

# WOMEN WHO STAMP

Exploring the lack of women in formal philatelic organizations, and empowering more women to revolutionize the face of philately.

Stacy Adam, MFA in Integrated Design

University of Baltimore, Fall 2022

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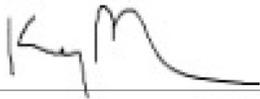
STACY ADAM



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MEGAN RHEE, THESIS CHAIR

*Director, MFA Integrated Design, Klein Family School of Communications Design,  
Yale Gordon College of Arts & Sciences at University of Baltimore*



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KYLE MEIKLE, THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER

*Director, BA Digital Communication, Klein Family School of Communications Design,  
Yale Gordon College of Arts & Sciences at University of Baltimore*



research

## Introduction

When I first began collecting stamps in 2017, I shared the common belief that philately (the collection and study of stamps) was a hobby largely dominated by older men. The demographic numbers of many philatelic organizations support this stereotype. In 2019, the American Philatelic Society (APS)—one of the most prominent stamp collecting organizations—showed an average age of 71 years old, with women making up only 9% of their 29,021 members (Johnson). This percentage decreased to 8% in 2022 (Masorti). Even the common stamp collecting slogan, “The hobby of kings, and the king of hobbies,” made me feel as if women were a rarity instead of the norm when it came to stamp collecting. However, social media platforms—like Instagram—present an entirely different reality. As a new, young, female stamp collector, I’ve spent a lot of time connecting with other women on social media who have interests in stamps, postmarks, stamp chain cards, postcards, and other mail-related ephemera. The APS demographics shocked me because from my position, 9% did not seem like an accurate representation of the number of women interested in philatelic subjects.

While pursuing more information regarding the low female membership, I contacted Lisa Foster, the president of WE: Women Exhibitors, an organization supported by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), who expressed that, to her knowledge, little research had been conducted in this area specifically. While Mrs. Foster was not able to direct me to research on women in philately specifically, she did provide documentation from the Summit on the Future of Philately held in 2016 by the American Philatelic Center on ways to increase interest in philatelic organizations. In all ten pages of the document, it does not mention recruiting women specifically.

Since 2000, overall membership for the APS has dropped from over 52,000 members to less than 28,000 (English). One would think that targeting women—who make up an estimated 50.5% of the US population according to the United States Census Bureau—would be an obvious solution. However, when discussing what can be done to save stamp collecting, engaging a new audience has primarily been focused on youth, and while that has merit, it fails to address a large portion of the population (women) who should be tapped into as well. While John M. Hotchner, writer for *U.S. Stamp News*, has noticed a slow increase in female participation, he admits that there is still a lot to be done. He writes that although he feels women “can and should play an important role in the hobby,” that “the record is mixed” on this sentiment, and questions why the APS is not able to hold onto its female membership.

To gain a better understanding of why female philatelists are so rare in this hobby, I began researching the history of stamp collecting and philatelic organizations.

## History of Stamp Collecting

Philatelic organizations (dating back to the 1840s) have consistently excluded women from the hobby despite the fact that two of the first collectors were women: a young woman from Dublin documented as C. Barrington; and another woman, Angela Lascelles, a member of the British royal family (Lawrence, “Part 1”). Women clearly played an early role in stamp collecting, yet when philatelic organizations and societies began to emerge in the 1860s—such as The Societe Philatelique de Paris and the American Philatelic Association (APA)—most were structured as fraternal organizations. They created a “brotherhood” mentality around stamp collecting, despite active female involvement with stamps from the beginning. While discussing the history of philatelic organizations in her recent electronic monograph, *Stamping American Memory*, Sheila Brennan reveals that, “Women collected stamps privately, but were not welcomed in most philatelic clubs.” She notes that some of the first gatherings in Paris during the 1860s were hosted and attended by women to trade their duplicate stamps. Around that same time in the United States, the *Boston Daily Advertiser* produced an article that referred to stamp collecting as “a young ladies’ ‘mania’” (Lawrence, “Part 1”). Decades later, magazines such as the *Ladies’ Home Journal* advertised that stamp collecting was “a proper way for middle-class women to spend their leisure time,” and “[w]omen were well suited to the pastime because it involved creativity—when arranging a collection—that capitalized on their ‘natural artistic tastes’” (Brennan). Brennan continues by uncovering a divide in mentality between what these publications were advocating for, and how many philatelists viewed the subject:

This style of collecting and using stamps by women was seen by some club philatelists, as noted by one in 1919, as lacking “the great principles of philately.” Those principles emerged with the establishment of a network of philatelic clubs in the 1870s, ‘80s, and ‘90s that guided members to organize and analyze stamps in particular ways. Club philatelists, for example, never advocated decorating with stamps, but rather urged collectors to protect and save stamps carefully in albums. Since collecting and presenting stamps in those ways were not valued by philatelists, most material evidence of those pieces was not saved.

While philatelic organizations all seemed to agree that stamps shouldn’t be used for decoration, various schools of thought emerged in European countries which were at odds with each other, disagreeing about the extent to which stamps should be studied. In France, principles emerged that considered paper, perforations, and variations, while the English school focused on design, historical themes, and location. In 1868, a philatelist of the English school wrote, “It is my earnest desire to point out the absurdity and futility of the extremes practised by the [French]” (Pendragon). These “extremes” would soon become the foundations of philately.

Simultaneously, in the United States when the APA's second president, Charles Karuth, noticed its membership was largely made up of "collectors" and not "philatelists," he encouraged members to engage in the actual study of stamps, in order to set them apart from "schoolboys who swapped stamps" (Brennan). Even when philatelic organizations were striving to expand their membership, they required applicants to be sponsored by a current member, denying membership to women and minorities. Additionally, many clubs took on names like "The Sons of Philatelia" and the "Philatelic Sons of America" that stressed a male dominance, excluding girls and women (Brennan).

*See Appendix A for examples of "brotherhood" mentality.*

Another factor contributing to female exclusion was the increased cost to collectors who wanted to obtain certain stamps to fill their album. In a 1999 issue of *Stamp Collector*, Robert Dalton and Diane Deblois highlight the research of Steven Gelber that states, "stamp collecting became motivated by 'marketplace' values circa 1860. And, since both men and women then perceived 'dealing' as inappropriate feminine behavior, women were discouraged from this commodity-driven hobby." Women now found themselves unable to join societies, and even unable to purchase stamps to add to their collections.

With all these barriers put in place to discourage and prevent women from participating, it is no wonder that the APA (which had no rules against women joining) only reported five female members in 1889. Brennan's research notes that, "Most women, it appears, gave up on applying to clubs created in the late nineteenth century... Even as late as 1990, one of the most exclusive clubs still did not allow female members." While women gave up on prominent societies, many joined small clubs with less rules or began forming their own organizations, like the Women's Philatelic Society of New York, which published a successful newsletter, the *Philatelette*, and hosted many exhibits, including one at the 1940s New York World's Fair during a Women's Philatelic Week (Ganz 1144).

In the 1970s, with the progress of the Equal Rights Movement many larger organizations began allowing women to join and, as a result, women-only groups began to disperse (Ganz 1145). While current membership numbers show there is still a need for more female representation, there is only one philatelic organization that is committed to mentoring, educating, and building confidence in women who are interested in competitive philatelic exhibiting: WE: Women Exhibitors. WE is a group supported by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) that was formed in 2007 and is still active today. WE is a great resource that supports women in philately, however its focus is on helping women who already identify as philatelists. In my conversations and research, I've yet to find a female-focused organization or club whose main goal is to recruit women and girls into the hobby.

It's worth mentioning that the exclusion of women was not limited to philatelic organizations, as a woman did not even appear on a postage stamp the United States until 1893, nearly fifty years after the first stamps were issued. Then, it took another forty-five years (in 1938) for a woman to be selected to design postage stamps after winning an open competition (Parker). With such minimal representation on stamps, in the production of stamps, and in the organizations that promote stamp collecting, it is hardly surprising women have been slow to identify as a philatelist.

## “Legitimate” Philately

An issue that stems from the early days of philately and persists today is commonly referred to as “stamp snobbery.” Collectors with this mentality still believe that there are only certain items worth collecting and will voice their opinion without hesitation. For example, while topical or thematic collecting became popular in the 1930s, it was “stifled by silence” in philately groups, and it wasn't until the 1950s that it was accepted as a competitive philatelic exhibition class. Today, it is the most common way collectors enter the hobby and is believed to be the way many women collected during the “interwar years” (Rogan 49). Even with the success of the American Topical Association (an APS affiliated organization), thematic collecting is still often considered a lesser form of philately by some in the hobby.

John L. Leszark has observed years of male philatelists and dealers taking issue with women collecting thematically (and women collecting in general). He addressed this issue 25 years ago in an article for *Meekeel's Stamps*:

I believe that philately is and should be cherished as the great equalizer of society. People with opinions, hatred, annoyance and other foolish trappings should be required to leave their emotional baggage at the door before entering a stamp show.

Philately is not a battleground for the ills of society. All philatelists have an equal opportunity to collect what they wish and how they wish without outside influence or other agitation.

No gender is better than the other when it comes stamp collecting. All that matters is that the individual collector takes joy in the collection that one assembles.

Philatelic research is a wonderful tool. It too has no gender bias. If you take a stroll through an exhibit at a major show, it's impossible to distinguish whether a male or a female designed a particular exhibit.

Philatelists should not discriminate against collecting preferences or gender, and women need to be viewed as valuable members of the hobby. Richard Lehmann shares a similar sentiment in his article “Growing Philately,” he wrote, “Women should be a target audience for philatelic organizations... There is no evidence that women are less susceptible to general collecting as well, but no marketing effort or studies have been conducted to determine how this can be changed... How can we change this?” There are many solutions to the future of philately, but one thing is certain: it must include women.

## Male and Youth Centered Marketing in Philately

As we have seen, the topic of women in philately has been discussed in the past, however it never seems to gain any momentum or resolve. In a 1996 issue of *Mekeel's Weekly and Stamps*, John F. Dunn wrote about the severe lack of advertising and marketing geared towards women in philately. He stated:

While it is more obvious at stamp shows than elsewhere, the same male dominance pervades the philatelic media and the manner in which we present our hobby to the outside world. Most ads and news releases are written by men, and constructed with the male reader in mind. Look at the ads and articles in this publication and you can sense the male presence all the way through its pages, with only a glimmer now and then of the feminine side of the hobby.

*See Appendix B for examples of male-dominance in Mekeel's Weekly and Stamps.*

More recently, some steps have been taken from large organizations to promote women in the hobby, but it has been sporadic with little consistency. For example, in 2018 the APS revamped their website, including a “We can do it!” women’s empowerment stamp on the large hero image of the homepage. Then, in 2020 they devoted an entire issue to women in philately during Women’s History Month. However, several years later the homepage on their website has removed the large hero image, and now you must click and scroll to find any evidence of women’s participation in stamp collecting. Also, in a section titled “Who Collects Stamps?” the APS is still using the antiquated tagline, “the hobby of kings and the king of hobbies.” Additionally, in that same section, they only include one woman in their list of famous stamp collectors. Instead, they have an entire page devoted to “Youth in Philately” with information on their Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship (ages 16-24) and their Young Stamp Collectors of America virtual stamp club (ages 6-17). They also have a page for educators that includes a Stamps Teach program and lesson plans. Even though the youth have been harder to engage and are less likely to stick with the hobby through their young adulthood, it still seems to be where their marketing efforts are directed.

## Technology and Philately

While youth have consistently been the focus of recruitment into philately, women also must be viewed as a necessary component to increasing membership because with new, enticing technologies—computers, video games, smart phones, and social media—engaging a young audience has become a challenge (Messerschmidt). Despite this challenge, in many ways technology can help by appealing to young adults—primarily Millennials and Generation Z. In 2005, the Postcrossing.com project was created to connect like-minded people who want to receive mail and postcards. The website now has over 800,000 members from 208 countries, and 65% of its users are female (.4% are neutral and 19.6% did not answer). With more and more people trying to disconnect from social media, Postcrossing.com has leveraged technology while giving people the opportunity to step away from their smart phones. Messerschmidt agrees with this point:

And even as technology continues to grow, there has also been a bit of a rebirth in the popularity of actual letter writing—by hand. Oddly enough, the Internet has helped—rather than hindered—this trend, as “pen pal” web sites have sprung up in considerable numbers, and postcard exchange sites like Post Crossing have made it possible for people to connect and send each other millions of pieces of handwritten mail—something those who feared email would kill stamp collecting never foresaw.

Suzanne Rae, managing director of the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), agrees with this sentiment sharing in an interview for *The Guardian*, “Philately is gaining popularity among millennials, many of whom see the creative pursuit as an escape from their screen-based lives,” she adds, “It’s also very Instagrammable. Twitter and Instagram enable young collectors to find people like them, and see that it’s not only a geeky old man’s pursuit” (Mowbray).

In my own experience and exploration of social media sites like Instagram, I’ve seen a large percentage of women who show interest in stamp collecting on various levels, which reflects Postcrossing.com’s statistics. A report conducted by the Council of Philatelic Organizations (COPO) supports this observation. During the survey, they uncovered that while “[s]tamp clubs and philatelic newspapers have a very low percentage of women members and readers, [...] more than half the active stamp collectors who responded in the survey were women” (Winick). Although this survey was conducted in 1987, its results still mirror Postcrossing.com’s current statistics and my own recent observations. However, in the “Future of Philately” summit notes conducted by the American Philatelic Center in 2016, the organization does not mention women at all (American Philatelic Center). Instead, they refer to a more vague term: “hidden” collectors, which given the female presence on sites like Instagram and Postcrossing.com, along with the COPO survey, one can assume these “hidden” collectors are primarily women.

## Research Statement

As we've seen throughout history, women have not been well represented in philately, and this was not limited to participation in organizations or depictions on stamps. Women have largely been ignored in advertisements and other forms of marketing as well. While this lack of inclusion was clearly intentional in the past, little has been done to change the image of philately and make women feel welcomed in the hobby today.

My goal is to encourage women to become more active participants in philately. Social media will be my primary source of reaching women with interests related to philately and encouraging them to participate. Because philately is such a tactile hobby, in addition to social media I am writing and designing a book to show that there is no right or wrong way to collect—anyone can be a philatelist. This book will primarily feature interviews with a variety of women in philately but will also include the history of our exclusion in philately and the achievements of women who thrived despite the obstacles. The book and social media will work together, inspiring more women to call themselves a philatelist and change the “old man” perception of the philatelic community. I believe this project will benefit anyone interested in women's studies and women's history. Further, it will contribute to the larger conversation regarding the importance of female representation in marketing, outreach, and communications.



discovery

## Surveys

Although history reveals why stamp collecting was considered a “man’s hobby,” very little research has been conducted on why the male dominance still prevails. What we do know is that a statistic from *Linn’s Stamp News* in 2017 show that only 7% of readers were women (down from 13% in 1996), and the APS’s 8% female membership is nearly the same percentage as twenty years ago (Hotchner). Because this research doesn’t exist, it was crucial to create a survey to uncover some of the reasons for the continued gender divide in philately. I also wanted to gain a better understanding of the philatelic and stamp collecting interests of women versus men. I was fortunate to gain some early support for this research, and the survey was circulated on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Prominent Twitter accounts, such as the APS (@APS\_stamps) and Exploring Stamps with Graham Beck (@ExploringStamps), as well as Facebook groups like American Postage Stamps and Postcrossing/PostcardSwapping, distributed my survey generating a wide range of responses. An additional survey was created and distributed to women in philately to determine their thoughts on this topic and what can be done about it.

These surveys were both qualitative and quantitative in nature and responses were anonymous. They provided necessary insight on stamp collectors’ demographics (gender identity and age), as well as their views on social media preferences, collecting interests, thoughts on women in philately, and uncovered why some female snail-mail enthusiasts and stamp collectors do not consider themselves philatelists. The surveys also gathered information on what content would be of highest interest to share on social media and use in a book.

*See Appendix C for survey questions.*

The results proved to be quite interesting, demonstrating that there is a shared perception from women that they should not (or would not) consider themselves philatelists, despite having similar interests as their male counterparts. They are also less likely to attend in person events for fear they will be judged or treated poorly.

The survey had equal participation from both men and women (67 responses from women, 69 responses from men). The results showed that 82% of the women who participated in the survey collect stamps, 88% of the women are interested in the history of stamps, 87% are interested in postal history, and 85% are interested in how stamps are created, but only 58% consider themselves philatelists. Alternately, 96% of male respondents collect stamps, 94% are interested in the history of stamps, 86% are interested in postal history, 83% are interested in how stamps are developed, but unlike women, 87% consider themselves philatelists.

One of the survey questions asked: "If you are not a current member of an organization/club, what would entice you to join?" The most common answers correlated directly to the "old days" of collecting and the stringent regulations put forth in philatelic societies. Participants responded:

"Younger members, and yes, more female members. It really is an old man's club right now."

"I collect some stamps for fun. My collection is quite chaotic. I don't think I would join any group of real experienced collectors."

"I would be too nervous to join because I feel that I do not know much about stamps and their history and would be afraid to feel like an amateur."

Other responses were based more on the lack of outreach and knowledge on what clubs are available and how to become involved with them:

"Better awareness of what's available near me!"

"I didn't find any clubs or organization to join."

"I don't know how to approach it."

Additionally, some participants said they would feel better knowing of other women collectors who would be attending shows and club meetings would be beneficial.

Many of these issues can be resolved with more inclusive marketing and communication across all platforms of outreach. For example, when promoting events, advertisements should include copy and imagery that conjures a welcoming environment for people at all levels of collecting and with a variety of philatelic interests. Additionally, social media posts, websites, and publications should show female collectors enjoying the hobby. Women must be consistently targeted for it to make an impact.

Since philatelic organizations have seemed to struggle with this, something needs to be done to bridge this gap and unite women in the hobby. When survey participants were asked to rank what topics would be of most interest from 1 to 5 (5 being of most interests) information about stamps received the highest average rating (4.31 average). Reading interviews with other female stamp collectors received a 3.7 average, and coming in very closely was learning the history of stamp collecting with a 3.66 average rating.

This information has served as a helpful guide to create content that will continue to engage a variety of followers on social media and create interest in the book. Since social media will be my primary platform to connect with women, I decided alternating the top three interests (stamp information, quotes, and history) would keep the content posted compelling and the variety would appeal to each

follower's preferences. While quotes and snippets of history would be shared on social media, since posts are limited to a certain amount characters the focus of the book would be the interviews and an in-depth look at the history of women in philately. With many books already written on the "Fathers of Philately" or "The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors" (which lists only one woman in its two volume set), it's time for women to get the credit they deserve (Housman). With this research complete and my plan in place, my next step was to begin interviewing women in philately.

*See Appendix D for survey results.*

## Interviews

When this phase began, I was fortunate that I had already started making connections with women and men in philately. They were able to help me compile a list of potential interviewees. While I gathered contact information, I was simultaneously working on a consent form, writing the interview questions, and taking a required training course through the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of Baltimore. After I received my student research certification, I submitted the interviewee consent form and interview questions to the IRB and received the final set of approvals in order to begin interviews.

*See Appendix E for student research certificates.*

*See Appendix F for documents prepared for IRB Review.*

With most of the women spread around the country and world, it would have been difficult to conduct in-person interviews from the start, so even though the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns were happening just as I was entering the interview phase, it didn't interfere with my next steps too much. I decided that I wanted each woman to be able to take time and thoughtfully answer the questions I was asking, so I chose email interviews over phone or video calls. Additionally, I requested any imagery of their collections they could share with me. In total, I received responses from 15 women on the initial round of interview questions. I followed up with 11 of those women with additional questions, but only received answers to those follow up questions from 7 participants. I then sent a third round of follow up questions to 3 interviewees and received replies from each of them.

*See Appendix G for full interviews.*

## COVID's Effect on Philately

While COVID didn't interfere with my interviews, it did have an impact on philately. Some say it forced many hobbyists to finally embrace technology. We began seeing virtual conferences, philatelic exhibits being scanned and shared online, webinars, virtual stamp chats, and more interaction on social media.

People who were once unable to travel (even prior to the pandemic) could now participate in many different events all over the world. Some argue that the lack of in-person events has hurt a hobby that is sustained by attendance at stamp shows and auctions. While this has merit for stamp businesses, it's hard to ignore the benefits to the collector. This is especially true for women who often don't feel welcomed by stamp dealers. In 1996, John F. Dunn wrote:

And so, a new collector, feminine gender, enters the show. The first turn-off is the appearance of too many of the dealers ... paunches hanging over sagging jeans ... and their booths, complete with shoe-boxes, cartons, and handscrawled signs... [sic]

Turn-off number two will be the condescending treatment a female collector will most likely receive. She may be an accomplished philatelist, but more often than not she will be treated as if she knew nothing about stamp collecting. And even if she is new to the hobby—but eager and able to learn—she still will be treated as a second-class collector, while a new male collector will be treated with deference—"a live prospect."

That may have been written over 25 years ago, but unfortunately not much has changed. In 2019, a female collector responded to a Facebook post from the APS saying, "...when I go into a stamp shop, more often than not I am confronted by gray haired men who have no interest in taking me seriously. That's a bummer and makes me just go back indoors to my stamps and researching online" (Sheffield). Online and social media platforms have created safe spaces for women to learn, share, encourage, and grow their collections however they choose.

## Defending Online Philately

While philately saw an increase in online activity due to COVID, six months into the pandemic a Canadian philatelic society, the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), published an article in their bi-annual publication, *Flash*, that questioned online philately. The author, Colin Fraser stated that, "many of these social media influencers seem to have no real connection to whatever it is they are promoting," then added, "Some would ask legitimately whether any of this is even philately." These statements created an uproar for any philatelist who uses social media and other online platforms to share their knowledge, build relationships, and learn from others.

In response to Fraser's article, Graham Beck, a well-known YouTube philatelist who is backed by the APS and is a PTS award recipient, shared a passionate video response that stated:

If anybody tells you that you are not a philatelist because of the way that you collect and study stamps, they're wrong, and you just have to ignore them. I've been told this many times by different people... there was a quote from a Vice-Chair of [sic] a philatelic research foundation, that was commenting about my [YouTube] channel and said, "It's not philately, but it is stamp collecting, educational, fun and brilliantly done." Well, I'm glad they like it, but they are wrong. This is philately. You define philately based on the way you want to collect and how you want to study stamps.

James Gavin, known as The Digital Philatelist, also responded:

The failure to adopt common, modern technology has led to a decrease in collectors joining philatelic organisations but not a decline in the hobby... How we operated as a hobby in the 1960's will not bring new people into the hobby. This does not mean the hobby is in decline. Collectively, we need to adjust our expectations and consider how the hobby has changed, especially since the beginning of the 2000's.

Luckily, not every established organization shares Fraser's opinion. Prior to the *Flash* article and COVID, the APS was already promoting the use of social media. In a 2018 *American Philatelist* article, Martin Miller wrote, "...when we communicate with the right audience, in the right channel, we can grow the society and strengthen the hobby... We just have to make sure our message is welcoming and that we are open to collecting methods that vary from our own. Regardless of age and experience, an enthusiast will promote the hobby along with us." This message is so important for experienced, lifelong philatelists to hear.

The hobby is not dying, it's just changing.

## Philatelic Community's Interest and Support

Throughout my research and development process, many people have supported my thesis work. In December 2019, after completing the initial surveys, WE president Lisa Foster recommended I submit an article proposal for the March 2020 issue of *American Philatelist* that was being devoted to women for Women's History Month. Not only was my article selected to appear in the same issue with philatelic experts such as Cheryl R. Ganz, Patricia A. Kaufmann, and Marjory J. Sente, but they used my article title, "The Hobby of Kings... and Queens," as inspiration for the magazine's cover design. In that article I discussed my survey results, the history of women in philately, and a newer stamp hobby that is driven through Instagram (stamp chain cards). At that time the APS had over 27,000 members who

all received a copy of the magazine in either print or digital format. After the *American Philatelist* article was published, the editor received a letter from a female reader about her experience at her local stamp club. They reached out to me and published both her letter and my response (Johnston).

[See Appendix H for article, letter, and response.](#)

That same month I was asked by the APS to participate in a virtual stamp chat about my article, thesis work, and my views on women in philately. With 17 active participants, including 4 women other than myself, the conversation was lively and engaging. We discussed what we thought philately was and could be, what and how we collect, and even the ways that some philatelist will discredit others and the harm that does to the hobby. We also talked about how to engage a new audience using various social media platforms. The stamp chat, which was recorded and housed on the APS's YouTube page, currently has 746 views.

[See Appendix I for APS Stamp Chat on YouTube.](#)

Following that article and stamp chat, Jack R. Congrove wrote an article about women in philately for *WE Expressions*, citing my article and survey results as valuable insight for stamp clubs and organizations. In the next issue of *WE Expressions*, Lisa Foster promoted my article and stamp chat. The following year, WE asked if I could write a follow-up informing their readers of my research progress and next steps with my thesis work. Since then, I have published two other stamp-related articles in *WE Expressions*.

[See Appendix J for WE Expressions thesis update article.](#)

In the fall of 2022, I was interviewed by a 16 year old Girl Scout who created social media accounts called "Philatelist E." This online presence was developed as part of a Gold Award project, one of the most prestigious awards that can be achieved in the Girl Scouts (Gold Award). The mission of Philatelist E. is to make exploring history through stamps fun while choosing topics that interest each individual, and also to serve as a call for people to feel confident in their unique hobbies. As part of the process to earn the Gold Award, a scout must identify an issue they are passionate about and form a team of experts who can help. The topics we discussed in the interview included: why we started collecting stamps, our favorite themes and stamps, why philately is still important today, and how my interest in addressing the lack of women in philately began. Our interview was recorded and shared on YouTube. It will be used to model this requirement of the patch program she is also developing as part of this project.

[See Appendix K for Interview with Philatelist E on YouTube.](#)



design

## Background

Using the research conducted and the skills acquired during my time in the Master of Fine Arts program in Integrated Design, I was able to identify my audience and address the best method of communication to engage with them. Further, I utilized the design and typographic principles taught throughout the program. Courses such as Information Design, Book Design, Words and Images, Visual and Verbal Rhetoric, Theory of Visual Communication, and Information Architecture were invaluable to this project work.

## Target Audience

The target audience has been my primary focus for every decision made. They are the women who feel as if they aren't serious enough collectors to call themselves a philatelist, they feel unwelcome at stamp shows and clubs, and they worry they will be judged for what they collect. These women are between the ages of 18-40 with active social media accounts, a love of stamps, postcards, and snail-mail, and a desire to learn more and develop relationships with other stamp collectors.

## The Name

Creating a name for the social media accounts and book title was one of the largest challenges I faced. I wanted it to appeal to the Millennial and Gen-Z social media users, but also be taken seriously by the philately community. I wanted to avoid the use of cliché stamp puns—which are used often—but I also needed to ensure the purpose of the project was clear. I felt that some possibilities, like “Hobby for Queens” (playing off the longstanding “A Hobby for Kings...”), were vague and would require too much explaining. Other names that included “philately” would potentially exclude the audience I wanted to connect with who don't identify as a philatelist. After a lot of brainstorming and thought, I decided on Women Who Stamp. The purpose was clear, it includes anyone with interests in stamps without alienating those who don't identify as a philatelist, and it makes a great hashtag. In addition to a name, I wanted to create a simple phrase that provided even more clarity to my project's goal and would be used as a profile description and book tagline. Since the ultimate goal is to change the stereotypical old-man perception of the hobby, words like “rethink,” “reshape,” and “revamp” all came to mind, but they didn't make a powerful enough statement. I needed a strong word, like “revolutionizing.” I was worried at first that it would be too bold, but the definition of revolutionize is “to change fundamentally” which is exactly what I hope to do. Finally, I had my complete name, “Women Who Stamp: Revolutionizing the Face of Philately.”

## Mood Board

Now that I had the name solidified, I was ready to begin developing the branding for Women Who Stamp. For inspiration, I created a mood board using key words to search on image websites. I focused on words that described what Women Who Stamp should be: strong, unique, intelligent, and philately. The results produced images that had bold, eye-catching colors, which was exactly what was needed to grab attention in the social media world.

*See Appendix L for mood board.*

## The Colors

Using the images from the mood board, I sampled colors that were professional, yet still a bit youthful and fun. I choose include colors that could be described as “feminine” because I want people to embrace that philately doesn’t have to be either “masculine” or “feminine,” it can be both. In addition to the bold, vibrant colors, I also created a secondary color palette with lighter and darker tones to be used as needed.

