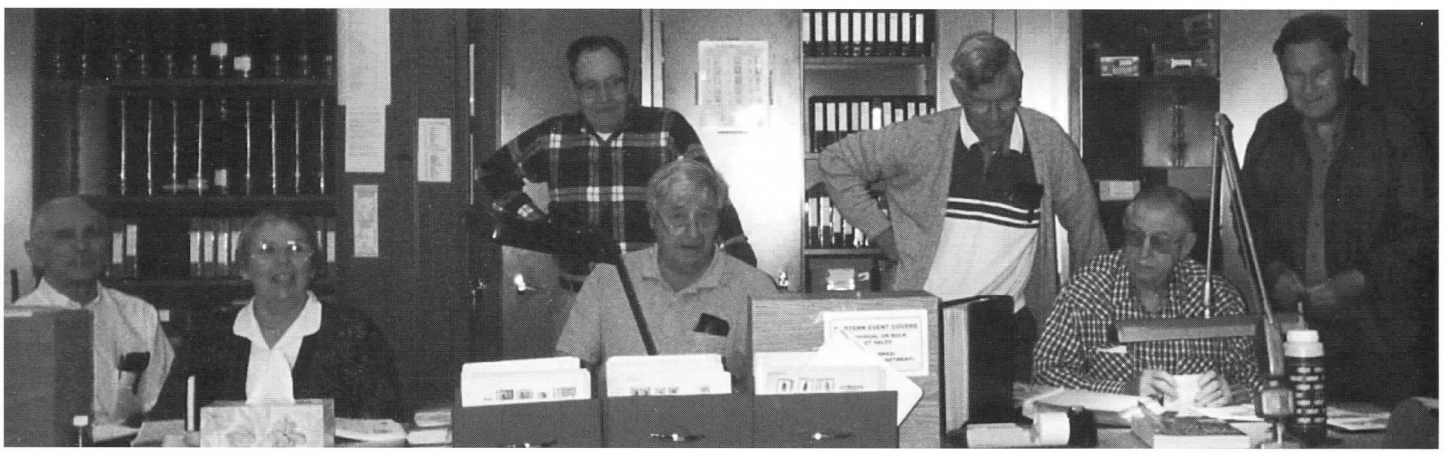


Charles Nettleship, Jr., and Arthur Springer, 1990



Bob Peck

Sales department volunteers, March 1999, left to right: Marvin Weisbard, Eileen Weisbard, Bob Peck, "Doc" Vivian, Alex Lutgendorf, Al Kuhn, Chuck Laubly



In the Winter Issue of *The Heliograph*

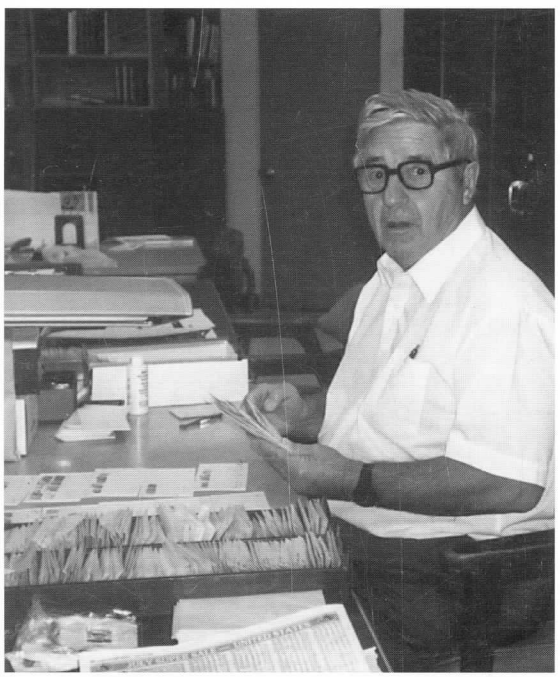
Postal History Foundation board member and former president of the American Philatelic Society, F. Burton Sellers, examines the *Philatelic Ramifications of a Military Occupation,* as he follows the U.S. involvement in Haitian politics. Illustrating with rare covers and cancels, Sellers focuses on the philately of the 1915-1934 period, including air post and ship mail.











"A man who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

—Henry Ford