

This Day in History... September 13, 1886

Founding of the APS

On September 13, 1886, a group of stamp collectors met in New York City to establish what would become the American Philatelic Society.

After the first official US postage stamps were issued in 1847, a small group of people began saving these relics, recognizing the history they represented. Over time, more and more people became stamp collectors, reaching about 25,000 collectors in the 1880s.

In 1886, a group of prominent philatelists met and began talking about the possibility of forming a national organization of collectors. That April, they formed The Committee on National Organization and printed an announcement calling for interested collectors to write in and see if they would want to join such an organization.



Issued at the request of collectors that wanted a "stamp of their own."



Stamps issued for the APS's convention in Chicago during the Century of Progress Exposition.

Eventually, about 400 collectors answered the advertisement, agreeing to assist in creating the organization. A few months later, 40 interested collectors met in New York City on September 13. As *The American Philatelist* later noted, "When one considers the distances involved and the means of transportation available at the time, to have attracted that many participants is no small indication of interest in the formation of a national organization." The attendees selected a committee and chose the name American Philatelic Association. That day also marked the very first annual convention, known today as StampShow.

The following day the committee selected John K. Tiffany as their first president. They also adopted a constitution and bylaws. Members would pay \$2 per year in exchange for several convenient services. They had a purchasing department that worked to provide older issues for face value, an exchange department to trade in duplicate stamps, a library department, and a counterfeit department to identify fraudulent stamps.

In 1897, the group briefly changed their name to the American Philatelic Society, but quickly changed it back within a few months. They changed the name again in 1908 and it has remained the

American Philatelic Society since then.

Today the APS is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting organization with over 25,000 members. In fact, Mystic President Don Sundman has sponsored more than 8,00 new members since 1985!



Issued for 1934 convention and exhibition in Atlantic City, NJ.



Issued for the 100th anniversary of the APS. It was the first US commemorative booklet and was on sale for just 60 to 90 days.

Mystic Stamp Company • Camden, NY 13316

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