## The Typefaces

When selecting a typeface it was important to have a versatile font family with a lot of variety, but I also wanted a typeface designed by a women. Circe and Circe Slab, created by Alexandra Korolkova from Paratype, was exactly what I was looking for. Circe Slab mixes a solid slab serif with curved letterforms and balls on some of the letter’s terminals. This combination blends strength with a softness that feels welcoming. Circe Sans is the ideal companion for variation and body copy.

## The Logo

The logo would need to translate well in the world of squares and circles that is social media. After completing a competitive analysis to see what other organizations and stamp-related social media accounts were doing, I knew to differentiate my brand, I needed to simplify as much as possible, without losing the visual of a stamp. Then, for social media I would need a bold solid color and legible type. I also wanted to stay away from the “shape within a shape” visual that is common among many stamp and mail accounts that use a square or rectangle stamp or envelope graphic inside the circular profile picture, so I decided to create two versions of the logo. The primary logo is a square with a nod to stamps using a simplified perforated-like edge on the top and right side. The line to the left side and bottom suggests the traditional margin of the stamp graphics that did not bleed over the perforations. This shape would be used as an element on social media posts and in the book. For social media,

simplifying also works to keep the Instagram grid from looking too busy, especially with the text and graphics I'd be adding to it. I then created a secondary logo to be used for online profiles images only. The square was replaced with a circle due to the formatting of most profile images, and the perforations have been removed to keep it simple. The left and bottom lines remained to keep the feel of the logo intact, but they bleed out of the margin, almost as if the viewer is looking at the primary logo (a stamp) through a magnifying glass. I wanted this logo to stand out in the sea of profiles while scrolling.

*See Appendix M for Style Guide.*

## Social Media Design and Response

To achieve my goal and bridge the gap of women on social media who are already interested in stamps and other philatelic subjects, but do not consider themselves a philatelist, it is very important that I have a social media account that is well designed and posts that are planned out and thoroughly researched. This would ensure that I was actively engaging other accounts in a variety of interesting and accurate information, but also so that posts would jump out from the other stamp accounts users already follow. While Instagram is where I had already observed a lot of female collectors, through research I discovered that Twitter and Facebook are also popular platforms for stamp collectors who are seeking more knowledge and community. When asked which social media platform they are most active on, 46.27% of women chose Instagram and 29.85% chose Facebook. In contrast, 42.03% of men surveyed chose Twitter and 30.43% chose Facebook. Only 10.14% of men surveyed said they use Instagram as the social media platform they are most active on for their hobby (Adam, "Women in Stamp Collecting").

On Twitter and Facebook "the grid" isn't an aspect that you have to consider, however on Instagram a well-designed grid can make you stand out as a professional, increasing the amount of users who will follow your account. There are several ways to achieve this with balanced image tones, posting in threes to create rows of similar content, or alternating the posts in an "every other" fashion. Since I knew I would be sharing quotes, statistics, history facts, and stamp images, I decided that the "every other" approach would offer me the most flexibility, while maintaining a professional profile layout. For the stamp images, I decided I would photograph them on a solid black background. In philately, selecting the color of your album pages or stock sheets can be a very personal choice, but the majority consensus is that black shows off the perforations the best, framing the stamps, covers, and other materials so that they stand out on their own. With that in mind, the "every other" approach to the grid would add color so that the overall aesthetic didn't feel overwhelmingly dark.

With a plan in place, posts designed, written, and scheduled, I launched the Women Who Stamp accounts on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook during the first day of Women's History Month (March 1,

2022). In the first 24 hours the introductory post had received 65 likes and 7 comments on Instagram, 36 likes and 12 retweets on Twitter, and 6 likes and 3 reshares on Facebook. In that same time, the social media accounts gained 87 Instagram followers, 119 Twitter followers, 10 Facebook page likes, and 11 Facebook page followers. Comments from other accounts include messages like:

“This is a brilliant idea. As someone who has only recently had time to return to a childhood hobby it has been difficult to find women who share the interest.”

“After seeing photos of a bunch of male judges at a stamp event, it dawned on me that we have a bigger gender gap problem than I thought we would nowadays. @WomenWhoStamp will help with that.”

These comments and the number of initial follows verify the desire for a social media account like Women Who Stamp.

*See Appendix N for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook designs and analytics.*

## Book Prototype Design

Philately, stamp collecting, postcard swapping, mail art, etc. are all very hands-on, tactile hobbies, so while these collectors and artists enjoy sharing their collections and creations to social media, they also find time to disconnect from technology, organizing their collections, sending hand-written cards, and the like. As such, it is not uncommon for collectors to have shelves filled with albums and books relating to their hobby. Publishing a book containing interviews with women in philately, the history of stamp collecting, and the statistical research, would be a fitting addition to any collector’s bookcase.

To keep the brand consistent, I used the logo color on the book cover along with the stamp shape pulled from the logo. While the typefaces are consistent with the logo, using the extra space the book allows for I decided to create a more playful typographic treatment, setting the tone of this book apart from other philatelic publications with their very traditional typography. I want the reader to know right away that this book is not going to be the standard that hails back to the early days of philately.

For the inside pages, the stamp graphic and line element from the logo are also used to tie back into the brand. I’ve kept the use of these elements minimal, and only use them when it improves the layout, and doesn’t distract from the other elements and imagery being presented. To balance the more playful type treatment, I use the darker secondary color palette in the book to bring in the aspect of professionalism and expertise. These darker tones also work well in adding contrast where needed, either for visual interest or legibility.

*See Appendix O for book prototype design.*

## Challenges and Limitations

Despite the interest from the community and the consistent engagement on social media, this project isn't without its challenges and limitations. As of November 1, 2022, Women Who Stamp has 351 Instagram followers and 286 Twitter followers, but only 21 Facebook page likes, and 24 Facebook page followers. While Twitter and Instagram have a healthy following less than a year after launch, gaining a following and interactions on Facebook has been a challenge. It is widely understood that Facebook “decides” what users see in their newsfeed using their algorithms (Oremus). As a small page, it is hard to work around these ever-changing algorithms without a team of people or spending money to boost posts and advertisements. Another challenge has been in the time it takes to engage with other accounts and respond to comments on posts. Many comments are supportive, but there are also comments that question the necessity of a profile like Women Who Stamp, or the knowledge and research put into each post. Responding to these comments often requires double checking research and sources, providing additional sources, and careful construction of a reply that is sometimes limited to 280 characters. This time distracts from other endeavors to engage with content others are posting, to develop new content, and to create solutions to build better engagement on other platforms.

While social media has its challenges, the physical book presented a large potential obstacle regarding copyright issues surrounding the use of stamp images. In July 2020, Professor Charles Oppenheim from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland presented a virtual lecture for The Royal Philatelic Society London on “Copyright and Philately.” I was fortunate to connect with him after that lecture and he graciously provided his expertise in addressing and accessing the risk involved in using photographs and scans of philatelic items in my book. His assessment was that for my thesis paper, the Women Who Stamp’s social media accounts, and any future articles written for magazines or journals, there is no risk in using stamp images, as they would all be for educational purposes and considered fair use under copyright law. However, if produced commercially the book could pose a low risk. While much of the philatelic materials in the book are already in the public domain, deemed not copyrightable (like postal covers), or the copyright belongs to the exhibit creator or collection owner, in some cases the images and artwork used on the stamp itself could still be in copyright if sold commercially. Since a zero risk would be hard (if not impossible) to achieve, it would be difficult to find a publisher to produce this book. Despite this, most postal authorities are friendly to philatelists (since we purchase products without using the service attached to them). Since I will be promoting philately and encouraging readers to buy postal items with this book, self-publishing would be a good route for production. With self-publishing, I am also able to take a zero profit, placing this publication in the realm of noncommercial, educational use which resides under fair use copyright laws (Copyright & Rights and Permissions).

Self-publishing comes with its own set of limitations. Having to choose from standard book sizes, paper, book binding options, and safety margin guidelines dictate much of the design. After researching the self-publishing companies, I decided Blurb.com would be the best fit for my book. I've used their service in the past and know the quality is good and they allow you to upload your own design, then select your options and cost. From there, they print copies as they are purchased, so there is no need for a bulk order.

With a plan in place for publication, the next challenge I faced with the book was securing quality images of the women I was interviewing and their collections. As mentioned before, these women reside all over the country, so traveling to each of them to take high quality photos of them and their collections was not feasible during the COVID pandemic. That amount of travel would also require considerable financial backing. Thus far, the women have been able to provide me with photos that have been able to be edited as needed in Photoshop. In some areas, I've also been able to scan my own collection materials based on what that philatelist collects. For photos of the philatelists, after seeing one photo of the interviewee in a philatelic setting, I requested similar from the others. Seeing women in this male-dominated setting, whether next to their exhibit or presenting to a crowd, is so much more powerful than a standard headshot. To give some consistency to each photo, I've converted them to a duotone image matching the sidebar color they are placed on top of.



next steps

## Book

First and foremost, I will be completing the writing for my book post-graduation. I would like to conduct more interviews and follow up with some women who have been harder to connect with. I would also like to meet the women I've interviewed in person and take photos of them if we are attending the same stamp shows. The APS hosts one of the largest stamp shows of the year, and attending would allow me to connect in-person with many of the women I've been interviewing and to have the opportunity to meet even more women in philately. The next show takes place in August 2023 in Cleveland, Ohio. After the APS stamp show, I will finalize the copy and layout for my book in the Fall of 2023. Once the book is complete, I will share it with a trusted philatelist to provide insight before self-publishing on Blurb.com. My goal is to publish and promote the book during Women's History Month in March of 2024.

## Social Media

At present, Women Who Stamp is already connecting with other women who are interested in postage stamps, snail-mail, postcards, and other ephemera related items. However, in order to grow a larger following and build stronger relationships, I need to schedule time to engage more with comments, likes, retweets/reshares, and follows. On Facebook, the next step is to create a Women Who Stamp Facebook group where women can connect with each other, start discussions, and share experiences in a safe, more private space. Similarly, I will explore Twitter Spaces as a potential to host discussions about women in philately.

## Marketing and Promotion

Since I've already begun building a social media presence on Instagram and Twitter, and I am active in several philatelic Facebook groups, I foresee social media being my primary outlet for marketing and promotion of the book once it's complete. In addition to posting on the Women Who Stamp accounts and in Facebook groups, I will ask other stamp accounts to share as well.

To bring even more attention to my research, social media accounts, and completed book I will submit articles to philatelic publications, seek opportunities to give presentations in person and virtually, and attend stamp, postcard, and ephemera shows to network and promote the book. As a marketing handout, I will create postcards using quotes from women philatelists (similar to some of the social media posts) for people to send out. The postcard will include information for finding Women Who Stamp on social media, as well as information on where to purchase the book.

Last, the director of information services for the American Philatelic Research Library informed me that they would like to have a copy of my thesis to enter into their library collection. I will also approach other philatelic libraries and philately clubhouses about accepting a copy of my thesis into their libraries. It is my hope that these facilities will accept a copy of the finished book as well.

## Conclusion

It is my goal that *Women Who Stamp* inspires more women to embrace philately and alter the “old man” perception that has persisted for far too long. As a woman in philately, this work is not only personal and important to me, but given that women have never been consistently sought after as valuable members for the philatelic community, this work is important on a much larger scope. This project addresses the importance of female representation and the effects it can have when that representation is lacking. Throughout history, stamp collecting has been passed on from generation to generation, and I hope that this project encourages more women to participate in clubs, societies, and stamp shows, and as a result, that they continue to pass a love of philately down to their daughters, granddaughters, and other young women in their lives so that one day, we are more equally represented in this hobby.

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When I first began researching women in philately, I was concerned my topic may not be well received by philatelic organizations, however it ended up being quite the opposite. I haven't always been easy on them, but I am grateful to the American Philatelic Society (APS) who has shown interest in my research from the start. Scott English, the executive director, didn't hesitate to connect me with his team, including Susanna Mills, editor of the *American Philatelist*. I also want to acknowledge the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and Scott Tiffney, APRL librarian and director of information services. The APRL has been working to digitize publications that date back to the beginning of

stamp collecting. Being able to access these documents during a pandemic allowed me to continue my research and uncover new information that improved my social media content, my book, and my philatelic knowledge.

In addition to the APS, I've been fortunate to have the encouragement of Lisa Foster, president of WE: Women Exhibitors. Lisa and the WE group are supportive of all women in philately, no matter their level of experience and knowledge. Thank you, Lisa, for providing resources as needed and connecting me to so many great women in your organization. Your passion to see more women in this hobby is inspiring.

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# appendix

**Appendix A**

Examples of "Brotherhood" Mentality

**MEN OF STAMP**

**"THE STAMP"**  
PUBLISHES THE

Portrait and Biography of a Prominent Philatelist  
Each Month, and much other good matter.

**SEND FOR A SAMPLE COPY. FREE.**

Subscription Per Year, 25c.

**STAMP PUBLISHING CO.,**  
Box 2922, DENVER, COL.

1888 Advertisement in Stamp Collector's Directory



1895-96 Cover for The Sons of Philatelia Official Handbook

**The Collectors Journal**

for the man with a Hobby

A monthly magazine devoted to  
the interest of collectors of stamps  
coins, etc.

Subscription price 50c per year  
in the United States and colonies.  
Foreign 65c per year.

Published by

**The  
Edgewood Stamp Co.**

**Milford, Conn.**

1920 Advertisement in the American Philatelist (January 1920)

**Give Your Boy a Chance to Learn**

In the hinterlands of the earth are strange places, mysterious peoples, unusual customs, queer animals and antiquated types of ships. There are countries most of us never heard of—Hrjaz, Sarawak, Jhalawat, Chala—obscure races whose word is law over millions of subjects. They are in touch with the rest of the world through one common bond—the postage stamp.

Stamp collecting implies a wide knowledge of the world and its progress. It teaches geography, history, zoology—requires painstaking attention to detail, so important to instill in the young mind. Encourage your boy to take up this fascinating hobby, and watch his knowledge increase. A most satisfactory start can be made with a small outlay. See the million U. S. and foreign varieties—See the U. S. Post Office press printing the new White Plains Stamp—at the great

**INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION**  
47th Street Entrance  
**GRAND CENTRAL PALACE—OCT. 16-23rd**  
OPENS TODAY at 2:30 P. M., closing at 10:30 P. M. Tomorrow (Sunday) 2:30 to 6 P. M. Daily

1926 Advertisement for the International Stamp Exhibition



## Appendix B

Examples of Male-Dominance in Mekeel's Weekly and Stamps

<b><i>This Week In Mekeel's &amp; STAMPS</i></b>	
Advertiser Index .....	5
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Cachet Briefs .....	12
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Illegal Use of a 1¢ Cut-to-shape Wrapper Stamp .....	Charles A. Fricke 22
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Yesterday in Stamps:	
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Table of contents showing all male authors.



**STAMP KING-DREWS**  
**PAYS TOP DOLLAR**  
 ...FOR Stamps, collections, covers, accumulations, literature, old postcards, or what have you. Ship for next day payment.  
**STAMP KING - DREWS**  
 7139 West Higgins  
 Chicago, IL 60656  
 800-919-BIDS, (312) 775-2100

Example of advertisement in Mekeel's Weekly and Stamps.

## Appendix C

### Survey Questions – Primary Survey

#### Women in Stamp Collecting

##### Welcome to My Survey

As part of my MFA thesis project I am collecting feedback social media users who demonstrate interest in stamps and other mail-related ephemera. Your responses will provide important insight as I develop my project which addresses the lack of female membership in formal stamp collecting organizations. My thesis seeks more inclusion and representation of women in stamp collecting organizations.

This survey should take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete depending on the length of your answers. Thank you for your participation!

\* What is your age?

- 14 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 49
- Over 50
- Prefer not to answer

\* To which gender identity do you most identify?

- Female
- Male
- Gender Variant/Non-Conforming
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (Please specify)

\* What are your interests in postage stamps and snail mail? (Please select all that apply.)

- Collecting Stamps
- Collecting Postcards
- Collecting First Day Covers (FDCs) and/or Special Issue Postmarks
- Exhibiting
- Participating in Stamp Chain Cards
- Participating in Postcard Swaps/Postcrossing
- Writing to Pen Pals

## Appendix C (continued)

### Survey Questions – Primary Survey

- Mail/Envelope Art
- Stamp Art
- Selling Stamps
- Other (Please specify)

\* How did you get involved in your interests/hobby?

- Family or friend introduced hobby
- Collection passed down from relative
- Joined a club at school/during childhood
- Local store or show
- Internet or social media
- Other (Please specify)

\* How do you connect with other people with similar interests? (Please select all that apply.)

- Local clubs, meetings, and/or shows/exhibits
- Through mutual acquaintances
- Social media
- Online Forums
- I don't currently, but would be interested in connecting with others
- I'm not interested in connecting with other people
- Other (Please specify)

\* In regards to your hobby, what social media platform are you most active on?

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Pinterest
- Snap Chat
- Other (Please specify)

**Appendix C (continued)**  
**Survey Questions – Primary Survey**

\* Are you interested in the history of stamps?

- Yes
- No

\* Are you interested in background information on how stamp topics are selected and then created/designed?

- Yes
- No

\* Are you interested in postal history?

- Yes
- No

\* Would a book about women honored on stamps and female stamp collectors be interesting to you?

- Yes
- No

\* What would be the most interesting topic to included in a book about women and stamps? Please rate each below on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important.

Stories and/or information about stamps	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Interviews with female stamp collectors	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
Information on how to collect stamps	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5
History of stamp collecting	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 5

\* Do you consider yourself a philatelist?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know what a philatelist is

## Appendix C (continued)

### Survey Questions – Primary Survey

\* Are you a member of a stamp collecting organization/club?

Yes

No

---

If you are a member of a stamp collecting organization/club why did you decide to join?

---

If you are not a current member of an organization/club, what would entice you to join?

---

Please provide any additional thoughts or comments you have regarding your hobby and interests:

---

If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here:

Submit

## Appendix C (continued)

### Survey Questions – Secondary Survey

#### Female Philatelist

##### Welcome to My Survey

As part of my MFA thesis project I am collecting feedback from women in philately. Your responses will provide important insight as I develop my thesis which addresses the lack of female membership in formal philatelic organizations. Similarly, I'm gathering data from women who have shown interest in stamps and other mail-related ephemera on social media sites, but who have not joined any organizations. My goal is to bridge the gap between this network of women and formal philatelic organizations.

This survey should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete depending on the length of your answers. Your responses are greatly appreciated, and an integral part as I continue to develop this thesis project. Please consider sharing this survey with your fellow female philatelists.

Thank you for your participation!

\* What is your age?

- 14 to 18
- 19 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 49
- Over 50
- Prefer not to provide

\* To which gender identity do you most identify?

- Female
- Male
- Gender Variant/Non-Conforming
- Prefer not to provide
- Other (Please specify)

\* How did you get involved in philately?

- Family or friend introduced hobby
- Collection passed down from relative
- Joined a club at school/during childhood
- Local store or show
- Internet or social media
- Other (Please specify)

**Appendix C (continued)**  
**Survey Questions – Secondary Survey**

\* How do you connect with other people with similar interests? (Please select all that apply)

- Local clubs, meetings, and/or shows/exhibits
- Through mutual acquaintances
- Social media
- Online Forums
- N/A

\* In regards to your hobby, what social media platform are you most active on (if you are not on social media, please select "n/a")?

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Pinterest
- Snap Chat
- N/A
- Other (Please specify)

\* Do you think it is important to recruit women and girls specifically into philately?

- Yes
- No

\* Please select up to 3 methods you feel would work best to recruit women and girls into the hobby.

- Social Media Outreach
- Connecting with School Clubs
- Mentorship
- Online Forums
- Direct Mail Marketing
- Publications
- Other (Please specify)

## Appendix C (continued)

### Survey Questions – Secondary Survey

\* Do you think a book about female philatelists and women on stamps would be a useful tool in regards to outreach?

Yes

No

---

If you are a member of a philatelic organization why did you decide to join?

---

If you are not a current member of a philatelic organization, what would entice you to join/rejoin?

---

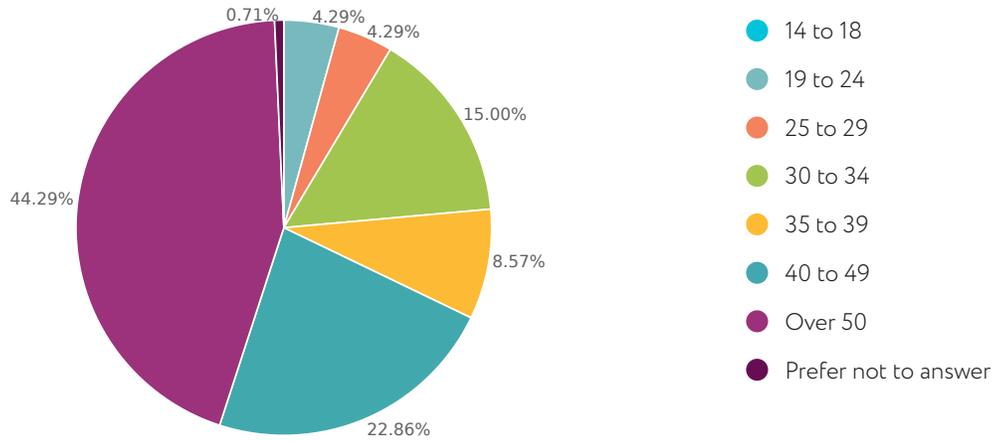
If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here:

Submit

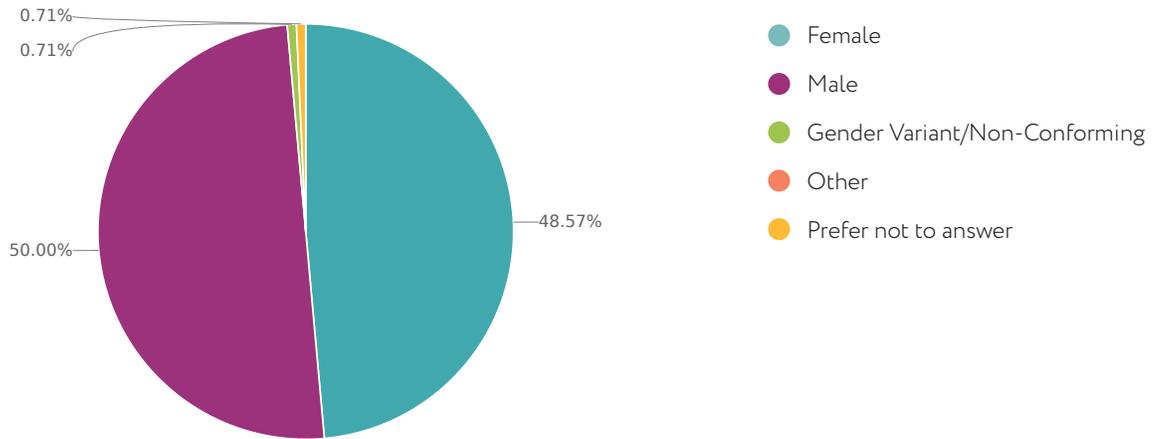
## Appendix D

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q1: What is your age?**



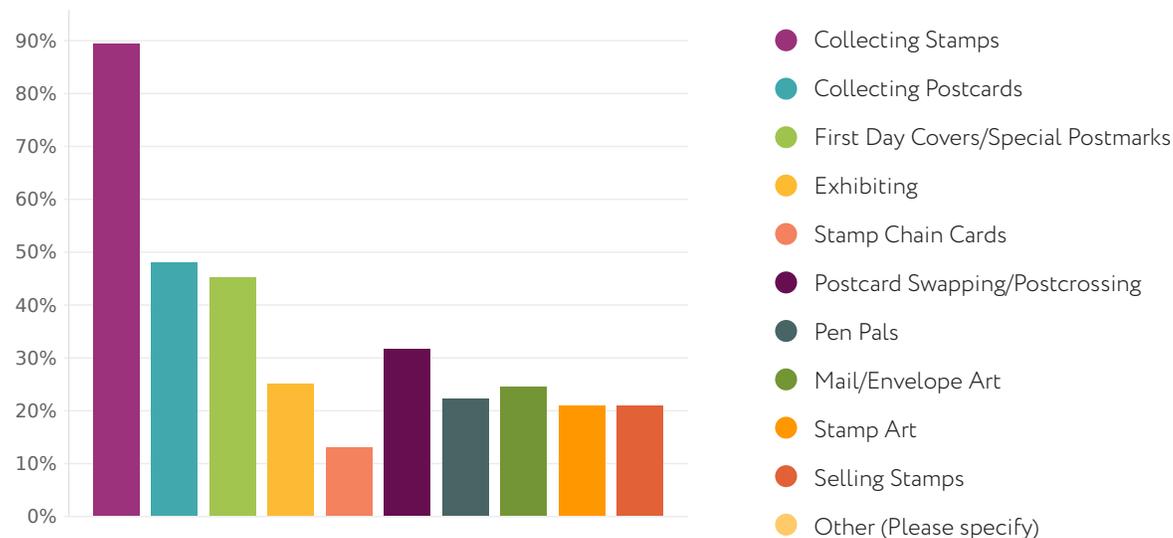
**Q2: To which gender identity do you most identify?**



## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q3: What are your interests in postage stamps and snail mail? (Please select all that apply.)**



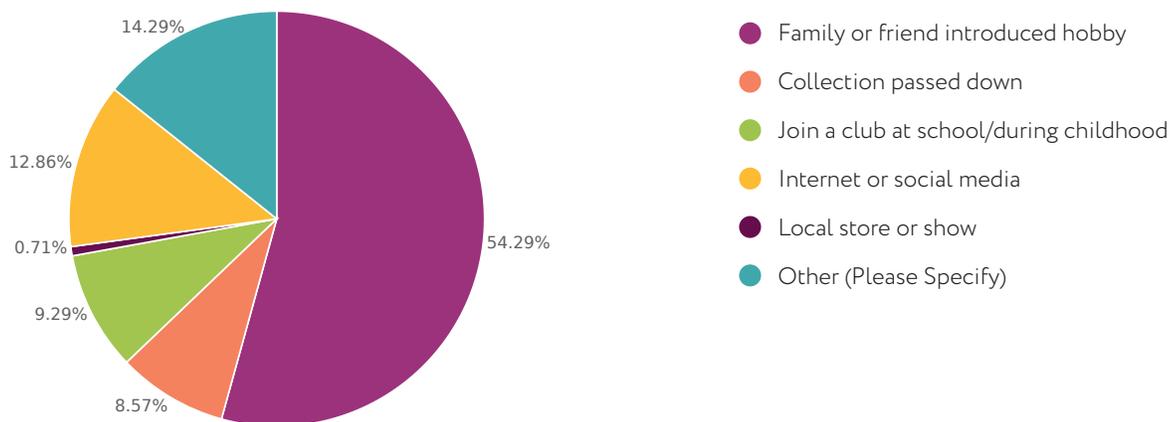
**Other (Please specify):**

1. International stamp swaps
2. I bring stamps to children.
3. Curated stamp collections for stationery design clients
4. LOVE STAMPS AND LETTERS WITH LOTS OF NICE LARGE STAMPS
5. Postal history
6. Editing a digital Philatelic magazine.
7. Studying, writing
8. (blank)
9. CEO of small rare stamp auction company
10. Postal history, showing the use of the stamps against correct rates in the correct period.
11. Postal history
12. Postal History, researching about philately, much more
13. Writing about stamps and postal history
14. selling framed stamps
15. Stamp booklets
16. Engaging youth with stamp games
17. Postal history (stamps on commercial cover, historical letters)
18. Researching postal history
19. Enjoying Stamps (looking at them after collection)
20. Stamp and Postcard Blogging
21. Collecting postmarks (including weird and simple/regular cancellations, not specifically pictorial postmarks)

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### Q4: How did you get involved in your interests/hobby?



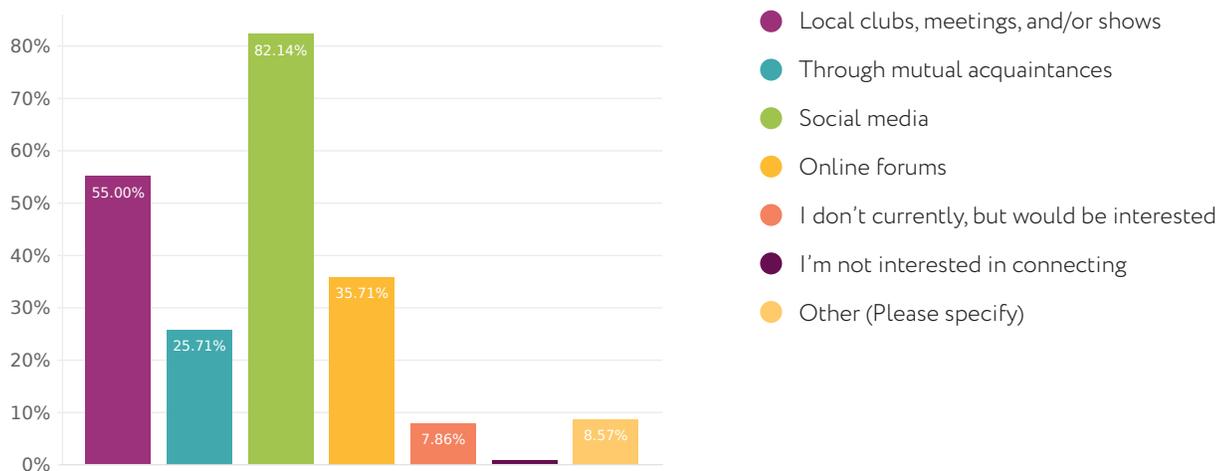
#### Other (Please specify):

1. I've always liked finding the perfect stamps for cards and invitations, and that started my collection.
2. Starting collecting used stamps as a kid and rediscovered my love of stamps while putting together our wedding invitations.
3. my own interest during Christmas time when my family would get Christmas cards I found the stamps to be the most interesting along with the authenticity of personalized mail instead of computer generator envelopes
4. My wedding invitations
5. Got a stamp album and associated paraphernalia for Christmas when I was 10
6. interest since age 9
7. From childhood
8. Childhood passion
9. Job offer
10. Organisation / country display
11. I got a job at the American Philatelic Society, which meant I was stamp-adjacent quite frequently! Things just kind of went on from there.
12. A book dealing with activities for children
13. Interest in stamps and mail art came about because of my letter writing.
14. Started to find stamps at a monthly flea market during university and started to slowly collect them, also because it was a cheap collection to make, and very graphical.
15. Collected as a child. Reintroduced to the hobby 5 years ago
16. Successful post office marketing to a kid!
17. Began research for my job - fell in luv with the hobby
18. I saved stamps from being thrown away and made art with them as cards n now paintings, now I sell them!
19. I'm interested in nice pictures since childhood (am 54 now) and kept (not really collected) stamps I thought pretty. Concerning mail art: I like to draw and mail art is a way to share art, and postal additions like postmarks are fun
20. Studied in Japan and fell in love with the beautiful Japanese stamps

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q5: How do you connect with other people with similar interests? (Please select all that apply.)**



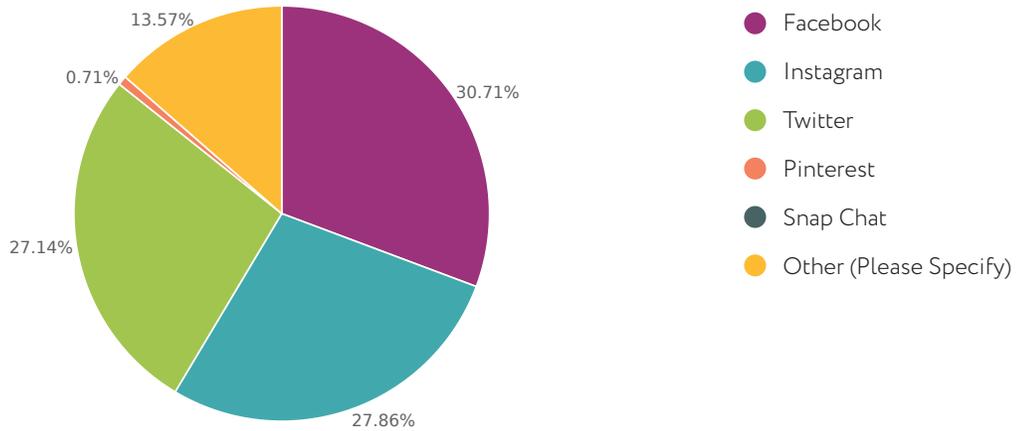
**Other (Please specify):**

1. On line stamp exchange clubs.
2. I write articles about persian stamps and stamps.
3. At the local dealer's store
4. Work
5. Stamp fairs
6. International clubs
7. Local, national and international shows
8. Writing philatelic articles that solicit feedback and dialog
9. Visit shops and shows
10. Run youth philately workshops
11. philatelic marketplace website
12. Postcrossing (forum for meetups) and the IUOMA network website for mail artists

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q6: In regards to your hobby, what social media platform are you most active on?**



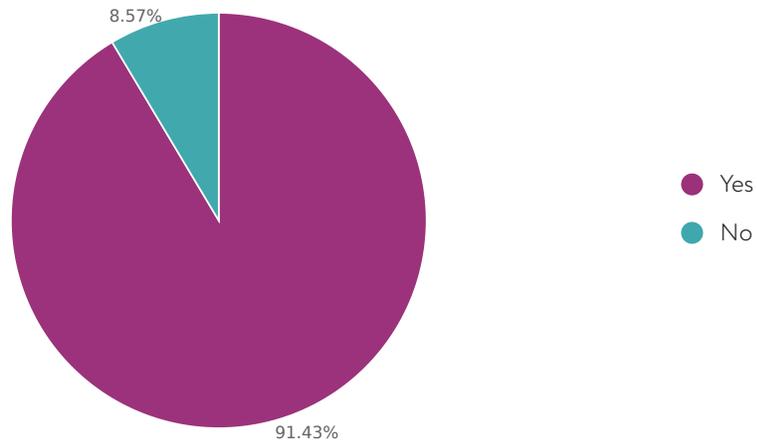
**Other (Please specify):**

1. Vkontakte
2. WhatsApp
3. WhatsApp
4. Whatsapp
5. WhatsApp
6. Nil
7. Whatsapp
8. What's app
9. Watsap
10. WhatsApp
11. Philately group
12. whatsapp
13. WhatsApp
14. Local club/ various media
15. Whatsapp
16. Whatsapp
17. Snupps
18. Stampboards
19. All top four

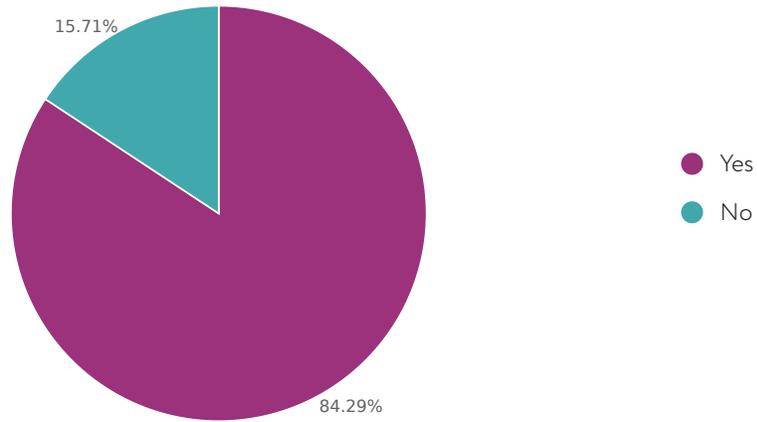
## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

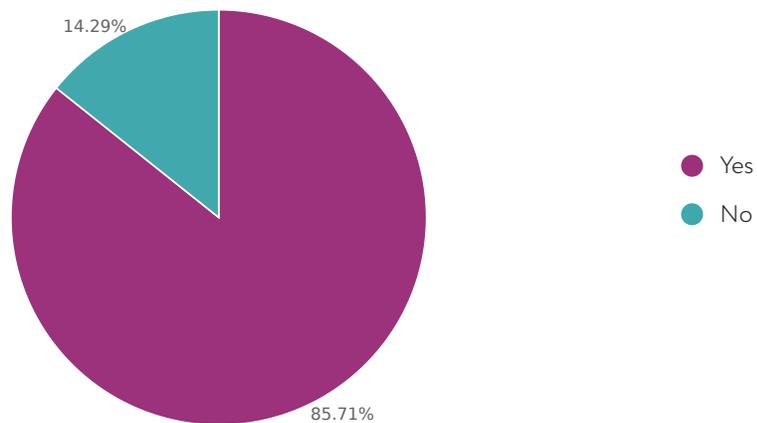
**Q7: Are you interested in the history of stamps?**



**Q8: Are you interested in background information on how stamp topics are selected and then created/designed?**

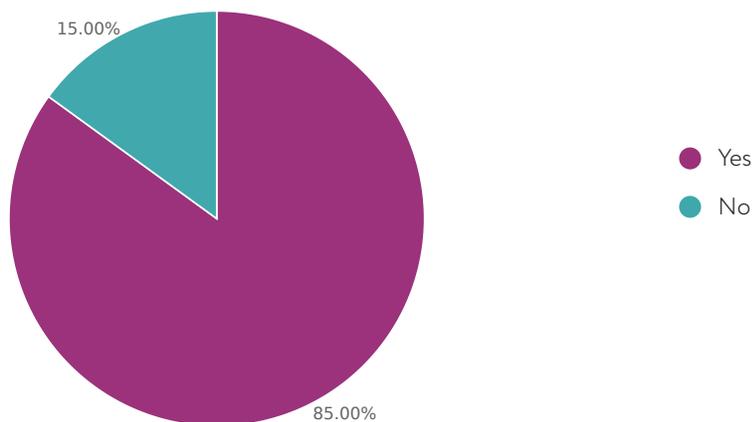


**Q9: Are you interested in postal history?**

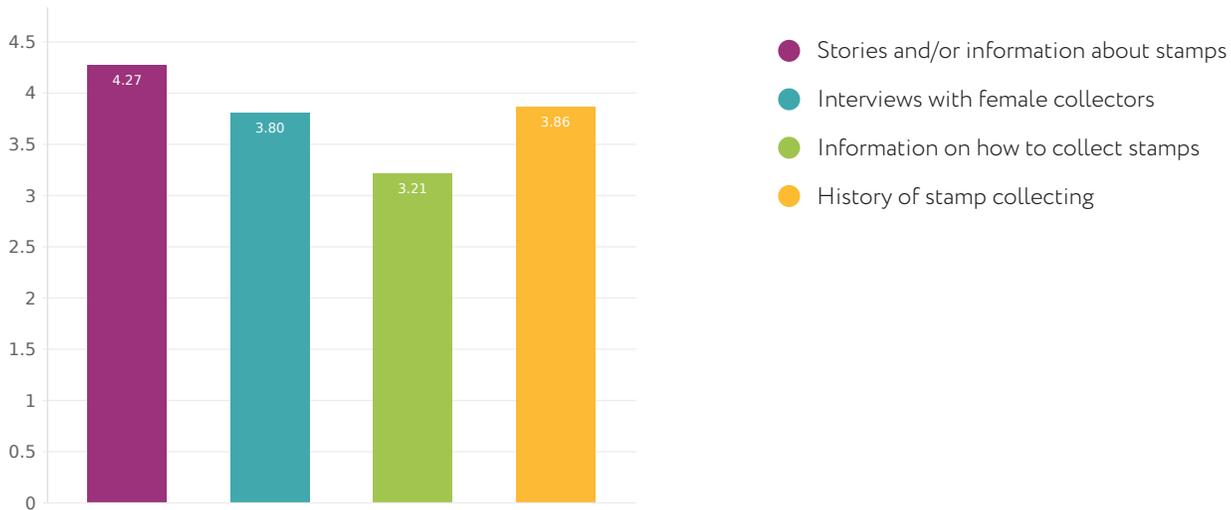


**Appendix D (continued)**  
**Survey Results – Primary Survey**

**Q10: Would a book about women honored on stamps and female stamp collectors be interesting to you?**



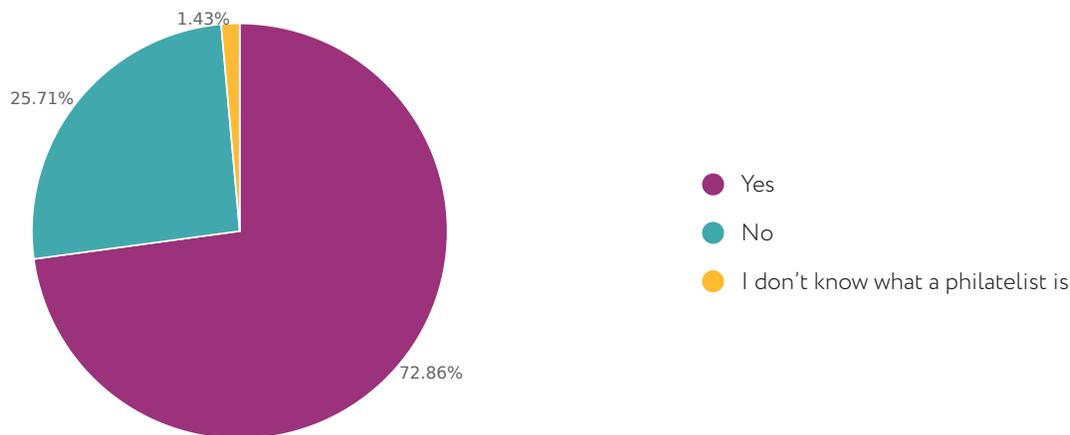
**Q11: What would be the most interesting topic to included in a book about women and stamps?**  
 Please rate each below on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important.



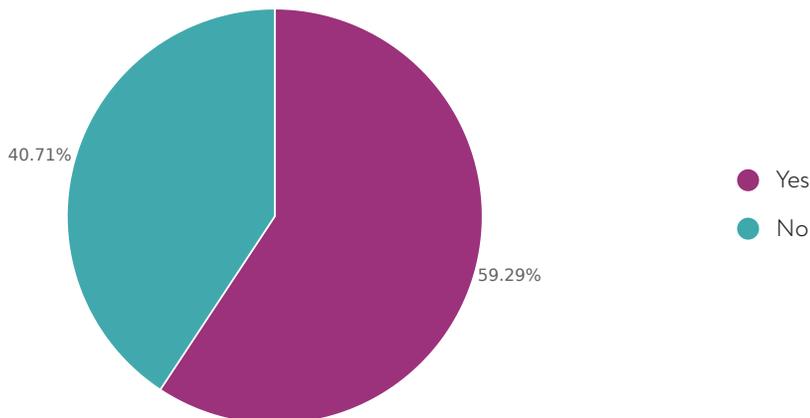
Row	1	2	3	4	5	Average rating	Response count
Stories and/or information about stamps	5.00% (7)	3.57% (5)	8.57% (12)	25.00% (35)	57.86% (81)	4.27	140
Interviews with female stamp collectors	7.14% (10)	9.29% (13)	17.86% (25)	27.86% (39)	37.86% (53)	3.80	140
Information on how to collect stamps	17.86% (25)	14.29% (20)	23.57% (33)	17.86% (25)	26.43% (37)	3.21	140
History of stamp collecting	6.43% (9)	9.29% (13)	15.71% (22)	29.29% (41)	39.29% (55)	3.86	140

**Appendix D (continued)**  
**Survey Results – Primary Survey**

**Q12: Do you consider yourself a philatelist?**



**Q13: Are you a member of a stamp collecting organization/club?**



**Q14: If you are a member of a stamp collecting organization/club why did you decide to join?**

1. I wanted information on upcoming events and access to their publications.
2. I thought it would compliment my interest in pen pal correspondence and postcrossing. I also wanted to learn more about stamp collecting and be informed of local events related to the topic.
3. Just to see what's out there, and possibly swap
4. To learn more about stamps and philately
5. I joined, even created multiple stamp and currencies club. Reason why I joined was that hardly anyone collect anymore. What there is of local club(s) is that they are too far away, or meet when I am working.
6. Because I am from a some what rare country and I like helping others.
7. I took my husband and ended up joining also
8. An idea of this club was same as in Postcrossing and I liked to try it.
9. To share my collection and enjoy other collectors collection as we are stamp lovers and help keep the hobby going . It is my passion.
10. Swap
11. To connect with other collectors on a personal basis.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### Q14: If you are a member of a stamp collecting organization/club why did you decide to join? (cont)

12. For mutual benefit.
13. Access to literature and stamp news. Also, to formally be part of a community that hosts events and helps to grow the hobby.
14. Social relations, meetups, stamp talks
15. Swap stamps
16. To be respected in the stamp community, being a member of the APS is a must. I guess the more clubs you belong to it brings an air of respectability. If you offer articles for others to read, the readers want to see some qualifications by your name.
17. I joined the American Philatelic Society primarily because I enjoy reading their magazine. I now also live close enough to their headquarters that I'll be able to use their library. I've joined local stamp clubs (one in Oklahoma, one in Pennsylvania) to meet other collectors. People who collect stamps tend to be curious about the world and a little bit eccentric!
18. Joined about 33 years back the local stamp club which is now my alma mater in Philately.
19. Contact with experienced collectors who helped answer questions when i was getting started.
20. One of the reasons my husband and I moved to this city was to join a stamp club. We were far away from any stamp club where we previously lived. I had started collecting stamps when we were first married, and had only joined a small club. I enjoyed that club so I was looking forward to meeting new people, looking through circuit books and being closer to stamps shows.
21. Monthly meetings
22. To meet other collector To buy stamps To learn about stamps
23. Due to my passion on stamp collecting
24. To interact with other philatelic senior guys.
25. To meet fellow collectors, to promote philately , to listen to enriching talks , see exhibits and interact with dealers
26. I decided to join for the resources the organization offers.
27. Improving the hobby
28. To interact with people of similar interests.
29. To educate myself
30. I feel like a sponge for information about stamps
31. Subscription to their monthly journal and research at their library.
32. Being a member in Philately Bureau ensured collection of all stamps issues.
33. Information on topics collected.
34. Strong and informative association lead by one of tge denior well known philatelist on PAN India basis
35. To meet like minded people.
36. To interact.
37. To learn from others
38. Invited
39. Through work contacts
40. To gain knowledge and to get updated
41. To gain more and to pass this hobby to others.
42. To gain more knowledge from expert talks & get in touch with like minded people.
43. Curiosity
44. I wanted to know more on Collecting stamp related materials.

#### Q14: If you are a member of a stamp collecting organization/club why did you decide to join? (cont)

45. Appropriate for me
46. Being a member of the APS came with the territory of working there.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### Q14: If you are a member of a stamp collecting organization/club why did you decide to join? (cont)

47. To be in like minded.
48. To meet up with others who collect stamps
49. Local contacts
50. To keep myself updated about philatelic activities
51. To connect with other philatelists.
52. Meeting other philatelists and exchange material
53. To learn about the stamps I had and on exhibiting
54. I joined Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps because I am a lesbian who enjoys queer history and stamps, even though I do not collect them (but I enjoy buying and using them).
55. NA
56. One of the most appealing parts of the hobby to me is social contacts. Being with likeminded people with a common interest. One of the meas is being a member of a society or, in my case 5 societies.
57. I'm a member of the Perfin Society as it's a collecting niche of mine.
58. Meet other collectors
59. Networking and sharing my knowledge - and you are never too old to learn something new
60. One cannot grow philatelically in a vacuum or in one's own stamp room.
61. For access to journals and Philatelic libraries
62. Knowledge
63. Because I thought it would be interesting and they have auctions etc
64. Specialist knowledge.
65. I am the youth development officer for the ASPS and run youth activities along with developing stamp collecting games.
66. To meet other philatelists.
67. 1. Special interest groups for information (2-way) 2. Local group for above, showing, and social.
68. Social
69. Learn more about the hobby
70. Curiosity and fellowship
71. Support the hobby.
72. To broaden my knowledge
73. Camaraderie with like-minded collectors.
74. In order to educate myself on the hobby and connect with other people with same interests
75. Publications & sharing information. Also, iparticipating in meet ups/events at stamp shows.
76. APS
77. To feel part of a wider group of stamp collectors and have access to articles and publications to read more about stamps.
78. Wanted to connect to people with similar interests
79. American Philatelic Society-sounded like I needed to be part of. State Revenue Society-I collect State Revenues also
80. Concerning considering myself a philatelist: yes and no. Yes: I collect stamps on certain themes (cartoons/ comics, chess, horses, postal themes), and I have an album full of mint stamps on that. And of course I have chaincards on various themes. No: I don't do effort to collect all stamps, for instance from a serie; I sometimes buy mint stamps about the 4 mentioned themes but only when I happen to see them and if they have a fair prize, as said I won't do too much effort. I am a stamp (and mail) lover, not a vivid collector. But I keep stamps, though. Would others consider me a philatelist: yes, I think so. Oh, and I follow some weblogs of (also female) stamp lovers!
81. TO ENCOURAGE THE HOBBY

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### Q15: If you are not a current member of an organization/club, what would entice you to join?

1. Finding out more information about them and low dues.
2. Not sure.
3. Connections to purchase stamps.
4. A membership that included access to rare stamps not available to the public
5. better awareness of whats available near me!
6. I would be too nervous to join because I feel that I do not know much about stamps and their history and would be afraid to feel like an amateur.
7. I collect some stamps for fun. My collection is quite chaotic. I don't think I would join any group of real experienced collectors
8. Younger members, and yes, more female members. It really is an old man's club right now.
9. I didn't find any clubs or organization to join
10. (not answered)
11. If I would become obsessed with stampes...:D
12. Ease of membership. Just not enough time usually to get all the things I want to accomplish done, so having remote meetups would entice me to join and participate, since in that sense it would be less of a time commitment.
13. If it was local
14. Swap
15. I don't know how to approach
16. Having a club local to me. Having dues be less expensive. Having digital access to club/org publications.
17. Knowledge is power. Knowing about little pieces of paper and why they have value is intriguing.
18. Networking+ tips about collecting+ sellers
19. N.A.
20. Club in my locality
21. What its members publishes.
22. Specialisation
23. I am a member.
24. I would enjoy joining some LGBTQ philatelic clubs, I just haven't had the opportunity to seek them out or meet anyone in person. I suspect that it would not take much to convince me to join different clubs even though I don't actually do much collecting, per se. I just feel that it's important to understand and become involved in the philatelic community, whether or not I actually collect.
25. Free membership, preferably a club that for me personally specializes in bird Philately!
26. Meeting some women in stamp collecting, currently I know of one woman in our area.
27. Not yet, but I'm thinking to join one.
28. Time is a factor full time. . I used to be a club member but work and an poorly mum at the time I had to quit. My local society needs younger members to survive.
29. Ease of location, i.e. easy to get to and from organisation/club
30. If there is any organisation/ club which focuses on specific thematics (which are of my interest), I would be interested.
31. N.A.
32. free membership, occasional freebies or opportunities to win raffles
33. I'm not interested
34. I don't think they exist in my local area
35. I have an idea that these clubs are very closed and exclusive. Almost that someone needs to have a specific topic they collect or know the value of what they collect. I'm a graphic designer that collects stamps and FDCs for their graphic value.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### Q15: If you are not a current member of an organization/club, what would entice you to join? (cont)

36. +active moderator & members +mostly online
37. I am not really a 'joiner' when it comes to something like this where I am more 'interested' than full-throttle 'enthusiast' at present. Maybe if my interest cranks up in the future I would consider it.
38. If it had members from different age and racial groups, not just older white men.
39. Relevance to stamp art as a hobby, I worry stamp enthusiasts would consider that I ruin pristine stamps!
40. Useful and interesting connection with people.
41. Nothing actually. Here philately is just a hobby for old people, so I prefer to use the Internet to get in touch with younger collectors.
42. Active participation in exhibits at stamp shows. Promulgation of interest in stamp collecting among young people.
43. I only collect Disney stamps and not even professionally, so if I would be assured that being a part of such organization I can expand my collection, I would join.
44. I don't know really, I am not fond of any groups.. after a while it becomes just an empty talk or show off.
45. If there are people who share my special interest in comics/cartoons stamps, who have a club, I would love to join. By the way, I am member of the IUOMA network (and concerning stamps: inside the network there is an online group of artistamp (selfmade cinderella stamp) lovers and a group about postal additions, I both founded (and am member of).
46. Maybe if there were more young people joining. In the Netherlands it's kind of an 'old man' hobby.
47. I don't know yet.
48. Tell me about it and I'll join!
49. I am only interested in postcard swapping with beautiful stamps
50. I would have to see that the benefits are worth it. Not really sure what any stamp societies/clubs have to offer besides maybe a magazine

#### Q16: Please provide any additional thoughts or comments you have regarding your hobby and interests:

1. While my stamp collection was passed down from my father, I started doing chain cards because my two best friends began collecting stamps, postcards, and participating in Chain Cards.
2. I wouldn't technically call myself a collector because I do not acquire stamps with the intent to save them, I always want to use them for envelope art.
3. I love the puzzle of putting together a set of vintage stamps to hit a certain postage rate!
4. I collected stamps as a boy in the 1970s and 80s, but now I'm more of a stamp user/disseminator and enjoy them in their "natural habitat" Still, it's always fun to play with arranging them on postcards spatially, thematically, and by color.
5. This is the hobby I have been most active with for the longest time
6. My thoughts about collecting stamps is that it's a dying hobby. The younger generation is more interested in computers and games than anything else. My other peeve is that the postal service is printing more stamps than they used to. Trying to collect all of them are quite expensive.
7. "Never say never" :) I never thought I will communicate with the whole world through postcards and letters... I never thought I will start to collect stamps... I never thought I will get involved in these hobbies so much... :D
8. 100stamps.club website has been make my hobby more fun and interesting.
9. If the book were to be offered, I'd love to know how to find local sellers of vintage stamps at things such as estate sales or flea markets, etc. Currently I have a great roster of online sellers and shops that I've gathered from Instagram, Etsy, eBay, etc, but it would be fun to occasionally go hunting for vintage stamps myself.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q16: Please provide any additional thoughts or comments you have regarding your hobby and interests:  
(cont)**

10. My whole family are stamp collectors and we just love stamps. Stamps help us view the world and they are really beautiful and colourful. Collecting stamps the old way is really nice rather than the modern collectors who will purchase mint ones to get instant complete sets. I prefer to collect and find my missing USED ones to a set because it is so rewarding and nice when i get the missing stamp. So satisfying.
11. My daddy encourage me.
12. Helps in the overall development of a person.
13. Stamp collecting is such a fascinating hobby that I think will become popular again. While there is a decline in membership at stamp organizations, there is a flourishing online community that exists on social media. I love following people and sharing my collection/learnings on instagram and twitter.
14. Find collecting many countries encourages me to learn the history and culture of these countries.
15. Stress buster. Thanks a lot to my family for the support
16. Simple.love this hobby. It's a stress buster for me from my tensed work lifetsyle.
17. My focus is on exploring relation between philately and museums as both are related to education.
18. None
19. I don't think I chose to love the hobby, I just chose to follow my heart in this regard
20. Philately and postal history complete my early passion for history and geography.
21. I collect stamps on different themes and history behind each stamp. Hope I would be able to do that .
22. Philately covers almost all topics. Such topics that attract and appeal to the general public(especially youngsters) and connect them emotionally should be exhibited and publicized through all the available media to reach them.
23. It is a huge part of my life and I spend a lot of time with philately. I exhibit at the highest level so I do research a lot
24. I think it's wonderful you are researching this topic. Not only are you putting the spotlight on women in the field but bringing awareness to the stamp world itself!
25. Very interesting and educative....but to see people cheating others..shocks me.
26. I collect Children's Day FDC'S, Picture Post Cards on Light Houses and Railways. Stamps and Miniature Sheets of Royal Family, Christmas and Sri Lanka miniature sheets.
27. I'm in an odd position where I'm very interested and fairly invested in stamps, and postal history, and the philatelic community, without actually collecting anything. I would probably enjoy approaching philately from an academic standpoint (if I were still in academia), or looking further into philatelic literature as a discipline.
28. Mentally enriching as this is linked to my main hobby birding!
29. Social media has been a boon for me, I have found many more friends to swap stamps and postcards with. My interest and time spent on the hobby is much more enjoyable and continues to develop. I also now use Twitter and eBay to buy stamps. The Exploring Stamps videos are entertaining and involves you even more into stamp collecting.
30. Philately broadens your outlook to life and the environment.
31. I find stamp collection a real joy, I love finding out about different countries, culture and celebration and surprising stamps are a great way to do that.
32. It's a wonderful hobby, but difficult to pursue.
33. Must find ways to get young people and females to become interested in this hobby
34. (no answer)

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

#### **Q16: Please provide any additional thoughts or comments you have regarding your hobby and interests: (cont)**

35. It is teaching history, science, geography etc. You get to know people from all over the world if you are actively involved in the hobby, and it is a boy's childhood dream, treasure hunting.
36. I have moved away from just collecting stamps to an interest in postal history and social history
37. While collecting is healthy, Organized Philately is declining. Women and youth must be attracted to the hobby if Organized Philately is to survive.
38. I love seeing the year a stamp was issued on the stamps themselves. Many times there are no years printed on them (I've noticed that on some international stamps and even missing on some vintage U.S. stamps). In my personal collection, I like grouping them by categories (ie "Love" stamps, people, flags) I keep USA stamps and foreign country stamps in different albums. :)
39. I have researched women working in the post office but records are thin. Am currently beginning to research Louise Boyd Dale
40. It's fun, relieves stress, seeing the history of countries and researching more about is exciting
41. It is important to view stamp collecting in a completely new light in order to engage youth of today.
42. It's declining hobby right now, even the post office (in my country Indonesia at least) cease the use of stamps as post payment, so I really wonder how this stamp collecting thing direction from now on.
43. So many old people... can't help feeling that when I die, the hobby will die with me
44. I have met so many friends and learned so much through my hobby -- it has hugely enhanced my life!
45. I wish more stamp publications were easily available online. I would buy more eBooks about stamps I research if they were available.
46. I enjoy finding stamps from lost nations / dead countries - countries that no longer exist. I also like to study the history of a region and how the postal offerings changed as the country evolved / rulers and government changed.
47. I feel stamp art does showcase stamps rather than hide them. I don't know much about where to find stories about stamps - only by searching on eBay.
48. Just when you think you have seen everything that interests you about stamps, something new appears somewhere in the deeps of the Internet like a nice blog about stamps or a stamp you have never seen before.
49. where is the best place to sell extra stamps aside from Ebay??
50. Stamp collecting is a portal that encourages seeking out more knowledge about the world, its people, geography, economics, politics as well as natural sciences, space, and more.
51. I do not collect stamps, I'm mostly into postcards, but I always have a lot of nice, colorful stamps to use on the cards I swap or send via PC. I think it is so important to make the card as beautiful as possible for another person to enjoy and smile :)
52. Great theme for a thesis! Looking forward to see/read your final result! And I would recommend you the weblog of my Spanish mailfriend Eva: <https://mailadventures.blogspot.com> . We both joined a project - by an other woman - named Sunday Stamps, on which people can show their stamps on a certain theme. And Eva managed twice to show - on 26 Sundays - stamps from A to Z showing women. I love that theme, too, and I think I would like to collect stamps of women in science and female artists, too, but these are rare (Eva sent me mail with a stamp of the first Spanish telegraphist, which I think beautiful, and now I realize why I don't consider myself as a 100% philatelist: I keep Eva's mail completely (in a box), and would never cut out / soak off the stamps to put them into an album. But still I like to see the stamps :-)
53. PHILATELY GIVES ME JOY

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q17: If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here:**

1. It does seem to have an older male demographic, which is especially evident at stamp shows and within stamp collecting organizations. Most female stamp collectors seem to be expressly interested in chain cards. These are just my personal observations.
2. I would love to get more involved in this community outside of Instagram.
3. It's great to see the female philatelists on Instagram. I was sometimes intimidated by all the grouchy old men at the stamp shows when I was a kid!
4. Up until recently it seemed like far too many American stamps featured dead white men. But I appreciate the increased diversity I've seen in the past few years.
5. The most famous stamp collector is Queen Elizabeth. Amelia Earhart was also a collector... it would be interesting and good for the hobby if other famous females would promote the hobby.
6. No
7. None
8. I see a large number of women philatelists on social media. It would be interesting to find out if/why they don't join philatelic societies.
9. I would like to know what the female Partners of Male collectors think about their Hobby..
10. I think a lot of women see it as a boring, white male, middle-class hobby. That's simply not true. I wish more women would take time to find out about philately and its history, I think they would be very surprised.
11. The stamp club I'm in now has several female members. Two of three officers and the editor of the club newsletter are women. I've asked what they've done to attract women to the club, and they didn't have an answer. I have noticed that women tend to enjoy topical collecting more than traditional fill-every-blank-space-in-the-album collecting.
12. The greatest collector was Late Dr.Sita Bhateja from Bangalore India. Please do include a chapter if possible.
13. The stamp club I'm in has quite a few women. They seem to like topical stamps as I do. I collect mostly flowers and butterflies.
14. Queen Elizabeth is among prominent women philatelic. Benazir Bhutto also collected stamps.
15. know of collectors who work on the theme of "Women". I don't think it is such a good idea. It treats women differently. Instead "Famous People" can include women achievers
16. None
17. I am very curious as to why there is such a huge difference in the number of female collectors compared with the male collectors. I've always wondered about that. If you can share your discoveries I would love to hear about them!
18. Though less numerous in proportion, it seems to me that women philatelists in clubs are more often volunteering than the majority male members.
19. Right now, my granddaughter is evincing keen interest and I support her. I will also leave a legacy of sizeable portion of my collection .
20. As children there are many female stamp collectors. We need to identify them and groom them. Those collectors can be coaxed to revive their activity if they have stopped. Exclusive female philatelist exhibitions can be conducted. Girls who have been participating in stamp designing can be encouraged to take up the hobby and design award winners can be included in your book. Female postal employees who are active are to be acknowledged.
21. There are not enough but those that are involved tend to be very good indeed.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

**Q17: If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here: (cont)**

22. It's wonderful to meet other women in the field or with the interest. I only usual encounter women at stamp shows. I hope that changes and other stamp ladies become more visible! Thank you!
23. Females in this hobby...means entire generation gains.
24. Monthly meeting Venue & timings are more important in ensuring safety. I sometimes would be the only lady member participating comfortably & that's because the above points are fulfilled. Also importance should be equally given & encouragement is necessary to motivate, I'm the treasurer of our privileged club & that became possible not easily but after 9 years of active participation & encouragement from my fellow members.
25. There aren't much female collectors. There are much more women to be added in stamps and they are not given importance. In regards to religion I feel all Religions must be given preference on stamps. I want to mention that Tamilians must be treated alike at Chennai Club.
26. You know, many of my coworkers in the APS are women, but I'd say only a handful of those are philatelists. Or maybe we all consider ourselves kind of casual collectors, whereas most of the men boast some kind of philatelic expertise. I haven't been in the philatelic community long, but I suspect that there might be a gendered disconnect between what's considered "casual" and what is "actual" philately. For example, how often are the more artistic philatelic pursuits celebrated in the same way as the "mathematic" ones? There seems to be this divide between scientific and artistic approaches to philately, and I suspect it is also connected to gender. Or perhaps, the artistic approach is more welcoming to anyone (newcomers, women, a more diverse community) than the traditional kind of philately. - this is all off-the-cuff - as I say, I'm not actually as involved in the community as I would be if I were actually collecting. It's just a few things that I've thought.
27. There are so many new categories that can be created through stamps documenting or championing woman in their roles in the world, whether they are represented in Government, the arts, sport, engineering to name but a few.
28. In Australia we need more novel ideas in stamp design. Most stamps are just the standard design and layout, with a lot of emphasis on history.
29. Parental help should be available.
30. I've never really thought about female stamp collectors before, but now I really would like to learn more.
31. I don't see/meet enough of them!
32. I think more women should pursue this hobby and promote philately.
33. (No answer)
34. Be welcome, i would love to see more ladies pursuing the hobby. Greetings from the Netherlands.
35. For what it's worth, my favourite stamp Facebook group, which has over 20k members, has seen more women joining and participating. The moderators are extremely good about demanding respect of all collectors - regardless of gender or experience level - and as a result, it's a very "women-friendly" forum. They deserve huge kudos.
36. My mother collected as a child. When I became interested as a child she was the one who supported and encouraged me. Subsequently she took up the hobby again and became as keen as I was joining local and national specialist societies. She died 30 yrs ago now and I inherited her collections which have sat and largely ignored until just this week when I decided to re-write a part of one of her collections for display at a society I belong to. I have thoroughly enjoyed the process, learned a lot and it has brought back some great memories.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Primary Survey

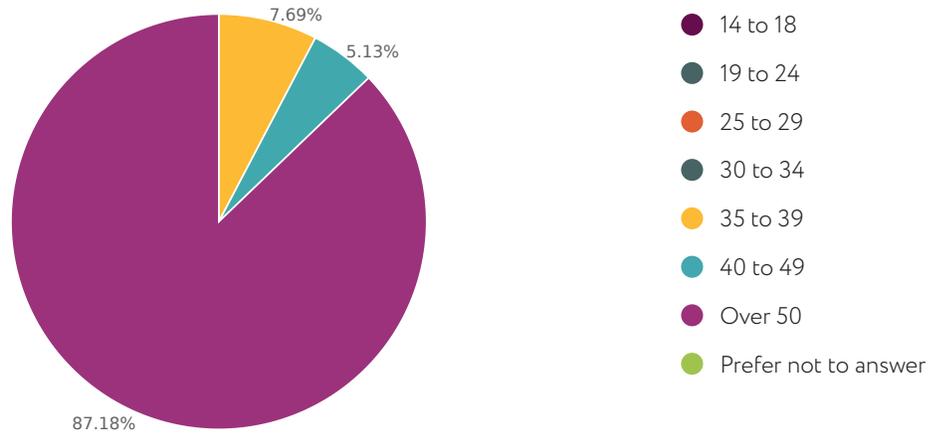
**Q17: If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here: (cont)**

37. In every single aspect of life there are aspects where men & women differ. When women bring their unique perspectives to the hobby, it will be healthier. Women need to struggle against exclusionary males and join club, attend stamp shows, write for stamp publications, and generally provide input to the hobby. The Women Exhibitors group is a perfect example.
38. I would love to read more about it
39. It will be great if include women on stamps from all over the world.
40. My gf is Dawn Goss Host of podcast stampshowheretoday. I will have her take the quiz
41. It might just be me but it seems to me that while younger collectors are scarce, many of them seem to be women – at least in the Anglosphere internet
42. Maybe include women depicted on stamps. This is far more engaging.
43. Wish there were more!
44. There are more of us than people might think!
45. Suzanne from Artstamped is very knowledgeable and I'm sure would help you with your research! (Instagram)
46. I would support any effort to attract more women and young collectors.
47. There are quite a few female members of my stamp club. Still, probably about 70% male, though.
48. Griner Lori
49. It never occurred to me that gender was terribly important in the identity of a stamp collector. Everyone is equally curious, intelligent, and creative when it comes to approaching the hobby.
50. I'd love to see more Madame Curie on the stamps and sure why not, more female stamps I guess, not sad, blue, people, sad anniversaries... :)
51. See previous comment
52. Being almost rare in the stamp world, I think women can play a key roll in taking the hobby into a new era, especially through unconventional ways such creative exhibits to using stamps in art, not just boring albums.

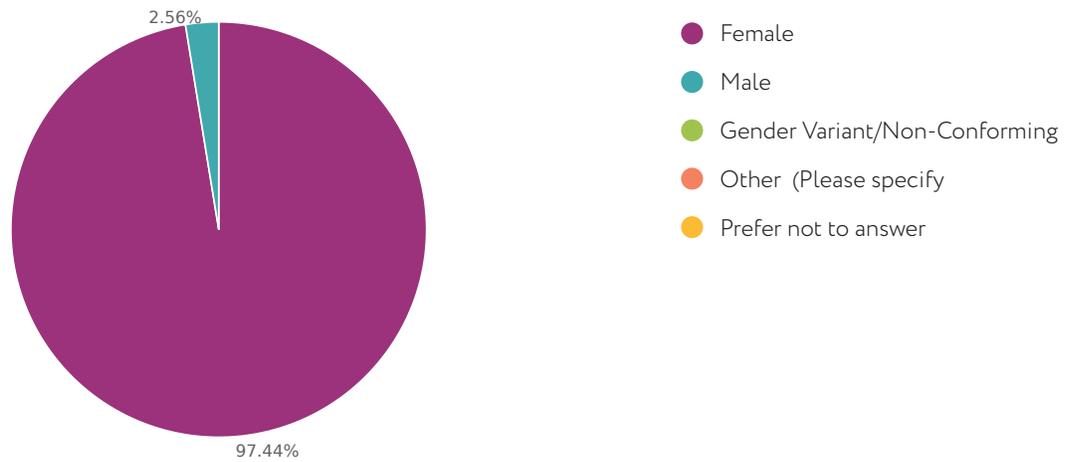
## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

Q1: What is your age?

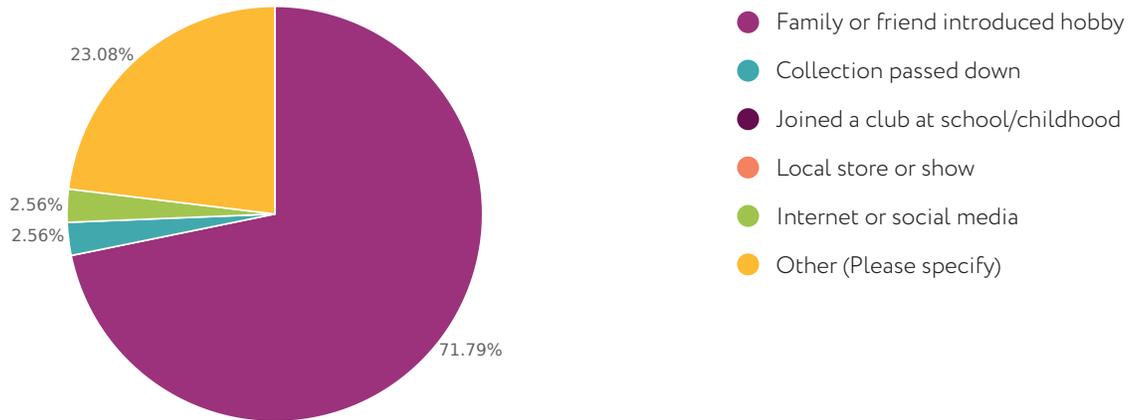


Q2: To which gender identity do you most identify?



**Appendix D (continued)**  
**Survey Results – Secondary Survey**

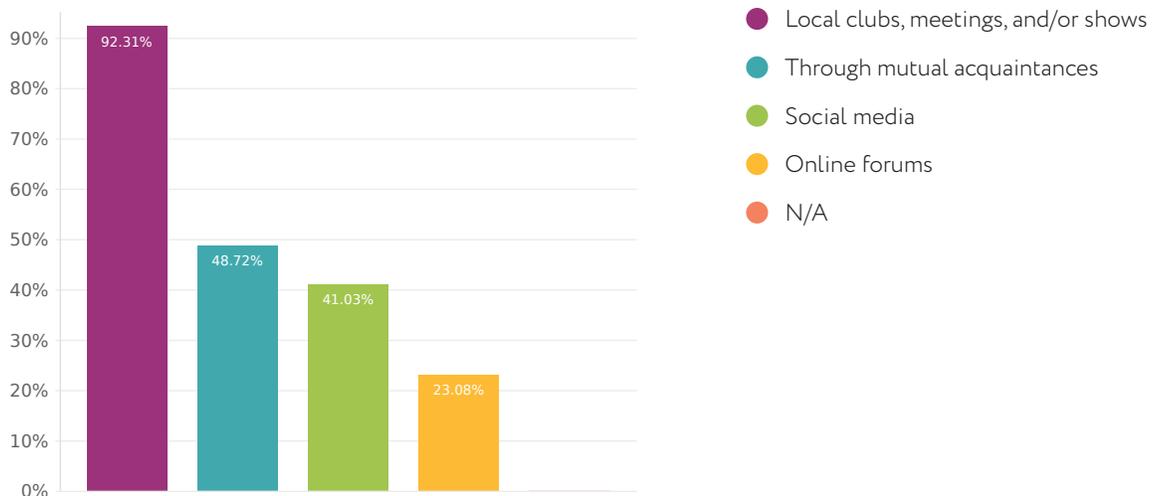
**Q3: How did you get involved in philately?**



**Other (Please specify):**

1. Husband was collector
2. Personal interest
3. Husband
4. Came across an article when I was 12 and become interested in stamps as a hobby
5. Self motivated
6. My late husband was a collector and exhibitor. I was introduced to the hobby through him but did not collect until after he died when I sold his exhibit and started one of my own.
7. went to work for a stamp dealer
8. Started collecting anything lighthouse related and got interested in philately.
9. read article in magazine about it

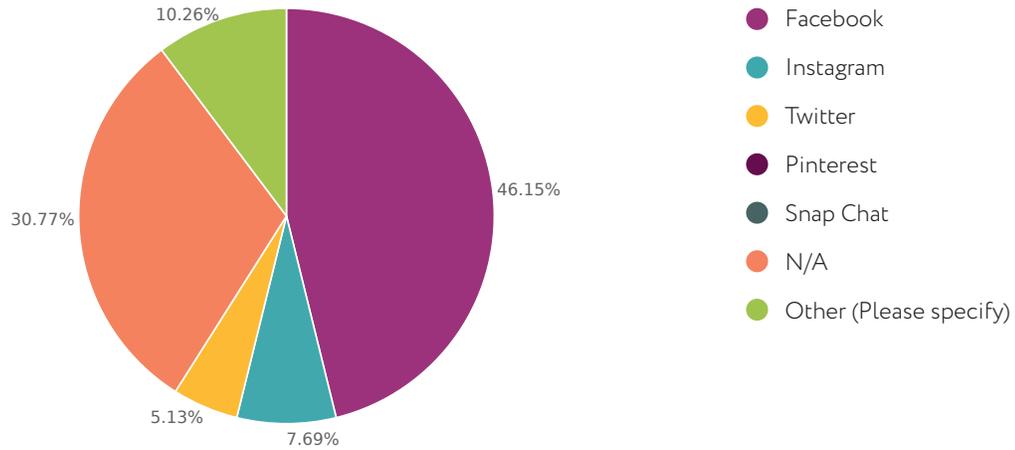
**Q4: How do you connect with other people with similar interests? (Please select all that apply)**



## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

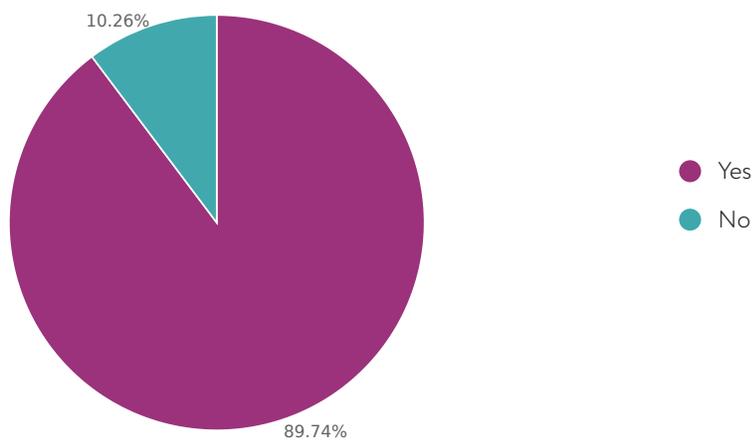
**Q5: In regards to your hobby, what social media platform are you most active on (if you are not on social media, please select "n/a")?**



**Other (Please specify):**

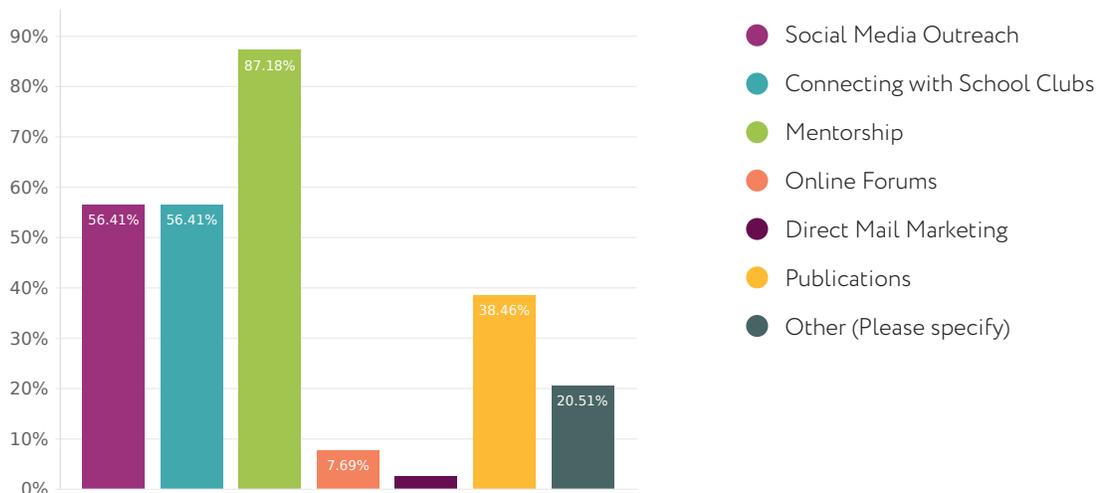
1. none
2. Email, club websites
3. just emails mostly
4. Philamercury

**Q6: Do you think it is important to recruit women and girls specifically into philately?**



**Appendix D (continued)**  
**Survey Results – Secondary Survey**

**Q7: Please select up to 3 methods you feel would work best to recruit women and girls into the hobby.**



Choices	Response percent	Response count
Social Media Outreach	56.41%	22
Connecting with School Clubs	56.41%	22
Mentorship	87.18%	34
Online Forums	7.69%	3
Direct Mail Marketing	2.56%	1
Publications	38.46%	15
Other (Please specify)	20.51%	8

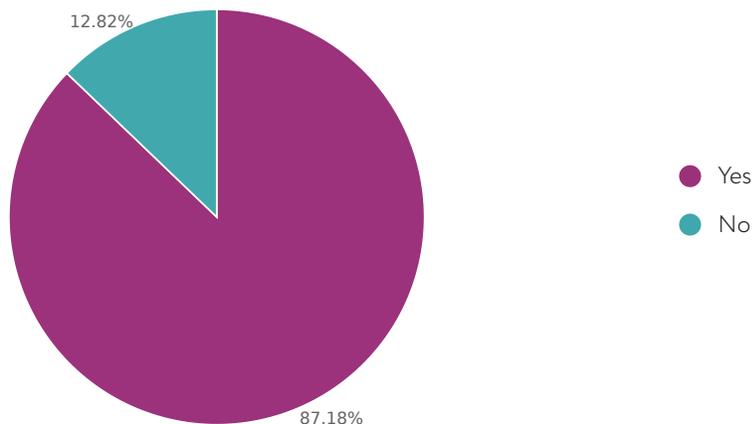
**Other (Please specify):**

1. Shows with youth forums
2. Personal invitations to meetings and philatelic events
3. Vendors, associations with material and articles that focus on issues of interest to women
4. Exhibiting interesting topics to get women interested in collecting.
5. shows
6. Promoting local stamp shows.
7. Giving in person talks to school groups and others with interest in history
8. Course in philately aimed at the history behind the stamps and different items to collect.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

**Q8: Do you think a book about female philatelists and women on stamps would be a useful tool in regards to outreach?**



**Q9: If you are a member of a philatelic organization why did you decide to join?**

1. Wanted to learn more about the hobby.
2. Connect with others
3. My husband and I do much together, -- we are both active in two local stamp clubs. We are also involved in organizing and running our regional stamp show -- NewMexPex -- this will be our 14th year.
4. My answer will skew your research, because I am one of the three women who started Women Exhibitors. So please disregard. But basically, I wanted to exhibit, as my spouse was an exhibitor, and I thought the organizations would be add to my knowledge.
5. Women Exhibitors is specifically designed to promote women in the hobby and it helps us connect with other women in philately. Also member of APS, AAPE, and Lighthouse Society. These organizations give me connections to resources and others in the same field of interest as myself.
6. Comraderie and learning
7. Gain more knowledge and then share it.
8. Share my collection with others. Find out about hobby and stamp shows. Learn how to track my collection and display it.
9. I joined our local club to meet more people in philately and to learn more about the hobby. I joined the APS to be eligible for the insurance program and to increase my knowledge about philately.
10. Learning from other members and sharing knowledge. Attending displays and talks at clubs/organisations. Coming to know experienced philatelists, also in social environments.
11. Help with exhibits, resources, friendships
12. At first, curious about the society. I was a stamp collector a long time before I heard about APS.
13. To be in contact with others with a similar interest; to learn more
14. Social aspects AND information
15. My husband introduced me to stamps as a hobby when he decided to return to collecting. I found just collecting boring; I love exhibiting.
16. To associate with like minded people.
17. To share and learn
18. I like the social side of the hobby beside the actual work involved.

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

#### **Q9: If you are a member of a philatelic organization why did you decide to join? (cont)**

19. ATA because of checklist recommended by stamp dealers which was cheaper if you are a member.  
Local stamp group was a recommendation from a stamp shop owner, so I could get free translation of information on a stamp. APS probably by default of professionalism.-
20. To spend time and exchange information with other collectors.
21. I met other women who were enthusiastic about the hobby, and encouraged me to join the organization.
22. to get the magazine or publication and learn more
23. It is advantageous to my work. To meet other philatelists.
24. Wanted to learn more about philately.
25. I've been a philatelist since I was 8 years old, never took a break. I am a member of several philatelic organizations in order to keep up with what is going on in the philatelic community and my special interests.
26. Provide others with similar interests and education
27. The friendship and sharing of philatelic interests.
28. I decided to join the APS because my father and friends belonged.
29. It was sort of a given - if one was a serious collector, one belonged to the APS, I also joined the specialist society for my collecting interests. Keep in mind I started collecting myself, once I discovered that stamp collecting was a lot more than putting stamps in albums. My parents were collectors, which surely influenced me.
30. To increase my knowledge of the related topics in the hobby.
31. I wanted to increase my social circle and learn from experienced collectors
32. It fulfills my need to stay active intellectually and socially in retirement.
33. To be able to buy stamps from the club's circuit books
34. Location, socialization/networking, education/knowledge
35. Connections and networking
36. To meet other philatelists and participate in philatelic events.

#### **Q10: If you are not a current member of a philatelic organization, what would entice you to join/rejoin?**

1. Low dues.
2. Maybe a book or publication included with the membership. Also active social media presence.
3. N/A
4. Groups of women sharing their stamps and ideas. A different format than the men's groups.
5. I am a member of numerous organizations
6. n/a
7. n/a
8. Interesting speakers at club meetings (if I attend), looking at fun/interesting exhibits at stamp shows, talking to other women at stamp shows who collect/exhibit.
9. Stamp checklists - Access to researchable databases - Access to purchase stamps
10. N/A
11. I joined the Austin-Texas Stamp Club in 1981 because my father had been active in it. From being active there, I went on to being active in the Texas Philatelic Association and APS.
12. Membership bargain (A percentage off the normal price of membership), could be a package deal of covers, books, stamps plus membership.
13. personal invitation; purpose/mission of the organization; welcoming of women; (not accepting of women but welcoming)

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

**Q11: If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here:**

1. Women play an important part in the success of our hobby. They are a vital part of most stamp shows and stamp clubs -- and they are increasingly involved in exhibiting as well.
2. Develop collecting "pals" of other ages or sex based on interest - eg. Art on stamps or a country they've visited ...
3. It is an enjoyable challenge to overcome stereotypes. Better than it used to be but I still gets lots of mail addressed to Mr.
4. It is a great hobby. I have found ample opportunities in my local club for taking leadership responsibilities and for sharing the hobby.
5. Invite wives, partners, friends to a meeting/event specially arranged for potential Collector's, using themes and material which might appeal to women, rather than the image if an elderly male with a magnifying glass and tweezers. Examples such as Open Philately/Display Class/Picture Postcards and similar classes which you have in the USA. The personal touch.
6. There aren't clubs or even shows in my immediate area. My only option to connect to others would be online. I would like to see more online options for learning about different topics and networking with other collectors (regardless of gender!) I hope you will let WE members read your thesis when you're done--it sounds like a great topic!
7. I was blessed to have some great female collectors willing to support, encourage, teach, and share their experiences with me. They still bring fond memories to my mind! The one on one contact is critical in this day of electronics...we need that personal connection.
8. Equal treatment of female philatelists crucial for long term success.
9. Introducing women to collecting philatelic "stuff" other than just stamps.
10. A book on women philatelists would be a good addition to the literature. Books and articles on women on stamps already exist. Few women collect women on stamps. They usually find a more personal connection or a topic, theme, country, etc.
11. I think retired and widowed women are a good target. Women in those categories could definitely benefit from the intellectual and social sides of the hobby; would, perhaps, have some disposable income and time to devote to collecting.
12. Not all nurses on stamps are women but most of them are---nurses are likely collectors if shown/told about how history of nursing could be described. Several nurses have written books/pamphlets on nurses on stamps and my friends wanted copies even if they are not philatelists. I think pushing philately as collection of antiques might work too!
13. Things are a lot better for women than they were in the 1980s -- less sexual harassment, more acceptance as peers. But organized philately remains a heavily male arena. If I knew how to change this to a more egalitarian situation, I would shout it from the rooftops, but I simply do not know what would work.
14. Meeting one in person is most important! Men are everywhere, but women stamp collectors are few and far between.
15. Stamp collecting in general, and women's philatelic groups in particular, tend to be cliquish. We/they need to do more to invite others in; explain, explain, explain -- don't assume that new folks know what has been done historically; listen to the ideas of new members -- think outside the box -- not everything needs to continue just "because it's always been done that way"; don't look down on collectors whose goals are simpler than yours; always remember that there is no right or wrong way to collect stamps.
16. Workshops in person and online.
17. Though WE encourages women to exhibit we should do more. Girls rock!!

## Appendix D (continued)

### Survey Results – Secondary Survey

**Q11: If you have any additional thoughts on female stamp collectors and women in philately, please provide them here: (cont)**

18. Being active in organized philately and exhibiting were the most rewarding--meeting, learning and working with people of like interests.

19. Understand that female collectors have different interest. Not all are interested in topical collecting.

20. Before we focus on recruiting - we need to focus on creating a welcoming environment. There is a lot of sexism in the hobby. I hesitate to recruit other women and girls if they have to face such an unpleasant environment.

21. Could start by offering stamps which relate to their hobbies, e.g. , quilting, cats. Also show them exhibit pages (could be one-page exhibits). Ask them what is their passion, and discuss ways of collecting items relating to their passion. Have a club exhibit that shows the different items that can be collected.

22. Females are the Future of Philately - flexible, futuristic, creative, willing to grow, think outside the box, fun, artistic, welcoming, etc.

## Appendix E

### Student Research Certificates

  Completion Date 19-Mar-2020  
Expiration Date 19-Mar-2023  
Record ID [REDACTED]

This is to certify that:

**Stacy Adam**

Has completed the following CITI Program course:

**Human Subjects Research (HSR)** (Curriculum Group)  
**Revised Common Rule** (Course Learner Group)  
**1 - Basic course** (Stage)

Under requirements set by:

**University of Baltimore**

  
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

Verify at [www.citiprogram.org/verify/?wc20518eb-fcd0-4fe2-ad10-e420298a648b-35462760](http://www.citiprogram.org/verify/?wc20518eb-fcd0-4fe2-ad10-e420298a648b-35462760)

  Completion Date 22-Feb-2020  
Expiration Date 21-Feb-2023  
Record ID [REDACTED]

This is to certify that:

**Stacy Adam**

Has completed the following CITI Program course:

**Human Subjects Research (HSR)** (Curriculum Group)  
**Group 1: Student Researchers** (Course Learner Group)  
**1 - Basic course** (Stage)

Under requirements set by:

**University of Baltimore**

  
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

Verify at [www.citiprogram.org/verify/?w93dfccdf-d532-449d-9a2e-575ed33cacee-35462759](http://www.citiprogram.org/verify/?w93dfccdf-d532-449d-9a2e-575ed33cacee-35462759)

## Appendix F

### Documents for IRB Review

#### Interview Process

##### **Female Philatelist Interview Process**

To find and narrow down potential interview candidates, I will conduct a three-part interview. Part 1 will be a set of initial questions that will allow me to select a diverse group of women to fully interview and include in my book. Answers to some of these questions may appear throughout my book, but they would not appear as fully interviewed subjects.

Part 2 will contain questions that are more in-depth. While they will likely be customized a little based on answers from Part 1, they will follow a similar structure for each person selected to conduct a full interview. These will also be sent via email to give the respondents time to answer.

Part 3 will be a follow-up video or audio call to ask any further questions, and to have a more personal conversation with each interviewee.

I believe that this process will provide thorough, well thought out responses, but also will lend itself to being less redundant and offer more interest to the final book.

-----

##### **Part 1 – Initial Email Interview**

*Include consent form so participants know this survey is not anonymous and that responses might be used in my book.*

1. How long have you been a philatelist?
2. How did you become interested in philately?
3. What organizations, clubs, or online groups are you a member of?
4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?
5. What do you collect and why?
6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?
7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?
8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?

##### **Part 2 – In-Depth Email Interview Questions**

*Personalize these questions based on what their responses are to the initial Part 1 questions. Questions will be based on the below structure:*

1. Did you have a mentor or someone who inspired you to collect?
2. What do you like about being a part of a philatelic community (specifically address organizations they list from Part 1)?
3. What encouraged you to attend your first stamp show or club meeting?
4. Please share what your experience has been like being part of the philatelic community (local clubs, stamp shows, national organizations, online, social media, etc.)?
5. What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who showed interest in philatelic related topics?
6. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?
7. What are you hopes for the future of philately?

##### **Part 3 – Follow-up Video Call Interview Questions**

*Will be personalized based on email responses. Sample questions could include:*

1. How did you feel being the only woman at the club meeting?
2. Do you have any family or friends who have begun collecting since you shared your interests with them?
3. Do you think you will continue to collect throughout your life?

## Appendix F (continued)

### Documents for IRB Review

#### Consent Form (Page 1)

**Whom to Contact about this study:**

Principal Investigator: Stacy Adam  
 Department: University of Baltimore – College of Arts and Sciences  
 Email: stacy.adam@ubalt.edu

**CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

*Interviews with Female Philatelists*

**I. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:**

I am being asked to participate in a research study. The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of the experiences and interests of female philatelists who are active participants in a male dominated hobby. I am being asked to volunteer because I am an active philatelist and have expressed my interest in being interviewed for this project. My involvement in this study will begin when I agree to participate and will continue for approximately two years after the first interview. About 30 persons will be invited to participate.

**II. PROCEDURES:**

As a participant in this study, I will be asked to answer questions about my history as a philatelist, my experience, and my collection preferences. My participation in this study will last for up to two interviews conducted via email, and possibly a third recorded audio/video call if more information is needed.

**III. RISKS AND BENEFITS:**

My participation in this study does not involve any significant risks and I have been informed that my participation in this research will not benefit me personally, but would benefit the hobby of philately and women who show interests but are hesitant to participate in philately.

**IV. CONFIDENTIALITY:**

The information gathered for this study will be related to my philately collection, my history within the hobby, and my involvement in philatelic organizations, clubs, and groups. My name and answers to the interview questions asked will be used in a book written by Stacy Adam, and on a website and social media platforms developed in conjunction with the book. Any contact information, including email, phone number, address, will be kept confidential and stored electrically in password protected files. Only the investigator will have access to this information. By signing this form, however, I allow the research study investigator to make my records available to the University of Baltimore Institutional Review Board (IRB) and regulatory agencies as required to do so by law. Upon completion of the project, any identifiers might be removed and that, after such removal, the information could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional informed consent from the subject.

**Check for use of answers and name to be used in book, on website, and on social media:**

- Yes, I give permission to use my name and interview responses in a book, on website, and social media.
- No, I do not give permission to use my name and interview responses in a book, on website, and social media.

## Appendix F (continued)

### Documents for IRB Review

#### Consent Form (Page 2)

**V. SPONSOR OF THE RESEARCH:**

This research study is for a master's thesis.

**VI. COMPENSATION/COSTS:**

My participation in this study will involve no cost to me.

**VII. CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS:**

The principal investigator(s), Stacy Adam and/or her advising team, Professor Jeanne Fountain and Professor Kyle Meikle, have offered to and have answered any and all questions regarding my participation in this research study. If I have any further questions, I can contact Stacy Adam and/or her advising team, Professor Jeanne Fountain and Professor Kyle Meikle at stacy.adam@ubalt.edu, jfountain@ubalt.edu, or kmeikle@ubalt.edu.

For questions about rights as a participant in this research study, contact the UB IRB Coordinator: 410-837-4057, irb@ubalt.edu.

**VIII. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

I have been informed that my participation in this research study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw or discontinue participation at any time.

*I will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.*

**IX. SIGNATURE FOR CONSENT**

The above-named investigator has answered my questions and I agree to be a research participant in this study. By signing this consent form, I am acknowledging that I am at least 18 years of age.

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix F (continued)

### Documents for IRB Review

#### Drafts of contact emails

##### **Email Interview #1A (To people who have agreed):**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am excited to announce that the review board at The University of Baltimore has given me their approval to begin interviewing female philatelists for the next stage of my Master of Fine Arts thesis work. I would be happy to have your participation. Attached you will find a consent form that includes: details about my project; the purpose of interviewing women in philately; and a request for your permission to use your responses in my research, along with the project pieces I plan to create (a book, website, and social media).

I've included the questions below, as well as an attached Word document. Please feel free to answer the questions directly through email, or using the Word document, whichever you feel most comfortable doing.

1. How long have you been a philatelist?
2. How did you become interested in philately?
3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?
4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?
5. What do you collect and why?
6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?
7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?
8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?

Thank you again for your participation. If you have any questions, please let me know. As the consent form states, you may withdraw your participation at any time.

Thank you,  
Stacy

## Appendix F (continued)

### Documents for IRB Review

#### Drafts of contact emails (cont)

##### **Email Interview #1B (To people who I have not spoken with about this project):**

Hello \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is Stacy Adam and I am currently working on my Master of Fine Arts thesis at the University of Baltimore. The focus of my thesis work is women in philately. It is my goal to empower more women with an interest in stamps, postal history, and other mail ephemera to actively engage in philately.

For the next part of my thesis I am interviewing women who identify as philatelists. \_\_\_\_\_ passed your information along to me because they thought you would be a great addition to this research. **(Or if it's someone I've found myself, tell them how I found them)** I'm contacting you to see if you might be willing to participate in an email interview exchange to help support my work.

If you'd like to know a little bit more about me and my work, below is a link to a recent article that I wrote for the March 2020 issue of the *American Philatelists*, as well as a link for a stamp chat I participated in with the APS about my thesis topic and research thus far:

Article: <https://stamps.org/news/c/collecting-insights/cat/opinion/post/the-hobby-of-kings-and-queens>

Video: <https://youtu.be/nsLqSBMoFVo>

If you would like to participate, I've included the interview questions below, as well as an attached Word document. Please feel free to answer the questions directly through email, or using the Word document, which ever you feel most comfortable doing.

I've also attached a consent form that includes: details about my project; the purpose of interviewing women in philately; and a request for your permission to use your responses in my research, along with the project pieces I plan to create (a book, website, and social media).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. As the consent form states, you may withdraw your participation at any time.

Thank you,  
Stacy

##### **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

1. How long have you been a philatelist?
2. How did you become interested in philately?
3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?
4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?
5. What do you collect and why?
6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?
7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?
8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?

## Appendix G

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**Name: Charlene Blair**

#### Interview Part 1

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I have been a stampkeeper, preferred name, since 1991.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

After reading an article in Jet Magazine about the next Black Heritage Stamp being issued in 1992, I started researching others that had been featured in the series and eventually expanded to stamps outside of the series.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

ESPER, APS, WE, ATA, Virtual Stamp Club

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

Membership and interaction on social media

**5. What do you collect and why?**

African Americans on US Stamps as our community is still not aware of many of the individuals featured so I share them on social media and through exhibits.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

I consider myself more of a stamp collector that curates pop-up exhibits to share the hobby with individuals that would not typically be exposed or interested in the hobby. I think that people that call themselves "Philatelist" view the hobby differently and are more interested in the traditional views, rules and regulations.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?**

I could answer a few more as needed.

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

Yes, what are you looking for? Such a variety of items. You can view my April APS stamp chat to see items too. APS Stamp Chat: Charlene Blair of the National Museum of African Americans on Stamps

#### Interview Part 2

**1. After you began collecting stamps, did you have a mentor or anyone who you looked up to as a fellow collector?**

Mrs. Esper Hayes, the founder of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER), became an inspiration and someone to emulate. She was passionate about the hobby and supportive of new collectors that were trying to be innovative. She gave me a beautiful scarf featuring African Americans on Stamps and some of ESPER members started calling me "Little ESPER". My Illinois Chapter won the ESPER award at ESPER's 30th Anniversary Celebration in 2018 for the work we had been doing to promote and advance the hobby. It was truly a loss felt when she passed the beginning of 2019. <http://virtualstampclub.com/lloydblog/?p=8358>

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

- 2. While you prefer to call yourself a stampkeeper, are there aspects of being a part of the philately community you enjoy or find helpful?**

I like the social media pages like Facebook and Twitter for the various clubs. It helps everyone stay connected and in the loop. You get information, like new stamp offerings, before it may be made available to the general population.

- 3. Can you share what your experience has been like being part of the philatelic community (local clubs, stamp shows, national organizations, online, social media, etc.)?**

Focusing on African Americans on U.S. stamps is a relatively new topic and really wasn't consistent until 1978. As a result, we don't have a lot of "rare" items unless it's an error, although they are becoming "scarce". Some dealers and traditional stamp collectors don't see or acknowledge the value of this topic. For me it was never about the financial value but the exposure and introduction of the hobby to a broader audience. I am able to share the hobby, the history of the individual on the stamp, the artist who designed it and the options to be a museum professional. These are all areas where African Americans are under-represented.

- 4. You mentioned that you feel some philatelists view the hobby with traditional views, and rules and regulations. There seem to be a lot of new collectors, like myself, who would like to see a newer mindset and definition of philately to include a larger variety of experience level, involvement and interests. What are your thoughts on opening up the more traditional mindset of philately to be more encompassing of different styles of collecting?**

As one of the few African American exhibitors, maybe the only African American woman to win ribbons, I have received encouragement and feedback that has been helpful and contributed to my growth. Having the "display" category leaves more room to be creative than the traditional "topical" category. But I have also felt the air that says "what you have or are doing" is insignificant. I disagree. For the hobby to thrive and survive we will have to allow room for new ways of competing, exhibiting and/or displaying our collections. We have to find the balance of appreciating those that came before us who got the hobby started and learn some of their basic processes but they have to pass the baton on to a new generation that may be more innovative and have ideas as well.

- 5. Do you have any visions or hopes for the future of philately?**

As a person that does pop-up exhibits, I'd like to see more people share their collections in more public venues outside of the traditional stamp shows. For example, I set up at expos, conferences and libraries. Personally, a gallery or small museum featuring my collection is always on my radar. Not everyone will have the opportunity to visit the National Postal Museum (NPM) in DC. I had an opportunity to visit when the NPM hosted the "Freedom Just Around the Corner: Black American from Civil War to Civil Right" exhibit from 2015-2016. It is online now and a very needed resource during this time of increased digital offerings. <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/freedom-just-around-the-corner>. I think we will see more online presentations as a means to share our collections as well.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### Interview Part 3

1. **During my research, I have found that in this hobby, many women and people of color have been treated poorly at stamps shows and meetings, and many others with an interest in philatelic topics are afraid to even attend their first stamp show for fear of being treated badly. What would you say to someone who has an interest in stamps, but who is worried about being treated unfairly at a stamp show or philatelic gathering?**

I would tell a person interested in the stamp show experience to still come but to call out the person that made them feel uncomfortable. And, definitely not to leave any money on their table. I have been in meetings where women have said they felt dismissed or disrespected by dealers. We as collectors have to pass the word and not support vendors that exhibit this behavior or perhaps the host organization can do surveys about vendors and not let them participate in future shows when shoppers/collectors make them aware of less than desirable interactions. My experience has been vendors saying they are sold out of black heritage but in many cases they probably never carried it. By word of mouth, we support vendors that have diverse and inclusive materials available. With the growth of internet shopping, more people are probably buying online but you still have to find the vendors that have items you are interested in. At the end of the day, shop where your money is appreciated.

2. **As someone who creates pop-up exhibits in non-philatelic spaces, can you share some memories you have about reactions from the public and people passing by?**

We try to show a variety of philatelic materials. In addition to stamps we incorporate first day covers, souvenir pages, post cards, posters etc. People seem pleasantly surprised not to enter a room filled with stamps laying flat on tables. They express an interest in learning more about the hobby and other individuals on stamps. It has really been a way to expose others to artist, history and the museum field.

3. **As a stampkeeper, is there an item in your collection that you were really proud or excited to obtain? Also, do you have a favorite part of the collection process? (For example: the hunt for the perfect stamp, or organizing displays, researching a topic, etc.)**

I am happy to have obtained one of the Marvin Gaye posters signed by the artist, Kadir Nelson. There were only 1000 made available by the USPS. I am creating short videos now and putting them on YouTube so deciding which pieces to include from my collection has been interesting. I enjoy organizing/curating displays. Putting pieces that we would normally put on a table display into a powerpoint for an online presentation has allowed me to share more of the collection to a broader audience and be more creative in the hobby as well.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**Name:** Warachal Eileen Faison, MD

#### Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

Although I started collecting stamps in elementary school, I became a philatelist in 2014.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

As a child, I was surrounded by loved ones who collected stamps or had general philatelic interests. Thus, my early desire to collect stamps was born out of interactions with my father, mother, brother, and paternal grandmother. I still remember combing through large bags of stamps as a child and matching them to their appropriate places in a huge binder. Although other interests captured my attention as I continued my schooling, my philatelic interest peaked again a few decades later as I listened to my brother, Walter Lee Faison, Jr., speak passionately about an incredible stamp society, Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER). I was gifted an ESPER membership by my brother in 2014. I soon became immersed in stamp activities and quickly saw the importance of increasing ESPER's outreach to increase awareness about this stamp society. Subsequently as ESPER's first Social Media Director, I expanded ESPER's outreach via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

- a. Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections: Director of Social Media (2014-present); President of the Board of Directors (2019-present)
- b. American Philatelic Society: Member; Membership Committee Member
- c. American Topical Association: Member

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

(see above)

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I focus on a number of themes as I collect stamps and covers. In particular, I am drawn to philatelic material highlighting the following: Black history, women, health, places I have visited, and childhood interests. I truly believe in the #StampsTeach hashtag! The role that African Americans have played in our American history is often overlooked. As an African American, I believe stamps highlighting African Americans allow light to shine on our important achievements. In the same vein, as a woman, it is also important to highlight the role of women in history. As a physician, I appreciate stamps highlighting health care because these stamps educate us about important medical milestones and medical conditions/issues. Last but not least, stamps that remind me of places I've visited and/or childhood interests give me pure joy!

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

I consider myself a philatelist because not only do I collect stamps, but I also study and research stamps in great detail.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?** Absolutely

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?** Absolutely

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**Name:** Lisa Foster

#### Interview Part 1

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I consider myself a lifelong philatelist.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

My grandfather collected mint US stamps, and stamps from France and Norway. My father collected postcards and German stamps.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I am current President of Women Exhibitors (WE), having been a member since its first year in 2007. Other than the Lesbian Stamp Club, it is the only women's stamp club in the USA.

I am current President of Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS), after having been asked to reactivate the organization in 2018. Originally founded in 1983, it continued until 2013 when the group ceased operations.

I am current President of the Evergreen Stamp Club (ESC), formerly the Boeing Employee's Stamp Club, located in Kent WA. The ESC holds monthly meetings, a Spring Stamp Bourse and a Summer Exhibition. The shows are considered Regional, rather than local, since SEAPEX gained WSP status.

I have been a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS) for over 25 years.

I am a member of the American Topical Association (ATA), American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), The Machine Cancel Society, American Philatelic Research Library, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), EFO Collector's Club, Northwest Post Card Society (NWPCS), and past member of many others, but have had to cut back due to lack of time.

I am a member of the APS Writers Unit #30 whose focus is encouraging and assisting philatelic communication.

I created and manage the Facebook page WIPS: Women in Philately where the focus is recognition and promotion of women in philately.

I am a Regional philatelic judge for the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. I am currently in an APS apprentice program to become a National Philatelic judge.

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

In addition to responses above in #3. I am the editor of the GLHS Quarterly e-journal. Write articles and submit material for publication for WE Expressions (WE Quarterly e-journal). Prior co-editor of the NWFSC journal the Federated Philatelist.

For WE also Chair of WE Fest committee.

Past member of the SEAPEX Board (Secretary & Exhibits Chair) in the four-year probation to becoming a WSP sanctioned exhibition.

For the ESC, I have been exhibits chair for years. Current role as President includes bourse chair.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

For ESC, GLHS and WE coordinate and create one-page exhibits for Club Showcase Exhibits and enter them in exhibitions that offer club exhibits. Promotion of the clubs, promotion of exhibiting, etc.

Hold National and Regional meetings for WE and GLHS at shows.

Awarded "The Northwest Distinguished Philatelist Award" by the NWFSC in 2019.

Member of the AAPE Education Committee.

#### 5. What do you collect and why?

US Used predominately; cancellations/marcophily; Topically: Nursing on Stamps, Mice, stamps on stamps, post office, stamp collecting, items for exhibits, etc.

Exhibits include: "American Postal Machine Company Flag Cancels Used at the Main Post Office in Chicago, IL 1895-1899", "George Washington; A Philatelic Profile", "The Great American Eclipse 2017", "Invalid Postage Use", "Postal, Stamp, Collecting".

Exhibits currently in process include: 1989 Washington Statehood Mt. Rainier (Scott #2404) FDC exhibit; Elmer E. Ellsworth; WWII Woman's Army Corps WAC 1943 Linen Postcards.

I started collecting US used as a child as it was easily accessible and arrived on mail in the mailbox. I did not graduate to Mint US as my grandfather collected that and I knew when he passed, I would inherit the collection.

My grandfather gave me a cigar box full of bundles 2 cent George Washington Stamps, with the triangles in the upper corners. I have worked for years to decipher which Scott number they each are based on printing, watermarks, colors, perforations, etc. Another life long pending exhibit. My interest in George Washington expanded as I live in Washington State, and further when my parents moved to the East Coast. There I got to visit the location where GW crossed the Delaware, etc.

The APMC Flag Cancels collection/exhibit began from a pile of covers found in a dollar box. At the time I thought, ah ha! the beginning of an exhibit.

Invalid Use became an interest when one of the philatelic organizations mailed me my membership renewal using a picture of a stamp they had cut out of a magazine. I always wondered if they were hoping it would not be delivered so I would not renew my membership.

Some topics I collect as they relate to me personally. For example, Nursing as I am a nurse. Mice because that was my nickname as a child. Stamp Collecting as that is my hobby.

The Great American Eclipse of 2017 – was an awesome stamp, first of its kind in the US. My family went to OR to watch the eclipse. There were eclipse post offices offering cancels of the event, which fit in well with my love of marcophily.

Exhibiting has focused my purchases a lot. Otherwise I see so many items I want to have, but I do not have the room, time or funds for everything. In addition, some of my collecting/acquiring is related to finding an item that would be good to write about in a philatelic journal.

#### 6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?

If the definition of a philatelist is the "Love of Stamps", then yes, I am a philatelist.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

I have always enjoyed receiving and sending mail. I enjoy card making, sending postcards while traveling and frequenting Hallmark. I enjoy choosing postage stamps to mirror the purpose of the mailings. It is an intimate form of connecting to others that brings others joy, and feelings that they are loved, remembered, important, and so much more.

Although I enjoy the hunt and the satisfaction in finding a desired philatelic item, I do consider myself to be more than a "Stamp Collector." For me philately is more than a hobby. It's a major part of my identity. If the definition of a philatelist is a "specialist in philately", then I am not so sure, as I don't consider myself a "specialist" in any particular area of stamp collecting. If I had to pick my specialty, it would be the promotion of the hobby.

One of my main life missions has been to save stamp collecting. I work hard to promote philately, highlight the benefits of the hobby, and ensure its availability to all. In an attempt to pass on the hobby to the next generation, I have worked on committees and tables at stamp shows, written columns promoting stamp collecting to youth, etc. I have dedicated years to promoting exhibiting to all regardless of age, sex, finances, or social standing. I serve in clubs that represent those collectors who are underserved, i.e. Women and LGBTQ+. If I could earn a living wage as a philatelist, I would quit my day job in a minute!

7. **Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?** Yes
8. **Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?** Sure...exhibit pages...

### Interview Part 2

#### 1. **What do you like about being a part of the philatelic community?**

The shared interest in a hobby – like minded individuals. For the most part, stamp collectors get along with everyone, regardless of their political, religious, social beliefs....as long as we stay focused on our commonality; the love of stamps.

Although exhibitors are often competitive as are many stamp collectors with an "I can top that" mentality, they are most always willing to assist another collector, sharing their expertise, and resources.

Human beings as pack animals need to have a sense of community. The philatelic community has provided me with that. I am awkward socially, misunderstood by many, and have found little acceptance in the general community. The philatelic community, for the most part has accepted me, provided encouragement and engagement in a larger purpose.

#### 2. **Can you share what your experience has been like being in the philatelic community? Are any particular experiences (good or bad) or favorite memories you would like share?**

For the most part my experiences have been good. There have been some that have been negative. I am uncomfortable being too specific, or naming names. I am comfortable in addressing globally.

The most negative aspect of philately is the gender bias, old boy network and mentality. It gets old at times, and tiring. I have invested hours assisting with philatelic projects and not only not been thanked or acknowledged, but men have taken the credit and/or been awarded for the result. I have been criticized for what I have done (create a membership form/write an article/etc) rather than encouraged or educated regarding what would/could make it better and how to do it.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

I think individuals in the philatelic community forget that most service positions in the hobby are filled by volunteers. They are not paid employees and thus need to be treated differently, with grace, and gratitude.

**3. What would you say to someone interested in philately?**

It depends. I would inquire for more specifics, what aspects of the hobby they find attractive and then provide networks and resources in that area. I would ask what if any misgivings they may have in pursuing the hobby and dismiss myths. I have tried to expand on interests they already have and find ways to incorporate philately into them. I have invited them to stamp shows, provided tours of exhibits, and shared my experiences. Philately is a large hobby, it is not just buying stamps and putting them in an album. It can be a solitary or social hobby. As the hobby has moved online, I have shared/encouraged others to watch philatelic videos, listen to philatelic podcasts about topics they find important.

**4. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?**

Women Exhibitors provides a network of women to support all women in philately, not just exhibitors. There are many prominent women who hold leadership positions in the hobby, but we still need more.

Philately is a hobby filled with opportunity, not only for the individual themselves, but also for the hobby. It can become whatever one wants or needs it to be. Although it appears to have many "rules"; rules are meant to be broken. There are traditionalists, but there are visionaries who are breaking barriers and forging new ground in the hobby, and many are women.

**5. You are very passionate about bringing philately to a much wider audience, what are your hopes for the future of philately?**

My main hope is that philately has a future. With the decrease in letter writing, concerns about the state of the Post Office, and the aging of the collectors/dealers/members in the hobby, I have fears the hobby will disappear altogether.

**6. There seem to be a lot of new collectors and people interested in stamps, who would like to see a more contemporary mindset within philately to include a larger variety of experience level and interests (for example stamp art and chain cards). What are your thoughts on opening up the more traditional mindset of philately to be more encompassing of different styles of collecting?**

See my response to #4 and #5. I could be described as a traditionalist. I was instructed that mint stamps are worth more than used stamps, they should be stored in ways to minimize damage, etc. For this reason, I was uncomfortable seeing stamps used to make art, glued on things, and damaged. I was also concerned that as a result there would be less stamps to put in albums.

These "progressive" activities have led me to evaluate my beliefs, and values. What is stamp collecting? I know what it is to me, but who am I to question or define what it is for others? If I genuinely believe and support "Philately for ALL", then I must be open to new ideas, and support others in their visions.

I have enjoyed seeing the hobby progress, the innovative and artistic ways others have incorporated stamps into their lives. My thought process has evolved as I have watched these ideas bring others joy, promote stamps, attract new interest, and ensure the continued success of the hobby.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Kimberlee Fuller

#### Interview Part 1

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

Since in 1988.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

Through my grandfather (from my adopted family), Ralph Dorn (now deceased), who was a philatelist and courier for the US Army in Europe during WWII. He had a basic US collection and general worldwide collection. I became especially interested in collecting worldwide, especially Asian countries and countries that “no longer exist”, have since changed names or become assimilated by other countries like Zanzibar (now a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania).

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

Collectors Club of NY, Collectors Club of SF, US Classics Society, The Happening, APS, Young Friends of the APS, Shut Up and Deco, DecoFest. I was very active in the Greater Richmond Stamp Club (founded by August Dietz) in Richmond, VA from 2011-2017 when I lived there as Newsletter Editor and then Vice President but have since relinquished my membership status since I now live in the Bay Area.

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

Active member although obviously less physically active since the spread of COVID-19. I was the organizer for the DecoFest meet up that was supposed to occur in SF in July 2020 but due to COVID-19, that event is now canceled and postponed until ??? Although The Happening event is still commencing in NOLA this July, for the safety of our family and others, we have decided not to attend this year.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

Owls on stamps, (thematic) Owl postal history and Owl postcards. I collect owl figurines, stationery and all (thematic) owl objects. My mom and grandmother collected owls. I grew up surrounded by them and although I am estranged from my adopted family the sight of owls and owl imagery brings me joy. I am also interested in ornithology in general.

The US Champion of Liberty issue (1957-1962) stamps and postal history. As an Asian American, I first took an interest in this collection as a kid because of the 8c Ramon Magsaysay stamp (Scott 1095). He was the 1st Asian featured on a US stamp at that time of issue. Then because of their interesting political/propaganda-related nature, I took an interest in collecting the rest of the series, especially the postal history and combined rate usages.

Machins. I always enjoyed their multitude of colors and varieties.

I also have a minor interest in general Korea and Japan and have formed small collections of countries I've enjoyed traveling to like St. Lucia and France. Topically, I also have small collections of mushrooms and fiber arts themed stamps. These were formed because I am interested in mycology and I am avid knitter and crocheter.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

By definition, it is one who collects or studies stamps and that is exactly what I do and have done since I was a kid. I have also worked professionally at 3 different philatelic auction houses, my husband is a professional philatelist and many of our friends and those in our closest social circle are philatelists; thus our social activities revolve around philatelic events and meetings.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project? Sure.**

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection? Sure.**

### Interview Part 2

**1. Other than your grandfather's influence in your philatelic interests, did you have any mentors who helped you or that you looked up to in regards to collecting?**

Absolutely, meeting my husband, Matthew Kewriga, for starters; similar to me, he was introduced to philately through his grandfather (also a WW2 veteran) and started collecting at the age of 10 but unlike me, he was already bidding in auctions as a kid (he had to bring his mom to shows to have him sign checks) and he began working as a professional philatelist in his early 20s. Prior to meeting Matt at the APS Summer Show in Hartford, CT in August 2014, I only attended small local shows. Although I read about the bigger national and international shows, that was the first national show I ever attended and he introduced me to countless other philatelists and stamp dealers and being an active judge and exhibitor, he explained the entire judging and exhibiting process to me (which prior to then was completely foreign to me). Although I had already bid in philatelic auctions before, through his experience as a professional philatelist, Matt explained how an auction house is run, its role within the philatelic world and various nuances of bidding, consigning, acquiring and selling collections. That eventually led to me to realize that I could make a career out of my hobby and led to me working for 3 different auction houses and developing my own collecting on a much more specialized level.

Ken Lawrence has inspired and assisted me the most by allowing me to buy his Champions of Liberty collection in installments when I was low on cash, educating me on the contents of the collection and helping me to understand the rates and usages of countless covers I've acquired since then.

The entire Greater Richmond Stamp Club, Mark Lawrence, David Zlowe, George & Linda Eveleth, Schuyler Rumsey, Wade Saadi, Gordon Eubanks, Labron & Mary (RIP) Harris, Doug and Miriam Weisz, Allen Campbell, Tami and Eric Jackson, Marva Williams and Lester Lanphear, III, Stephen Reinhard, Judy and Richard Malmgren, Kamila and Nicholas Kirke, Michael Johnson, Larry Gibson, David Coogle, Mark Eastzer, Bill Langs (RIP), The Sachs brothers (Ricky and Larry), Henry Scheuer, Cheryl Ganz, Janet Klug, Kathy Johnson, Vesma Grinfelds, Liz Hisey, Nancy Clark, Fred Gregory, Bruce Marsden, Mark Banchik, Phil Jordan, Antonio Acala, Niko Courtelis, Jonathan Orenstein and many, many others have all encouraged, assisted and mentored me along my philatelic journey.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### 2. What do you like about being a part of the philatelic community?

The motto of the GRSC (Greater Richmond Stamp Club), founded by August Dietz in 1929 is, "For their mutual pleasure and benefit", and I couldn't agree more. It's wonderful to have a community to share my hobby with. I love learning about philately in general and exchanging that information in a social environment. Matt and I love traveling to shows, participating in auctions, attending and speaking at presentations, viewing exhibits, adding to our collections, meeting up with our friends and their families. Most of our friends are philatelists and like family to us. Since Matt is an active exhibitor, I especially enjoy supporting his exhibits in competition.

#### 3. Can you share what your experience has been like being in the philatelic community? Are any particular experiences (good or bad) or favorite memories you would like share?

Initially it wasn't great. In fact, all of my earliest memories of attending stamp shows are negative. The community felt extremely racist, sexist, sad and gross. The shows were always held in dilapidated smoke filled mason or moose lodges. Many dealers didn't take me seriously. Some refused to sell to me or followed me around their booths like they were scared that I was going to steal something. Some wouldn't even let me look through their stock boxes and stock books. I would have to provide them with Scott #'s and then they would hold a glassine out in front of me and they didn't even trust me to use tongs, even though there were men sitting all around the table freely combing through stock unsupervised, like a pack of wild animals. My overall impression of the philatelic world was that it was just a bunch of rich and/or stingy old racist, sexist white men; I've attended countless shows in Upstate NY and Richmond, VA where I was virtually the only non-white person and female there (who wasn't working the show). I still kind of feel that way, especially in the US but now that I've established myself within the community, I've gained a lot more respect but not total respect and I will probably always generally be referred to as "Matt's wife" and never as a philatelist in my own right. I have never, ever attended a single stamp show without receiving racist and/or sexist remarks. As an Asian female, under the age of 50, I am an extreme rarity at a US stamp show and I stick out like a sore thumb. Even at shows in Europe, while there may be a very small handful of female philatelists, women and Asians in general are a minority. I have heard this is different in Asia but I haven't attended any shows there yet; I'm really looking forward to it though! That being said, I don't need to be surrounded by women just to have fun; I've adapted. I'm also a record collector and I used to be a DJ. The record collecting world is also extremely sexist and male dominated so this is nothing new to me.

Anyway, some of my fondest memories are simply quietly sorting through dealer stock or my own collection, uninterrupted and finding something I was looking for and/or something really intriguing that I wasn't looking for. I love when dealers have set something aside for me in advance that they know I will want. Some of my favorite philatelic events have been the invite-only smaller more specialized events like The Happening in NOLA or TPR (Texas Philatelic Rendezvous) in Denton, TX where it's a more casual and relaxed show and tell environment without a rigid schedule.

I suppose my fondest memory is when I first met Matt and about 30 other under-50 philatelists at the first ever Young Friends of the APS meet up at the APS Summer Show in Hartford. Many of us have since remained great friends since that event and feel that we will always be linked by our similarity in age and the fact that we are such a minority within the philatelic community.

Another totally awesome philatelic memory was planning and holding our wedding reception at the Collectors Club of NY. We had all airmail themed invitations and RSPS and our reception was largely attended by our favorite philatelists and many of my penpals from around the world.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### 4. What would you say to someone interested in philately?

That they should attend a stamp show or pick up a copy of the American Philatelist or I would recommend a more specific publication in relationship to their interest(s). If they're local, I would offer to bring them to a stamp club meeting or refer them to their own local APS chapter. If they were really interested, I would show them how to use a Scott catalog or bid in an auction.

#### 5. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?

Generally I think women are most impressed by the histories about other female philatelists or the history, development and/or design aspects behind whatever stamps they are interested in. A lot of people, not just women, also don't seem to realize the difference between collecting stamps vs. postal history vs. postcards vs. ephemera. Once people/women realize the differences and significances, they can develop a better of understanding of the hobby and then specialize in a specific area. I think I would also warn them about the racism and sexism to prepare them for attending a stamp show or making a career out of it.

#### 6. What are your hopes for the future of philately?

Honestly, I do not have much hope at all. Matt always jokes about how he can't wait until our 2.5 yr old daughter is old enough to help him out at stamp shows and my reply is, "Will there even be any shows worth going to by the time she's old enough to truly appreciate them?" This is a geriatric hobby. APS membership is on a downward spiral. Despite what some might think by random tweets or IG posts, interest in philately in general does not appear to be growing at all. If the hobby needs to grow its presence anywhere, it's definitely virtually/online. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many stamp shows and clubs to switch to online presentations and exhibits which is a great start. Still, it's one thing for someone to post a photo of a stamp on IG and be all, "This is so cool!", but most likely that person will not become a philatelist. Chances are even less likely that they will become take collecting to the next level and bid in an auction, become a judge or an exhibitor or get someone else into stamp collecting. So, I'm really just enjoying things as they are while I can. I've already established enough great memories and friendships that even if the community completely collapses and I couldn't never attend another stamp show, I'll still always have my own collections to enjoy for the rest of my life. The community aspect is nice if there is a vibrant scene but this is also a solitary hobby that may often be best enjoyed alone.

#### Email Follow Up:

**I was wondering in that time if any of your thoughts on the future of philately have changed? Now that we've lived in this pandemic/post-pandemic world for 2 years, have you seen anything that gives you more hope for philately, even in the virtual/online/social media world?**

As far as my feelings about the future of philately go, if anything, I generally feel even more pessimistic. The pandemic didn't help although I will admit that in some cases, it has forced some luddites to embrace technology to further enjoy their hobby via virtual talks and virtual meetings. Many collectors died or were forced into retirement because of the lack of shows. Many were too scared to travel to shows even once they started having them. Countless shows were canceled for the past 2 consecutive years. Most auction viewing was virtual or via email/photos only. The cost of operating and traveling to shows has increased. While I've taken on some more paid and unpaid philatelic work during the pandemic, all of the new work is a result of society members resigning from their positions because of old age. Many societies, club and philatelic organizations are running out of fresh blood to replace those who are aging out.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Vesma Grinfelds

#### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I have been in the field of stamp collecting since age 7. It first started with me wanting to sort an accumulation of stamps which my parents had in a box. I figured out how to make “glassines” out of wax paper and white glue. My Dad helped me build a wood file box with 3 rows. I made small labels for the countries and got them in some sort of alphabetically order. I went to the library and “borrowed” a Scott catalog. I “neglected” to return it (as I still have that particular catalog)! I am sure I had help!

Of course, there was usual hiatus during high school and college where other “stuff” was more important. My parents purchased a Minkus US Album for me (not abridged version) and also a Minkus Germany Album as they had many stamps they had obtained from there during World War II. I became obsessed with putting all those loose stamps (in glassines) into the albums.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

It was a fascination with the little pieces of paper and what they meant; also the stories that they told. My parents were war refugees in American Zone camps in Germany after WWII. They traded cigarettes for stamps. My father created a handmade leather album which contained stamps of Latvia from where they had escaped. I made it my “mission” to make the album complete with every single issue in mint and used condition. It is a family heirloom with much meaning.

My Dad, husband-to-be and I then visited AMERIPEX 86 and I was completely hooked. During that Show, I became a philatelist. I saw the Mauritius rarity, all those exhibits which included one I remember about the first issues of Lithuania and purchased a Baltic collection. At that point, I knew I would specialize in the Baltic States, my heritage.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

APS, AAPE, WE, California Collectors Club, Collectors Club of San Francisco, Collectors Club (New York), Royal Philatelic Society

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

AAPE: Youth Champion of Champions Director

WE: Secretary (founding member)

CCC: Director

CCSF : Secretary

**5. What do you collect and why?**

Today, I specialize in the stamps and postal history (exclusively) of Latvia. Simple reason being: I am Latvian. I speak and write the language. In philately, I think many of us tend to end up “collecting our heritage”. Over the years, I have found myself going further back in time to study the postal history of Latvia prior to 1860.

I have developed numerous exhibits (10? - I really don’t count) related to the stamps and postal history of the country. These exhibits cover: the stamps themselves (in multi-frame and single frame exhibits), the postal history and the postal markings. There are more exhibit to come! I am about to start a new one on the postage due markings of Latvia.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Oddly, my very first exhibit was on Lithuanian Air Post stamps. I began to create that exhibit in 1991 after purchasing an odd Baltic collection that had all these stamps in the back which had errors and oddities. I was fortunate to have a mentor (as any novice needs). I found this mentor after writing numerous letters to local Clubs asking if anyone could advise me on how to create an exhibit; one actually answered! I made in my “mission” to build this exhibit up so that I could show in at Pacific 97. That I accomplished with a Silver Medal. In 2008, my “mission” was complete by receiving a gold medal in Israel for that exhibit. This exhibit about Lithuania is the only exhibit I have created which is NOT about Latvia.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

I am a philatelist because I do more than accumulate stamps. I study their purpose and their meaning. I enjoy learning about their usage and the problems that their usage encountered. The history of Latvia has had many trials and tribulations: many “rulers”, outside influences, war times, shortages and economic problems. I have learned much about history, culture, language of a tiny country. Stamp collecting is more than just “licking and sticking” to me although, it needed to start that way as it does for almost everyone. To me, philately is the “in-depth” study of a particular area. I like to think that I have learned and absorbed as much as I can in my particular niche. On the other hand, I love listening to presentations and learn about other philatelists interests and studies.

It is also a challenge to overcome the stereotype of what a “philatelist” looks like; I am not the norm. I like challenges. Still to this day, if I receive emails (as I have twice this week) concerning philately, they are addressed to MR. Grinfelds. I answer with a funny emoji asking for them to correct their records. It’s not only Europe, it is here in the US also. Presumptions, stereotypes.....

On the other hand, the women philatelist who I know, have driven and goal oriented personalities. They will overcome obstacles and challenges.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project? Absolutely!**

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection? Sure!**

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Elizabeth Hisey

#### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I was a late comer to the hobby. My husband has been a philatelist and philatelic writer for many years. We used to go to shows around the country and I would drop him off and go to the local mall.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

I originally started out collecting china rabbits and other such objects, until I complained to my husband that I had no more space. He gave me a stock book and suggested I started to collect rabbit stamps. This was the start in 1999. We were at a show in Biloxi, MS, bad weather, no shops, so decided to go and look at the show. It was great and I saw an exhibit by Ruth Caswell on Literacy, using a new class called Display. Thought to myself that I could do that and it looks like fun, not the usual traditional and postal history types of exhibits. So I started, had some great mentors, won some gold medals and wanted to give back to the hobby, so became a judge and here I am 20 years later.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I am a member of APS, AAPE, ATA, Royal Philatelic Society London, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Collector's Club of New York, Women Exhibitors, American Revenue Society, U.S. Classics Society, The United States Specialist, Florida Postal History Society, Mobile Post Office Society, The Ephemera Society of America and the Sarasota Philatelic Club. (might have forgotten a couple)

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

Currently I am the Chairman of the APS Committee for the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges, also an accredited Chief Judge. I am a Fellow of the RPSL and one of the United States Representatives. I sit on the Council of Philatelists at the NPM, Treasurer for Women Exhibitors, Vice President for the Sarasota Philatelic Club and I am also Chairman of the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. I am a past Secretary and Vice President of AAPE.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I have always collected to exhibit, as that is my real interest. So depending on what story I am planning on telling that is what I look for. Currently I am really enjoying collecting postcards as they are so evocative of the times, I particularly like those cards of the early 1900's to mid century.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

A difficult question, am I a philatelist or an exhibitor. I don't have large collections of stamps or postal history, but as judge I have the opportunity to work with many philatelists and we all speak the same language.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?**

Yes, if you feel I have more to add. As I said up top, I only started this in 1999. A lot of my philatelic work has evolved into management.

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection? Yes.**

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### Emily Hightower Johnston

##### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

58 years. I began collecting at approximately age 8. I stayed active through elementary school, then stopped working on my collection. However, I've never stopped studying stamps.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

My maternal grandmother worked part-time as a postal clerk in my hometown of Jefferson, North Carolina. Grandmother was a widow who enjoyed her job and also collected postmarks. Apparently recognizing a kindred spirit in me, Grandmother began purchasing a single copy of new commemoratives and giving them to me, starting in about 1958 or 1959.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I am a member of the American Philatelic Society (1980) and the Greensboro Stamp Club (2013).

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?** Regular member.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I am not buying and selling at the moment. My previous collection of 20th Century United Stamps is not active.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

I seek to educate myself about trends and developments in postal delivery, history of mail and postage stamps in the United States, and stamp design and issuance. I'm not as interested in the small details that make up the U.S. Classics study area.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?**

It's possible – depends on the questions.

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

Unfortunately, these are not available since my collection is quite small and not active.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Kari Kotthäuser

#### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I have been a philatelist off and on for about 27 years

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

When I was 8 I got interested in stamps when my dad got me one of those starter packs of about 1000 stamps (they used to advertize them in the sales ads that came in the paper on Sunday). It was fun for me to go and just organize them based off topic, country, whatever. I still have some of those stamps. That sparked an interest and at some point I also inherited my dad's collection. My paternal grandmother was vital in keeping my interest going too, she would save stamps from her mail for me.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I am currently not in any established societies/organizations such as American Philatelic Society, but mainly because I live abroad and not really sure who I should join. As for online communities, the instagram stamp collecting community is pretty active and fairly small. It's comfortable to talk to others about stamps and not feel like an outsider.

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

I have had contact to those at the American Philatelic Society as well as Briefmarken-Südwest (the southwest branch of the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten), but again I am a member of neither organization. As for instagram, I would say I am fairly active. I have my moments of radio silence, but I try to get on to comment and like posts at least.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I like the idea of holding a stamp and feeling like I am holding history. I enjoy wondering where that stamp may have traveled (in the case of used stamps) and how many things have changed since it was printed. Stamps represent so much of a society and what is important to it at that particular moment. It provides a great look into social history.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

For a very long time, no. I still feel inadequate, even with a degree in history. It is probably because there is so much information about stamps out there and you have to focus incredibly to really become an expert in any series/type of stamp. I like stamps, they are lovely, tell wonderful stories and for those that might not be worth much, they can be used to create amazing art. Now after several years of appreciating stamps and researching their backgrounds, I would say I have come closer to being a true philatelist.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?**

I would be happy to.

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

I can, just let me know and I can send you over some pictures

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### **Dr. Seija-Riitta Laakso, FRPSL**

#### **Provided bio in leue of interview**

Dr. Seija-Riitta Laakso, FRPSL started collecting stamps together with her then 8-year old son in 1989. When the Finland-album was nearly done, they became interested in maritime mail, which held them captivated for over 20 years. Seija-Riitta Laakso has exhibited maritime mail (and several other topics) in five different classes: thematic, open, postal history, literature, and picture postcards – in this chronological order. Her doctoral thesis *Across the Oceans. Development of Overseas Business Information Transmission, 1815–1875* combined maritime history and postal history on academic level. The book received two FIP Gold medals in literature class, as well as the Swedish Trelleborg medal, and the Finnish Einar Fieandt medal. In total, she has received 35 Gold or Large Gold medals in national and international exhibitions, and a Grand Award in the USA. She is a professional journalist, who was the Editor of *The London Philatelist* in 2017–2019. She is currently the Editor of *The Posthorn of Scandinavian Collectors Club* (since 2017), the *Postryttaren* yearbook of the Friends of the Swedish Post Museum (since 2019), and *The Congress Book of the American Philatelic Congress* (since 2019).

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Dani Levis

#### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I've been immersed in philately since birth. My dad was a cover dealer and cachet maker, so I grew up going to stamp shows, helping my dad make covers, and building a collection of first day covers. In 2012, I started designing first day covers.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

When I was about 6 weeks old, my dad, Gerry Levis, co-founded Barry and Gerry Covers and went to his first stamp show as a cover dealer. He also created his own cachet line, BGC. At 9 months old, I attended my first Americover in Irvine, CA and have gone to many stamp and cover shows since then. As a kid, I started a first day cover collection with my dad's help. I've always been drawn to topical interests and colorful cachet artwork. Here and there I created designs on our home computer that my dad printed and made into first day covers for Lunar New Year and Hanukkah. In 2011, my dad died suddenly. After my family worked on regrouping the business, I decided to continue his cachet line, maintaining some of his style, but with my own spin of original artwork. Our cachet line, BGC Legacy, is the successor to my dad's line, BGC. My brother Mikey created the name to connect the new cachet line to its heritage, but also represent that this is the next generation of Barry & Gerry Covers.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

American Philatelic Society  
 American First Day Cover Society  
 Art Cover Exchange  
 Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?** Minimally to moderately involved, I guess.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I mostly collect topically. My main topics revolve around childhood interests that are still important to me today, including tigers, Sesame Street (trying to focus on Big Bird specifically), Disney, famous women, squirrels, and chemistry. I started collecting squirrels and chemistry while attending college. Squirrels are an unofficial mascot of Drew University, and my major was chemistry. I like to think of first day covers as small pieces of artwork, so sometimes I'll add covers to my collection just because I like the cachet artwork even if it's not one of my main topics, or if I like how the cachet maker approached creating a cohesive design that incorporates the stamp, postmark, and cachet.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

Even though philatelist is technically the umbrella label for all kinds of stamp-related collectibles, I associate the word philatelist more closely with stamp collecting. That's why I think of myself more as a cover collector and cachet maker because that's what I do—collect first day covers and design and sell first day covers.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?** Yes, absolutely!

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

Yes, I can provide scans of covers in my collection and covers I've designed. Let me know if there's anything particular you're looking for, or just my favorites.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**Dr. Mary A. Love**

#### Interview Part 1

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I would say that I have been a serious philatelist for about fifteen years.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

I became interested in stamps as a child and had no clue about philately. Being instructed by my mother to go to the mailbox to get the mail was the start. I then would ask her for the stamps once she had opened the mail. Not knowing any better, I would glue the stamps on sheets of paper. (Of course, my first collection was ruined.) It was not until I was in Washington, DC attending Wesley Seminary that I was introduced to the hobby. My Seminary Advisor, the late Dr. Mary Alice Edwards was also a collector and somewhere in conversation she learned of my interest in stamps. There was a stamp show and exhibit at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC that she invited me to attend with her. That was my formal introduction to the hobby. From that point, I would research, attend stamp shows and exhibits in my area, often alone. I also discovered Richard's Stamp Shop in Charlotte and began to purchase albums, stamps and collecting supplies. The owner was extremely helpful in aiding my quest.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I have been a member of ESPER – the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections since 2000 and I just joined the American Philatelic Society in 2020.

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

Within in ESPER, I am involved in the North Carolina Chapter attending the meetings and sponsored events such as the unveiling of the stamp issued in the Black Heritage Series annually in the Charlotte area.

I have attended the 25th (Charlotte) and 30th (Washington, DC) Anniversary gatherings of ESPER.

ESPER participates in the annual Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta which I attended in 2018 and 2020 (witnessing an unveiling of the Gwen Ifill stamp).

As a part of ESPER, I attended the 2015 unveiling of the Robert Robinson Taylor stamp in DC.

The annual gathering of CHARPEX in Charlotte is another opportunity for the North Carolina ESPER chapter to meet, sharing meaningful stamp presentations and fellowship.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte has a Seniors in the Spotlight Group that has a Stamp Club within it. Its membership includes the NC ESPER chapter president and several ESPER members. I participate with them as my schedule will allow.

The above experiences with fellow collectors are greatly valued as we share our collections, learn, and build relationships.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I started collecting world stamps. However, my interest shifted to African Americans honored on stamps or historical events/places related to African Americans. As a teacher, I found ways to connect history and stamps to teach about the history and heritage of people of color. I have been able to work with all ages and to spark an interest in history. I am intentional in securing

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

the stamps issued in the Black History Series each year and using these stamps to teach in my congregation (Greenville Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church), Hood Seminary and other places when invited. Collecting to just collect and fill an album is not enough for me. I feel that the stamps should be used to teach and shared in creative ways. I began making what I call heritage collages using stamps and photographs that could be hung/displayed to provide visual reminders of African American History and Heritage. I have since moved to making magnets and stand-alone items that move stamps from the album to become highly visible works of art/historical reminders.

With the last name "Love," I also collect the LOVE stamps. Butterflies on stamps, stamp pins, flowers on stamps, foreign stamps connected to African American history and stamps related to religion are also a part of my collection.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

A philatelist is one who not only collects stamps, but studies them for their history and artistic appeal. That has been a driving force for me in the last five to ten years as I have built a collection that can be an exhibition of African Americans honored on stamps. Each time a stamp is studied, the door to a new body of information opens. As a result of my research, I can teach others.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project? Yes**

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

Yes, please see the attached. These represent my teaching exhibitions using mint stamps attached to various pictures and artifacts that provide additional information on the person shown on the stamp.

### Interview Part 2

**1. Can you share what your experience has been like being in the philatelic community? Are any particular experiences (good or bad) or favorite memories you would like share?**

My experiences have been good within the ESPER community. Other than attending stamp shows, I have not been involved in any other philatelic communities.

**2. What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows interest in philatelic related topics?**

My response to anyone interested in philately, to venture to make contact with others. ESPER has a mentor program that encourages members to encourage others and walk along with the individual in the process. Sharing is learning.

**3. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?**

Some may not realize the wealth of knowledge that is behind every stamp and may feel that the hobby is boring. Some may feel that it is too male oriented.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

4. **You mention that you like to make collages and stand alone items such as magnets, and there seem to be many new collectors who would like to see a more contemporary mindset within philately to include a larger variety of experience level and interests (like various stamp arts and crafts). What are your thoughts on opening up the traditional mindset of philately to be more encompassing of different styles of collecting?**

I would strongly encourage more ways to use and display stamps. Various teaching strategies are needed to reach people. Being creative and doing different things with stamps sparks interest. I am not happy with just collecting and placing stamps in an album. My making of the collages and magnets allows the stamps to be displayed where it becomes a talking piece and a history lesson.

Personally, I will continue to create one-of-a kind pieces because it allows me to exercise my creativity.

5. **What are your hopes for the future of philately?**

My hope is that philately will not be seen as a dying hobby, but one that is taking new turns and interests.

### Interview Part 3

1. **What advice would you give to a woman who wanted to get more involved in the philatelic community, but was worried that it is too male dominated to accept her?**

I would say to a woman interested in philately to seek other women who are interested and to pursue her interests. Attend events (virtually or in-person when possible) and contact other women philatelists. The community is more accepting of women now than it was 10-15 years ago.

2. **If someone told you philately was boring, what would you say to convince them otherwise?**

My response would be that philately is not boring for the following reasons.

1. Philately opens doors to learning information in a wide array of areas that one would not ordinarily learn or research.
2. It allows you to explore a particular topic or interest that will take you to countries all over the world. For example, I began looking at African Americans on stamps and I have gained a wealth of information about their contributions to America and the world. I also collect Christmas stamps and the Olympics, and these topics have introduced me to some amazing stamps and information.
3. Every stamp is a work of art that gives a visual peek into history if one is willing to do a little digging. From the artistic side, you are introduced to various techniques, styles and designs involved in the creation of a stamp.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**Katrin Raynor-Evans**

#### Full Interview

**1. How long have you been a philatelist? 2. How did you become interested in philately?**

Philately is a subject that has not interested me for long, for no real reason other than I hadn't given it much of my attention. My ignorance to the subject changed around seven years ago when I was admiring a few first day covers that my father had. A keen stamp collector, he has amassed thousands of stamps over the years. After completing my GCSE (General Certificate of Education) in Astronomy during evening classes that year and with my curiosity piqued, I started to wonder what astronomy and space themed stamps were out there. I was not disappointed when I started searching on the internet! The results were overwhelming.

Not only are stamps beautiful, vibrant, imaginative and diverse, they are also hugely educational. Researching a stamp, post mark or even a cachet on a cover can teach me things that I never knew. I have been so lucky to receive packages from fellow philatelists in the U.S that have contained astronomy and space flight covers. An autograph or a series of date stamps on the cover for example can lead me down a rabbit hole of space flight and exploration research. Collecting stamps also provides me with an opportunity to teach others about astronomy and space. It's pretty amazing.

**2. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I am a member of the Astro Space Stamp Society – it is free to join. We are an online group that is very active on Facebook and we have a great website. Orbit, the magazine for the society is published tri-monthly and it is often in excess of 40 pages! Lots of amazing articles and news that are written by our members. There are plenty of amazing societies out there to join from the Royal Philatelic Society, the American Philatelic Society to the British Thematic Association too. I would love to be a member of them all but despite not being a member, their social media accounts and websites are available to everyone, regardless of paid membership or not which is great.

**3. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

I have the unofficial title of 'Social Ambassador' for the Astro Space Stamp Society. I look after our Facebook page and encourage new members to join. I also have a regular column for Orbit called 'Kat's Adventure's in Astrophilately'. I have written for the American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association both societies have been so supportive in what I do and never say no to me writing an article! I contribute to Gibbons Stamp Monthly the magazine for Stanley Gibbons and I also have my own monthly thematic column for All About Stamps. Whilst not societies, these are great resources for philatelists to subscribe to.

**4. What do you collect and why?**

The Earth has always interested me - studying our planet, its systems, and processes. This is where my love of astronomy has come from, a natural progression I suppose. Learning about the Earth and its place in the Solar System made me curious about systems and processes on other planets and seeing incredible astronomical events including Comet Hale-Bopp in 1997 and the eclipse in 1999 certainly piqued my interest about the subject. I am naturally curious, always asking what or why. My main interest are stamps with an astronomy theme. I love learning about the subject of astronomy and space and philately has provided a truly unique and interesting way for me to delve deep into these topics. From the world's first astronomy stamp produced in Brazil in 1887 to the beautiful set of six postage stamps featuring astrophotographs issued in 1942 in Mexico there is always something to learn about the universe or space flight for example.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

**5. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

Not only are stamps beautiful, vibrant, imaginative and diverse, they are also hugely educational. Researching a stamp, post mark or even a cachet on a cover can teach me things that I never knew. I aim to promote and inspire people through stamp collecting and my presentation on the subject of 'Exploring Astronomy and Space Through Philately.' It is a big part of my life whether it be studying stamps, organizing them or writing about them. Promoting the subject is very important to me, not only because I believe that stamp collecting is a hobby to be celebrated but that it is still suitable and exciting for younger generations despite this digital age we are living in. For example back in 2019 I took along a small sample of my collection to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. There was a huge event at the museum to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing. I selected stamps and covers from the Apollo era along with a few albums and articles I had written. It was quite a hit! In 2020 I attended a star gazing event at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea to exhibit again. Displaying albums, covers and other space memorabilia that I have always fascinates people. I like to call this STEM Through Stamps – the miniature world of philately can teach us so much about astronomy and space. Describing the Moon landing or telling the story about Halley's comet just by showing people a few small pieces of paper can amaze them. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, a lot of my scheduled talks had been postponed in person but Zoom has given us philatelists and astronomers an amazing opportunity to keep up with our talks to various societies.

**6. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?** Yes of course

**7. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?**

I can yes please just let me know when!

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Marjory J. Sente

#### Interview Part 1

**1. How long have you been a philatelist?**

I started collecting when I was 9 years old. So I have been collecting stamps for 61 years.

I was a stamp collector until my early 20s when I took a very serious interest in studying stamps and postal history.

**2. How did you become interested in philately?**

A boy brought a stamp album to school and I was absolutely smitten with the stamps. So I bought an album and started collecting. The father of a friend was very helpful answering my questions about stamps and how to collect.

**3. What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**

I belong to the APS and WE, the U.S. Stamp Society and the AZ & NM Postal History Society as well as the local Prescott Stamp Club.

**4. What is your level of involvement in those groups?**

I am a member of the board for the AZ & NM group serving as the membership director. Otherwise, I am quite happy to be a member, and not take on leadership positions.

Years ago, I decided what time I had to devote to philately, I wanted to collect, research or write and not worry about the “running” of an organization or dealing with the politics of organized philately.

**5. What do you collect and why?**

I collect primarily 20th Century U.S. material because for many years that was what I could afford. My main collection is my 1932 Washington Bicentennials. I started collecting this set in college and continue to do so. I enjoy exhibiting them, because they are colorful, so simply designed, and beautiful.

My other collection of note is Grand Canyon postal history. The story of the post at the Canyon fascinates me. Combining this story with the social history of writers of covers from the Canyon adds a richness and dimension to what might seem to be a rather narrow subject.

I have a pretty good collection of Win the War (SC. 905) and Prescott postal history. By studying covers, it is a good way to learn the history of an event or a place.

**6. Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**

I am a serious student of the hobby.

**7. Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project? yes**

**8. Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection? yes**

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

#### Interview Part 2

**1. What do you like about being a part of the philatelic community?**

I have been part of the organized philatelic community for about 50 years. In that time I have formed many friendships both female and male with people from around the world. I like that for the most part people are willing to mentor and help new collectors. Some people look out for material for me and I do the same for them.

**2. Can you share what your experience has been like being in the philatelic community? Are any particular experiences (good or bad) or favorite memories you would like share?**

For the most part my experiences have been good. I feel my exhibits have been judged fairly. I have been treated as a serious collector and buyer by dealers.

I am accustomed to being one of few women in a philatelic organization. Right now I am the only woman on the board of the AZ & NM PHS serving as the membership chair. In fact, I think I can count the number of women who are members of the organization on one hand. I feel valued for the knowledge I bring to the subject area and my expertise in membership development and retention.

**3. What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows interest in philatelic related topics?**

If there is literature available in their interest area, I would steer them to it. You need knowledge of a subject to collect intelligently. If they are interested in exhibiting, I would say that you learn by doing. I have seen people develop exhibits from silver to large gold by not being afraid to exhibit, listen to the judges and other exhibitors and be willing to make changes.

I would also tell people that they can enjoy stamp collecting without feeling they need to exhibit. Actually very few collectors do exhibit.

**4. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?**

I would tell them to get involved with WE. There they will likely find a mentor who can help them with their collecting and/or exhibiting interests.

I have told many of my female friends who are widowed or divorced that they should seriously consider collecting stamps or getting involved in organized philately. The majority of the collectors are men who are affluent, well-educated and you know where they are here during their leisure time—in study working on their stamp collection.

**5. What are your hopes for the future of philately?**

My experience with the APS virtual stampshow, as given me much hope for holding future shows and meetings virtually. The virtual world levels the playing ground for people who can't travel. For example, the AZ & NM PHS meeting that you sat in on where Joe and I presented had 78 participants. When we hold a similar meeting at ARIPEX we're lucky to get 15.

I would like to see more women and younger people involved.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Patricia (Pat) Stilwell Walker

#### Interview Part 1

1. **How long have you been a philatelist?** 45 years
2. **How did you become interested in philately?**  
Both my parents were collectors – I will send you my bio story as a supplement to this answer
3. **What philately-related organizations, clubs, and/or online groups are you a member of?**  
APS, AAPE, USPCS, CCNY, EPA, IPC, APC, SPH, RPSL, Baltimore Philatelic Society, Sarasota Philatelic Club
4. **What is your level of involvement in those groups?**  
Past services: VP APS, Treasurer, President AAPE, Secretary VP, President USPCS, President EPA, Fellow RPSL, currently President of Sarasota club.
5. **What do you collect and why?**  
Irish postal history from the 1600s to 1900, Baltimore PH to 1900 and the postal/social history of Howard County Maryland(I used to live there).  
  
I'm inherently nosy and wanted to be able to read the letters, hence either English or French – am I glad I picked Ireland (English) as early English writing is hard enough, I can't imagine trying early French). I picked Ireland to start because it was one of my father's favorite countries to collect and he was a member of the EPA at the time and could get me involved.
6. **Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**  
I enjoy the detective work in understanding how mail was handled, not finding pieces to fit into slots in albums that somebody else has created.
7. **Would you be interested in answering more questions for my thesis project?** Sure...
8. **Would you be able to provide photos/scans/samples of your collection?** If relevant.

#### Full Bio Provided:

Pat Stilwell grew up in a family where both her parents collected stamps; she, however, was not particularly interested in putting stamps in album spaces although her parents suggested various ways she might collect. During her early school years her parents did not attend a stamp club; it was only after her younger brother was beginning to collect stamps that they became involved with organized philately. Pat vividly remembers going home to Pennsylvania, she was 25 and working in New York State, to celebrate her brother's 10th birthday. His special treat was to go to the National stamp exhibition in Philadelphia. There, Pat discovered postal history and philatelic exhibiting - two aspects of stamp collecting that she had not known existed before! In the following years, she made a point of attending stamp shows whenever possible and made special plans to attend the FIP World philatelic exhibition, Interphil'76 held in Philadelphia. At this point, Pat's father suggested she ought to collect "something" if she was this serious! She knew she wanted to collect postal history, and being inherently curious (some would say nosy) wanted to be able to read the letters! This limited her to English or French areas. Her father suggested Ireland, one of his favorite philatelic countries, and he was familiar with the Eire Philatelic Association.

## Appendix G (continued)

### Interviews with Women in Philately

Pat bought her first cover at Interphil for \$35 and thought it was a lot of money! Some months later she purchased a remainder lot from an auction of Irish postal history which allowed the collection to grow rapidly. Within two years of starting her collection, Pat had formed her first exhibit for a local club show.

Pat Stilwell met her husband W. Danforth (Dan) Walker at a US national stamp show in Newark, NJ in 1979 when they were dismantling their exhibits. Dan was exhibiting his traditional Grenada for the first time; Pat was an “experienced” exhibitor, having shown her Irish postal history three times! They both won silver medals. Pat and Dan were married in 1982; her father arranging for their wedding cake to be decorated with postal markings representative of items from their collections!

Pat holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude. from Vassar College. She retired in 2000, having been employed for over 30 years by IBM, as a computer software specialist in the field of customer technical support.

After 28 years in Maryland, Pat and Dan moved to Florida in May of 2014.

#### Interview Part 2

**1. Can you share what your experience has been like being in the philatelic community? Are any particular experiences (good or bad) or favorite memories you would like share?**

My life would have been utterly different without philately. I met my husband at a stamp show; together we got involved in the organized part of philately serving as volunteer officers of the specialized societies to which we belong and also to the APS, the national society.

As avid exhibitors and later as judges we traveled to stamp shows first around the country and then around the world. Most of our vacations are adjunct to a stamp show some place in the world. The friends we have made along the way are part of our wider “family”.

To be honest, I don’t think that this type of “situation” is unique to philately – anyone who is deeply involved with a hobby or activity likely experiences the same thing.

**2. What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows interest in philatelic related topics?**

Find a mentor – someone to help with those “not so stupid” beginners questions. Then find a like minded friend to share with. The social aspects of this hobby (until Covid-19) are one of it’s greatest pleasures.

**3. What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?**

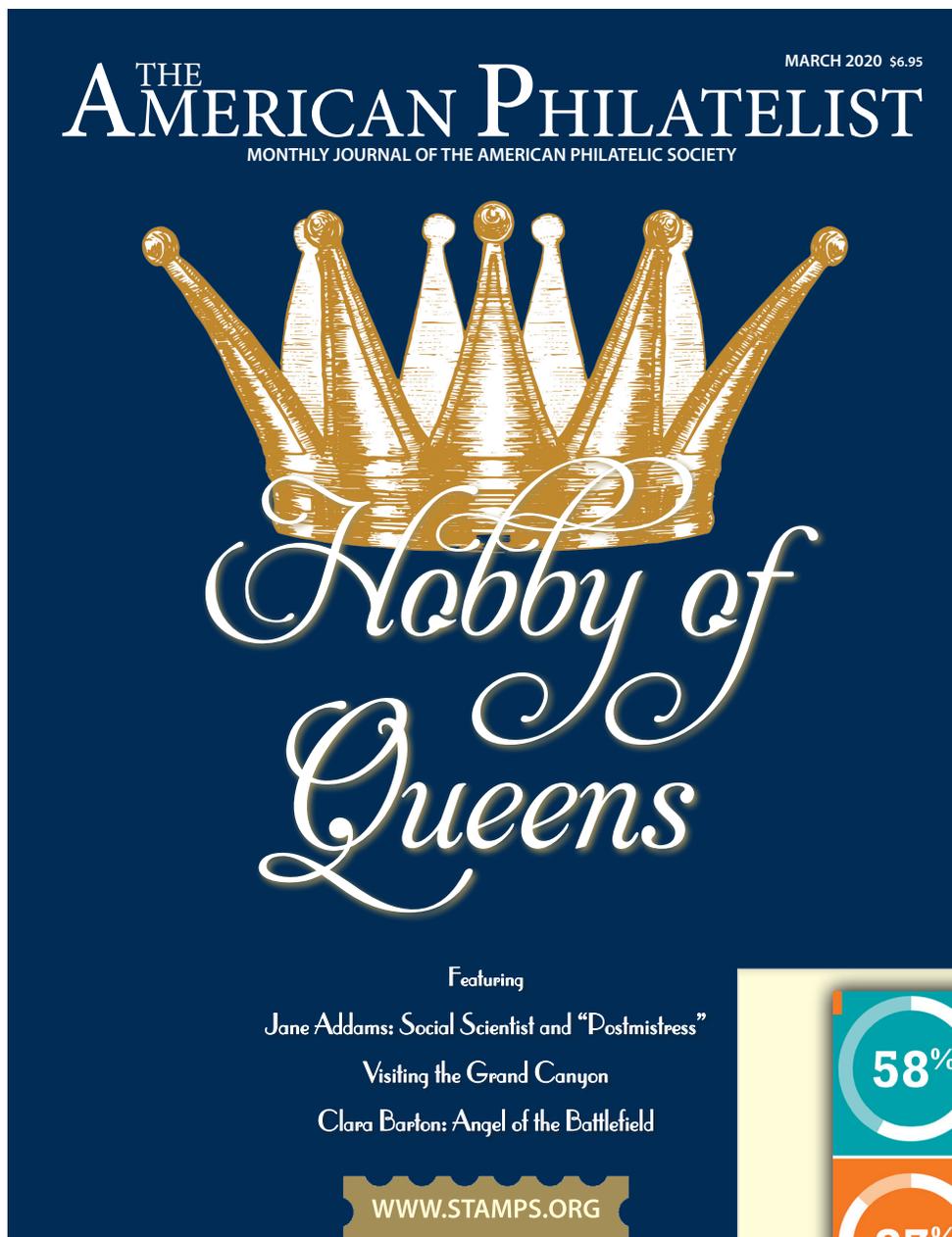
There have been great woman philatelists since the beginning of the hobby.

**4. What are your hopes for the future of philately?**

That it continues to flourish. Also that it brings others the same pleasures that it has me.

## Appendix H

American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response



Cover of American Philatelist featuring my article and Table of Contents

58% Only 58% of the women surveyed consider themselves a philatelist...

87% ...but 87% of the men surveyed, with similar interests, do call themselves a philatelist.

PAGE 236 THE HOBBY OF KINGS . . . AND QUEENS, BY STACY ADAM — Stacy Adam investigates the disparity between men and women membership statistics in philatelic organizations, asking *Why?* and *What's next?*

## Appendix H (continued)

American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response



# The Hobby of Kings ... and Queens

BY STACY ADAM

When I first began collecting stamps in 2017, I shared the common belief that philately was a hobby largely dominated by older men. The demographic numbers of many philatelic organizations support this stereotype (in 2018 and 2019 the APS reports a 9 percent female membership), and even the common stamp collecting slogan, *The hobby of kings, and the king of hobbies*, made me feel as if women were a rarity instead of the norm when it comes to the hobby. However, social media platforms — like Instagram — present an entirely different reality. As a new, young, female stamp collector, I’ve spent a lot of time connecting with other women on social media who have interests in stamps, postmarks, stamp chain cards, postcards, and other mail-related ephemera. The APS demographics shocked me in part because from my position, 9 percent does not seem like an accurate representation of the number of women interested in philatelic subjects.

In the spring of 2018, I was beginning to develop my master’s thesis on stamp collecting, and the same question kept surfacing: Why are female membership numbers so low in philatelic organizations? I couldn’t ignore this question anymore, so I decided to focus my project around *why*, and how to recruit more women into philately.

A “brotherhood” mentality has historically surrounded philately. For example, some clubs took on names like “The Sons of Philatelia” and the “Philatelic Sons of America” that, while not directly excluding women, stressed the brotherhood presence and mentality. This explains in part why the stereotype of stamp collecting as a man’s hobby exists, but there has always been a female presence in the hobby, so again the question emerged, *Why the divide?*

### The Survey

To attempt to uncover some of the reasons for the gender divide, I created a survey, “Women in Stamp Collecting,” that was distributed on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Facebook groups like American Postage Stamps and Postcrossing/PostcardSwapping, and prominent Twitter accounts, such as the APS (@APS\_stamps) and Exploring Stamps with Graham Beck (@ExploringStamps), distributed my survey, generating a wide range of responses. The results proved to be quite interesting, demonstrating that **there is a shared perception from women that they should not (or would not) consider themselves philatelists, despite**

**WOMEN vs. MEN** By Stacy Adam

A survey conducted among women and men who have interests in stamps and other mail related hobbies found that:

Category	Women	Men
<b>COLLECT STAMPS:</b>	82%	96%
<b>INTERESTED IN HISTORY OF STAMPS:</b>	88%	94%
<b>INTERESTED IN POSTAL HISTORY:</b>	87%	86%

Only 58% of the women surveyed consider themselves a philatelist...

...but 87% of the men surveyed, with similar interests, do call themselves a philatelist.

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## Appendix H (continued)

### American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response

having similar interests as their male counterparts.

The survey responses were comprised of 50% women. 82% of the women who participated in the survey collect stamps, 88% are interested in the history of stamps, 87% are interested in postal history, and 85% are interested in how stamps are created, but only 58% consider themselves philatelists. Alternately, 96% of male respondents collect stamps, 94% are interested in the history of stamps, 86% are interested in postal history, 83% are interested in how stamps are developed, and, unlike women, 87% consider themselves philatelists.

When over 80% of the women who responded have interests that go beyond merely collecting stamps, why is it that 42% do not consider themselves philatelists, when 87% of men do?

One of the survey questions asked “If you are not a current member of an organization/club, what would entice you to join?” Some of the most common answers from women were:

“I didn’t find any clubs or organization to join.

“Younger members, and yes, more female members. It really is an old man’s club right now.

“I collect some stamps for fun. My collection is quite chaotic. I don’t think I would join any group of real experienced collectors

“I don’t know how to approach it

“I sometimes would be the only lady member participating comfortably.

Some of these responses seem easier to address. For instance, make sure that everyone (including women) is aware of organizations and what they have to offer, and ensure that people of all levels of philatelic interest know they are welcome to join — this should be enough to encourage women to become members and participate. But how do you get the word out to women if they aren’t coming to your website, or attending meetings and stamp shows? I believe that a blend of old and new forms of communication and marketing is the answer, but **women have to be targeted**

.....  
 “Meeting some women specifically for it to make an impact. Additionally, new ways of collecting should be accepted and incorporated into philately.  
 .....  
**Meeting some women in stamp collecting would help. Currently I know of one woman in our area.**  
 .....



Figure 1. When participating in chain cards, while there is a necessary process to follow, each person typically has their own set of preferences. Some people only like to participate in groups that use mint stamps that are canceled and sent from the country of origin. Other people might be less strict and are happy with a card filled with similar themed stamps. These members often don’t care if a stamp comes from its country of origin, if it is previously used, and in some cases don’t mind if it is not canceled at all. For more information about the process, you can visit [aps.buzz/ChainCards](http://aps.buzz/ChainCards)

#### In with the New

Many philatelists seem unaware of a relatively new stamp-related hobby that uses social media and online forums to facilitate a unique way of collecting stamps from around the world: chain cards. These are not the chain letters of the past, with silly threats if you don’t pass a letter on. Chain cards are postcards that travel across various countries or all over the world, between a group of about 4 to 6 members. The cards collect stamps and/or postmarks as they travel, usually with a specific topic. The end results are pictured above (Figure 1).

I have been participating in chain cards for over a year now, and many of the members with whom I’ve become well acquainted do not consider themselves philatelists. Some don’t even consider themselves stamp collectors, since they do not collect stamps in any other format. How-

## Appendix H (continued)

### American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response

“I would be too nervous to join because I feel that I do not know much about stamps and their history and would be afraid to feel like an amateur.”

If new areas of stamp and mail-related interests, like chain cards, are accepted by philatelic organizations, and women have evidence that philately is more than just a group of men sorting stamps, I believe they would be enticed to join as well and share their collections and experiences. This would not only encourage people who participate in chain cards, but would demonstrate to the wider world that the philatelic community is open to new ideas and new ways of collecting.

It’s time to break the stereotype that philately is only “a hobby of kings.” After all, following the reigns of King George V, who started the Royal Philatelic Collection, and King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II has continued to build on its legacy. *Cosmopolitan* magazine recently reported of Queen Elizabeth that “[the collection] is one of her pride and joys.” Let’s start encouraging every woman who demonstrates interest in stamps and mail-related topics to join this hobby that is fit for a queen.

ever, these participants — largely comprised of women — should feel welcome in the stamp collecting community — after all, their collections are not so different from those who collect covers, postmarks, and even used stamps soaked from their paper.

To share your story or ideas about women in philately, please contact [mediateam@stamps.org](mailto:mediateam@stamps.org), subject line “Women in Philately”. I’d love to hear your comments and ideas as I continue working on my thesis.

#### Further Reading and Resources

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#### The Author

Stacy Adam began collecting stamps in 2017. Her interest quickly expanded from U.S.-issued plate blocks to first day covers, special postmarks, and internationally-issued souvenir sheets. The stamps and covers in her collection range in a wide variety of topics from women’s issues to astronomy. Stacy is a graphic designer currently working on her Master of Fine Arts. She began working on her thesis in the spring of 2018; her focus is on bringing more women into philately, and empowering them to call themselves philatelists.

Stacy would like to express special thanks to Lisa Foster for her support and for informing her of the opportunity to write an article for this issue.

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## Appendix H (continued)

### American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response

### A Brief History of Women in the Hobby

BY STACY ADAM

#### Mid 1800s: Womens' Interests Curtailed

Some of the first stamp collecting gatherings in Paris were hosted and attended by women.  
"The Beginnings of Philately," *The American Philatelist* (May 1919).

In the United States, the *Boston Daily Advertiser* referred to stamp collecting as "a young ladies' 'mania'."  
Lawrence, Ken. "The origin of stamp collecting in America, Part 1: How stamp collecting came to the United States," *Linn's Stamp News* (2014).

Philatelic club members began to organize and analyze stamps in ways that differed from how women tended to collect and display stamps; in "The Beginnings of Philately," the author notes early examples of women collectors and points out that "although stamps were collected . . . the great principles of philately were lacking."

#### Late 1800s: Organized Philately Reigns

The American Philatelic Association (today, APS) accepted women applicants from the beginning. Mrs. R.L. Phillips of New York, was a charter (voting) member. In 1889, the APA only reported five female members.  
*The American Philatelist* (January 1986) and "List of Members of the American Philatelic Association, 1889," (American Philatelic Association, 1889).

**Oh Boys!** Look here, the **Boy's Own price list** is just out and contains the **greatest bargains in foreign stamps ever offered to young collectors**. Sent FREE to all. Address [84] **A. F. WICKS, 372 Horton St., LONDON, ONT.**

**1886** The Denver Stamp Collectors' League reported in 1886 that it "solve[s] the question of female membership by admitting all lady stamp collectors as honorary members."  
*The American Philatelist* (January 1986).

**1889** Some clubs for young collectors took on names like "The Sons of Philatelia," excluding young girls in name if not in practice; *Weekly Philatelic Era* published "Boys Own Price List" for young collectors in 1894. (left)  
Brennan, Sheila. *Stamping American Memory: Collectors, Citizens, and the Post*. (University of Michigan Press, 2018) and *Weekly Philatelic Era* (November 1894).

#### 1900s: Women Push for Inclusion

In 1915, Gordon Crouch tells *AP* readers, "We Collectors are brothers, comrades, citizens of a great, progressing, ever-widening Brotherhood."  
"On Collecting," *The American Philatelist* (1915).

In 1926 *AP* article "Filatelic Figures," Col. Lector compiles the occupations of new APS applicants from 1923-5. In the occupation "Women: Married," 19 members; "Women: Unmarried," only 9 applicants.  
*The American Philatelist* (March 1926).

**1915** In 1922, Catherine L. Manning was selected as curator of the National Philatelic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1935, Manning was the first woman elected to office as the Vice President for the APS.  
Lawrence, Ken. "The origin of stamp collecting in America, Part 2: How stamp collecting matured and spread," *Linn's Stamp News* (2014).

**1926** In 1933, Sophie Buser founded the Women's Philatelic Society of New York, dedicated to women in philately.  
Ganz, Cheryl R. "The History of American Women in Philately," *The American Philatelist* (December 2009).

#### 2000s: A Hobby for All

In 2003, APS elected Janet Klug, the first woman to serve as President. She served until 2007.

In the last ten years of the Luff Award, the most prestigious philatelic award offered by the APS, 21% of award winners were women (7 out of 33 total). In comparison, in the first 60 years of the Luff Award (1940-2000), of the 116 people honored, only 6 were women: an unimpressive 5.5%.

**2003**

**2010** In 2010, the National Postal Museum inducted Mary-Ann Bowman, Liz Hisey, and May Day Taylor to the Council of Philatelists advisory board of philatelic leaders.

**2020** 21% of current APS Board of Directors and APRL Trustees are women, and 23% of voting APS Committee members are women.

MARCH 2020 / AMERICAN PHILATELIST 239

Appendix H (continued)  
 American Philatelist Article, Letter to the Editor, and My Response

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

lettertotheeditor@stamps.org

### Persistence leads to success

To the editor:

I read with interest the article in *The American Philatelist* for March 2020, entitled “The Hobby of Kings...and Queens.” I am writing to share my experience in attending my local stamp club.

When I decided to become active in the club, I assumed that I might be the only woman at the June 2016 club meeting. Therefore, I let the president know ahead of time that I would be coming. Sure enough, there were no other women at that meeting, and for several more months. This was the case despite the club carrying a fair number of women on the roll.

I did feel a bit awkward but decided that if other women visited, and saw a woman at the meetings, they would be more inclined to return and to “stick” as members. That has indeed proven to be the case, and now about 25-30% of the attendees at our club are female at any given meeting. Most of us club members have become friends and now we laugh and kid each other, men and women alike.

**Emily Johnston**

*Greensboro, North Carolina*

Editor’s Note: We asked the author of the article, Stacy

Adam, for her response:

Hello Emily Johnston,

I appreciate you sharing your experience with us. The awkwardness you described feeling when you attended stamp meetings as the only woman present is a fear many women have shared with me regarding their apprehension to join a club or society. It’s not an easy position to put yourself in, and I commend you for doing the hard work and sticking with it meeting after meeting. It is my hope that through my thesis work, and because of the efforts of women such as yourself, that one day we won’t have to fear being the only woman present.

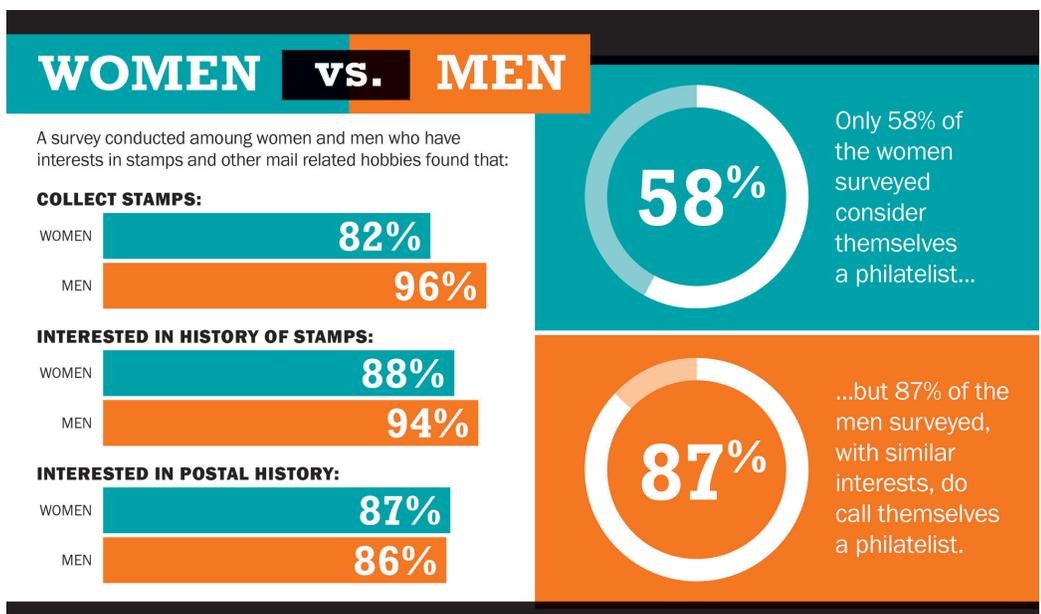
It is encouraging to read that your dedication to the hobby and your local stamp club truly paid off. When other women read your letter, I hope that they will feel inspired to take the first step in making a real change in the demographics of local and national philatelic organizations.

Thank you,  
 Stacy Adam

~~~~~

### Fan of the March Issue

I greatly appreciated the issue of March 2020, which discussed the problems facing women in stamp collecting. I have found it very hard to find a club where I am com-



# Appendix I

## American Philatelic Society (APS) Stamp Chat

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player. The video content displays a collection of colorful postage stamps with floral designs, including pansies and other flowers. The stamps are arranged on a wooden surface. The video player interface includes a search bar, a play button, and a progress bar showing 3:49 / 49:19. Below the video, the title 'APS Stamp Chat with Stacy Adam' is visible, along with the American Philatelic Society logo and a 'Subscribe' button. The video has 19 likes and 746 views. A 'Key moments' section is present, listing various topics with corresponding video thumbnails and timestamps.

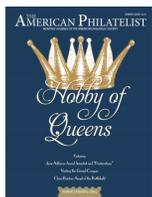
**Key moments**

| Timestamp | Topic                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|
| 0:39      | Chain Cards                              |
| 5:00      | Snow Globes                              |
| 16:59     | Types of Collectors                      |
| 20:31     | How To Get Young People Involved         |
| 38:13     | Advertising on Digital                   |
| 45:35     | Membership in the American Philatelic... |

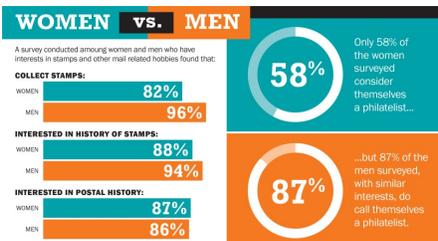
Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsLqSBMoFVo>

Appendix J  
WE Expressions Thesis Update Article

Women in Philately Thesis Update by Stacy Adam



In March 2020, I had the honor of writing an article for the *American Philatelist's* issue dedicated to women in philately. Titled "The Hobby of Kings... and Queens," this article discussed my Master of Fine Arts (MFA) thesis work which seeks to address the low membership numbers of women in philatelic societies and organizations, despite the large presence of women on social media sites, like Instagram, who demonstrate an interest in stamps, mail art, and other postal related ephemera. My article focused on the survey research I conducted, which confirmed that there is a disconnect because many women with philatelic interests do not consider themselves a philatelist, and/or are hesitant to join philatelic organizations because of a range of fears that include not being considered not a serious enough collector, or feeling out of place in a "man's world."



Following that article, later that month I participated in an APS Stamp Chat, was interviewed for Russ Romano's "Looking at Stamps" podcast, and was a featured student on the University of Baltimore's website.

As an MFA student in Integrated Design at the University of Baltimore, our thesis work requires us to complete project pieces that in some way contribute to solving the problem that our topic addresses. While thesis work can often change over time to best meet the needs of the issue we are confronting, as of now my final project deliverables are writing and designing a book that contains my research alongside interviews of amazing women philatelists who are actively paving the way for all of us. I will also develop and build a social media presence that empowers and encourages the women I interact with on social media to join

the hobby and call themselves a philatelist.

Before I began interviewing women, I had to complete training from the University of Baltimore's Institutional Review Board, and have them approve my questions and interview processes. I spent most of the Spring 2020 semester going through this necessary (even if tedious) process. Simultaneously, I began gathering a list of women in philately that I could interview. With the help of wonderful connections, like Lisa Foster (who has been supportive of my work since the very beginning), I was able to compile a good list of women with various philatelic interests. Finally, in June 2020, I started contacting these women and began the process of interviewing. This part of my thesis work has truly been the most rewarding thus far.

The summer of 2020 was filled mostly with emailing and following up with wide range of women philatelists. I found that some are more traditional in the way the collect and exhibit, while others embrace the potential for new ways of collecting and sharing their love of philately. They encompass all ages, races, and backgrounds, and it has been a pleasure to connect with each and every one of them.

By the fall, I had to take a brief hiatus with my thesis. Family and work obligations all pushed my thesis and even my own hobby participation to the side. However, after the new year, when 2021 began, I re-emersed myself into the world of philately. I began seeking out "treasures" for my collection, I started joining chain card groups again, and of course I picked up my thesis work where I had left off.



Photos of two recently completed chain cards after my hiatus (windmills theme and fox theme)

However, when I started gathering content to begin writing my book and social media content, I got so engrossed in the research, that I ended up

continued on page 5...

## Appendix J (continued)

### WE Expressions Thesis Update Article

Thesis Update...continued from page 4

spending most of the Spring 2021 semester reading and then reading more. I caught myself up on all the great issues of **WE Expressions** I was behind on, I read old journals which contained some fascinating and eye-opening snippets and advertisements, and I read new articles online about women in philately and even found some that discussed whether online philately was really philately at all.

Now, I find myself with all this information and no platform to begin sharing it! Initially, my goal was to complete my book first, then work on social media. However, my priorities have changed and my new goal is to have my social media accounts up and running first. With this new goal in place, I am currently designing the branding for "Women Who Stamp: Revolutionizing the Face of Philately." While I've secured the profile names on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, these accounts will not be active until later this summer.

In the meantime, if you would like to share your story with me, I would love to hear from you! You can email me at: [stacy.adam@ubalt.edu](mailto:stacy.adam@ubalt.edu).

Again, I want to thank Lisa Foster, all the women who I have interviewed so far, and the support of many others as I continue on my journey. As "a newbie philatelist," I am always seeking to learn and grow in this hobby. This work is truly a passion of mine, and I am grateful to the people who have been willing to give their time, their stories, and their expertise--many of whom are **WE** members. **THANK YOU!**

**Meet M.F.A. student Stacy Adam**

"My interests in stamps started several years ago, when the post office never seemed to have stamps available that matched a theme for an invitation I was creating. As a graphic designer, I was tired of having that to settle for something that didn't match the rest of the invitation packages, so I started looking online and came across vintage stamps, which opened up a whole new world of possibilities. From there, I began collecting vintage stamps that was attracted to. Topics like women's rights, fine arts and theater, and astronomy. I'm drawn to stamps that are well designed and eye-catching. My love of stamp collecting, and learning about the history behind the stamp and the country of origin, led me to philately. I was shocked when I learned that the demographic numbers of one of the largest stamp organizations in the United States was only 2% female, which seemed to be very different from the community I was engaged with on social media.

The purpose of my thesis is to encourage more women to call themselves a philatelist, who—despite their interests in stamps, mail, postmarks, and other philatelic topics—are hesitant to do so. In order to promote a sense of community and empower these women to find their place in a hobby largely dominated by men, I will interview other women who are active philatelists and then present their stories in a printed book, on a website, and on social media profiles that will be dedicated to informing and connecting women in the hobby. This project is not only important for the future of philately, which is often viewed as a dying hobby, but it will also contribute to the larger conversation of representation, inclusion, and the empowerment of women. It is my goal to see women more equally represented throughout this hobby."

Stacy was recently featured by the **American Philatelic Society**:

- READ: The Hobby of Kings...and Queens
- WATCH: Stamp Chat with Stacy Adam

Screenshot of student feature story on the University of Baltimore's website

BIO: Stacy Adam began collecting stamps in 2017. Her interest quickly expanded from U.S.-issued plate blocks to first day covers, special postmarks, and internationally-issued souvenir sheets. The stamps and covers in her collection range in a wide variety of topics from women's issues to astronomy. Stacy is a graphic designer currently working on her Master of Fine Arts. She began working on her thesis in the spring of 2018; her focus is on bringing more women into philately, and empowering them to call themselves philatelists.

## Creating the Philatelic Exhibit Synopsis - A Master Class

by Andrew McFarlane

The philatelic synopsis is the short document given to the philatelic judges in advance of a stamp show to help them prepare to judge the exhibit. This often misunderstood and underrated document can dramatically shape how an exhibit is received by the judges and can have a big effect on an exhibitor's medal level. This book describes, with full color examples, how to provide judges with what Andrew calls a "guided tour": an in-depth description of the exhibit, section by section, giving the judges an understanding of the exhibit and how the pieces fit together.

While the content of an exhibit and its synopsis are what matters the most, how that information is presented to the viewer can be just as critical. It helps to think of "presentation" not just in the visual sense, but also how the overall message is conveyed.

You'll learn the ins and outs of creating a synopsis that shows your exhibit the way you see it. After all the time, effort, and money you've spent on your exhibit, can you afford to take a chance that the jury won't see your exhibit at its best?

Andrew McFarlane is one of the most skilled practitioners in the preparation of synopsis documents in the U.S. philatelic exhibiting community. This book is a must-have for philatelic exhibitors.

Priced at \$35 and is available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

More information is available at [www.ExhibitSynopsis.com](http://www.ExhibitSynopsis.com)

**CREATING THE PHILATELIC EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS - A MASTER CLASS**

ANDREW MCFARLANE

**1<sup>ST</sup> OPEN DESIGN COMPETITION HELD BY THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

On Monday, 12/14/2021, the U.S. Postal Service announced the results of the 1st Open Design Competition held by the U.S. Post Office Department. The competition was held to design a new stamp for the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Postal Service. The winning design was created by a team of designers led by Andrew McFarlane. The design features a stylized eagle and the words "100 Years of Service".

**EXHIBIT PLAN**

- Why Design Competitions
- Production and Insurance
- Price Buy One
- Display

**RECOMMENDED READING**

- Philatelic Handbook by Donald G. Brown
- Original Catalogue by Donald G. Brown and Ralph Dyer
- Philatelic Handbook by Donald G. Brown
- Handbook on How to Display Stamps by Ralph Dyer, Thomas Wood & Frank Clark
- Philatelic Handbook by Donald G. Brown, Ralph Dyer, Thomas Wood & Frank Clark
- Philatelic Handbook by the Philatelic Museum and Book Department
- How to be a Collector of Stamps and Philatelic Material

## Appendix K

### Interview with Philatelist E.

YouTube

Search

Stacy Adam

Erin DeSantis

7:25 / 32:59

Philatelist E. & Women Who Stamp Interview | Philatelist E. Project Patch Program

Philatelist E.  
4 subscribers

Subscribe

2

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Save

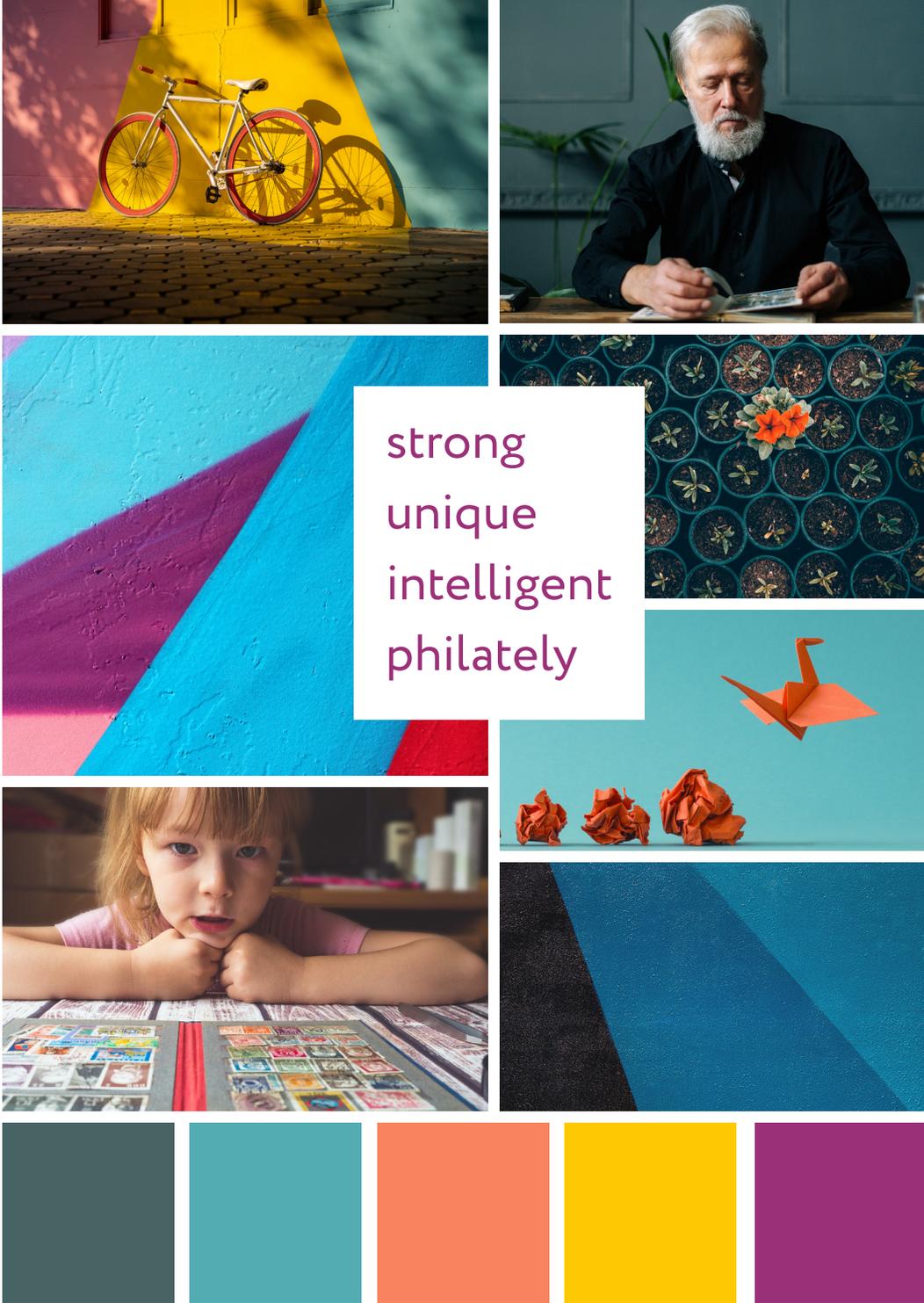
8 views Nov 8, 2022

Show less

Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0tu3NYyAJM>

# Appendix L

Mood Board



## Appendix M

### Style Guide

## LOGO



Primary Logo



Social Media Logo

## COLORS



## TYPEFACES

### CIRCE SLAB & CIRCE

Created by Alexandra Korolkova from Paratype

#### PRIMARY TYPE:

CIRCE SLAB EXTRA LIGHT

CIRCE SLAB LIGHT

CIRCE SLAB REGULAR

CIRCE SLAB MEDIUM

#### ALTERNATE TYPE:

CIRCE EXTRA LIGHT

*CIRCE EXTRA LIGHT ITALIC*

CIRCE LIGHT

*CIRCE LIGHT ITALIC*

CIRCE REGULAR

*CIRCE REGULAR ITALIC*

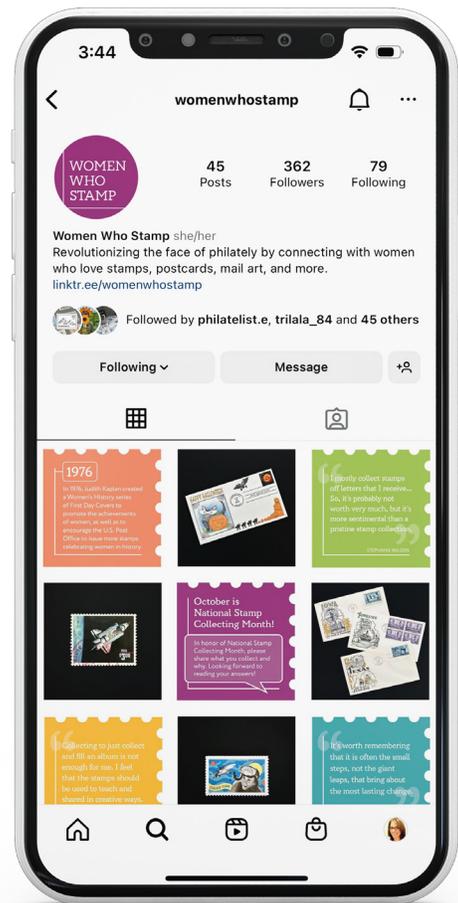
**CIRCE BOLD**

***CIRCE BOLD ITALIC***

## Appendix N

### Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

#### INSTAGRAM *(As of November 2022)*



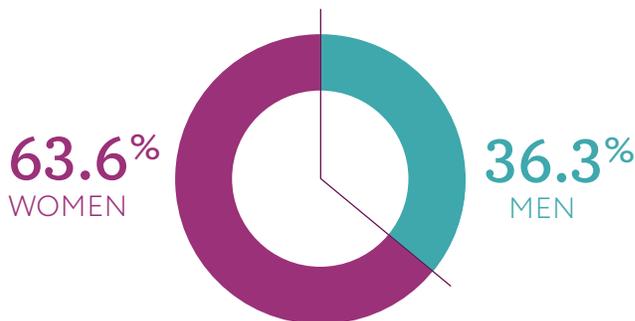
**Total Followers:** 362

#### 90 Day Period (Aug-Oct 2022):

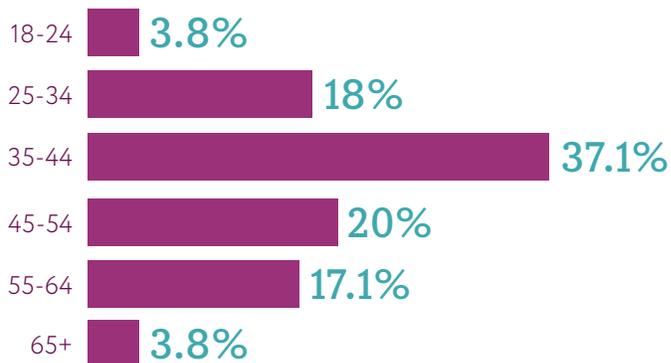
Accounts Reached: 850

Accounts Engaged: 170

#### Followers Gender:



#### Age Range of Followers (Women):



## Appendix N (continued)

### Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

## INSTAGRAM TOP POSTS (As of November 2022)

### Overall (Most Likes & Comments):

WOMENWHOSTAMP Posts

WOMEN WHO STAMP

Liked by elisa9bmore and 108 others

womenwhostamp Welcome to Women Who Stamp! The idea for this account was born several years ago when I realized that the women I was connecting with on social media were not reflected in formal stamp clubs and organizations. To discover why this was, I began a journey that included surveys, interviews, and a lot of research. I believe that encouraging more women to call themselves a philatelist is not only important for the future of philately (which is often viewed as a dying hobby), but it also contributes to the larger conversation of representation, inclusion, and the empowerment of women. It is a passion of mine to see women more equally represented throughout this hobby, and I'm excited to start this new adventure today, on the first day of Women's History Month. I hope you will follow Women Who Stamp as we revolutionize the face of philately.

109 Likes  
16 Comments

### Most Likes:

WOMENWHOSTAMP Posts

Liked by elisa9bmore and 100 others

womenwhostamp Did you know that April is #NationalLetterWritingMonth? Will you be sending letters this month? Are you a snail mail artist? When I first began collecting stamps, swapping letters and postcards helped me see the beauty of stamps from all around the world!

---  
If you are looking for some inspiration you can follow #write\_on. These accounts also create beautiful pieces of mail art:  
@pbandjillian  
@juicychristians  
@via\_micaela

101 Likes

WOMENWHOSTAMP Posts

Liked by elisa9bmore and 86 others

womenwhostamp Did you know that it took nearly 50 years for a stamp to depict a woman in the United States? The first woman to appear on a US stamp was Queen Isabella in 1893. Then, almost 10 years later a woman (Martha Washington) was finally honored with her own stamp in 1902. In the following 50 years, only 15 more stamps would focus on women as the subject matter. While this may seem like the norm for that era, this lack of representation on postage stamps is an important part of the exclusion of women in philately throughout history. With such minimal representation on stamps, it is not surprising that women were slow to join a hobby that was (and still is) often passed down through the generations.

87 Likes

### Most Comments:

WOMENWHOSTAMP Posts

October is National Stamp Collecting Month!

In honor of National Stamp Collecting Month, please share what you collect and why. Looking forward to reading your answers!

Liked by elisa9bmore and 35 others

womenwhostamp Did you know that in 1981 the month of October was declared National Stamp Collecting Month? This initiative was a joint venture between the United States... more

View all 16 comments

jheart1 The first sheet I got and held on to where the Hershey Kiss love stamps. I liked the illustration style and that Hershey, PA meant something to me, plus chocolate on a stamp! But I didn't really start collecting until the lunar eclipse stamps came out. They were just so cool. And [...]

16 Comments

WOMENWHOSTAMP Posts

58%

Only 58% of women surveyed with interests in stamps, snail mail, and philatelic subjects consider themselves a philatelist.

Liked by elisa9bmore and 48 others

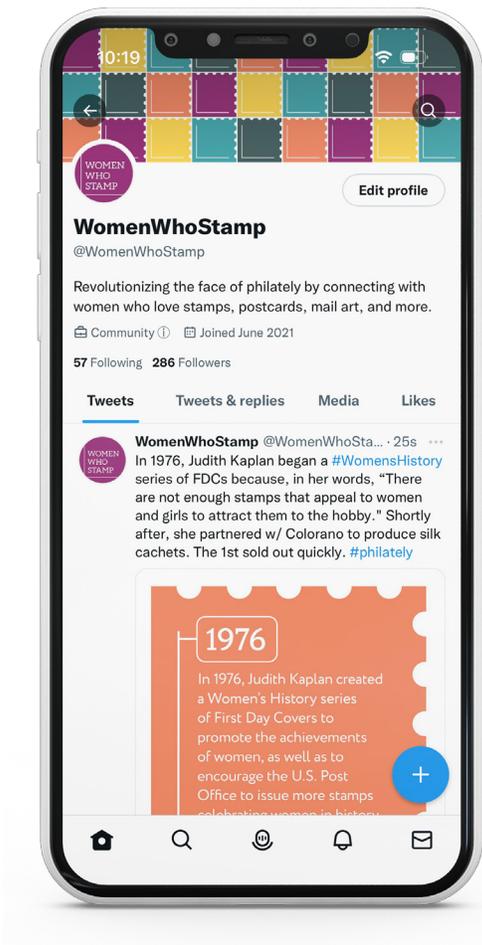
womenwhostamp Today, on International Women's Day, I want to share a statistic that emerged as a result of surveys I conducted in 2019. These surveys were distributed to women and men with various philatelic interests, but the results showed that many women do not consider themselves a philatelists, despite having the same interests as their male counterparts. 82% of the women who participated in the survey collect stamps, 88% are interested in the history of stamps, 87% are interested in postal history, and 85% are interested in how stamps are created. However, only 58% consider

14 Comments

## Appendix N (continued)

### Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

#### TWITTER (As of November 2022)

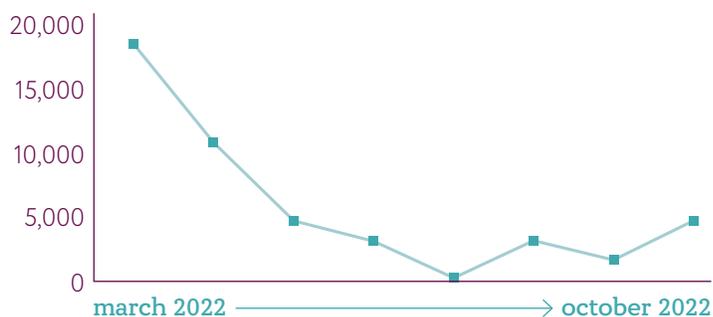


**Total Followers:** 286

#### 90 Day Period (Aug–Oct 2022):

Impressions: 9,502  
 Profile Visits: 2,902  
 New Followers: 32

#### Impressions (Month-by-Month):



#### Profile Visits (Month-by-Month):



## Appendix N (continued)

### Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

#### TWITTER TOP TWEETS (As of November 2022)

(Based on impressions)

##### Top Overall: 6,561 Impressions

**WomenWhoStamp** @WomenWhoStamp · Mar 1

Welcome to Women Who Stamp! I hope you will follow us as we revolutionize the face of philately.

---

#womenwhostamp #philately #stamp #stampcollecting #stampcollector #snailmail #snailmailrevolution #postcards #happymail #stamp #penpals #postcrossing #mailart #womenshistorymonth



Promote

3 12 41

##### 2,241 Impressions

**WomenWhoStamp** @WomenWhoStamp · Mar 14

While I didn't begin #philately until I was an adult, this quote describes me as a child so well. Whether it was stickers, Beanie Babies, or Disney trading cards, I loved collecting, organizing, and showing off my treasures. Did you collect as a child? #womenwhostamp



Promote

4 4 28

##### 2,129 Impressions

**WomenWhoStamp** @WomenWhoStamp · Oct 3

It's #NationalStampCollectingMonth! Let's have some fun! Please share what you collect and why, or why you love #philately. You can tag your posts with #womenwhostamp so we can all see what you are collecting! #stampcollecting



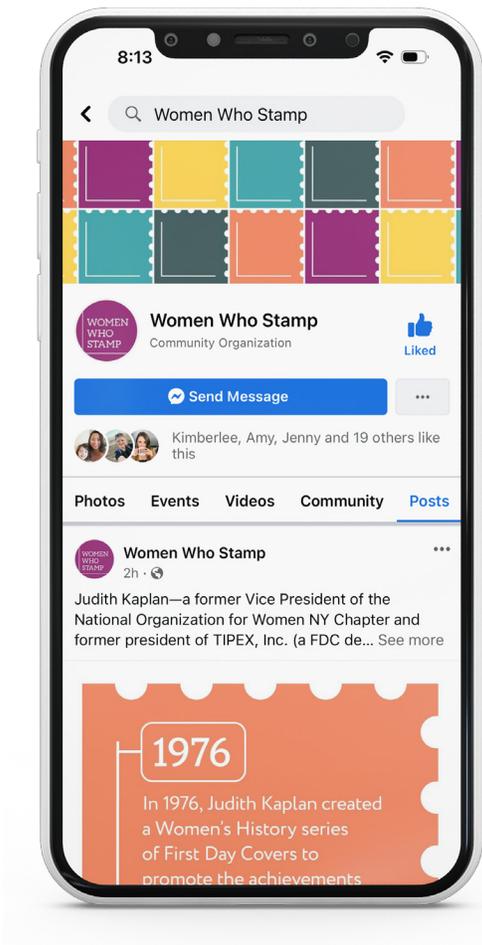
Promote

13 14 41

## Appendix N (continued)

Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

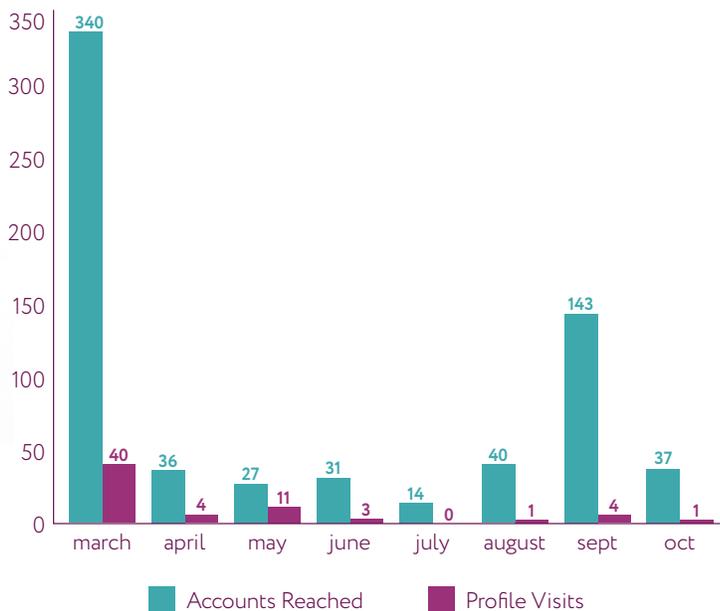
### FACEBOOK (As of November 2022)



**Total Page Likes:** 22  
**Total Page Follows:** 24

**90 Day Period (Aug–Oct 2022):**  
 Accounts Reached: 220  
 Profile Visits: 6  
 New Page Likes: 2

#### Accounts Reached VS. Profile Visits (Month-by-Month):



## Appendix N (continued) Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook Designs and Analytics

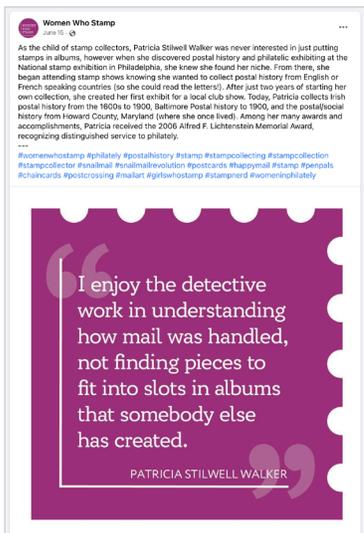
### FACEBOOK TOP LIKES/REACTIONS *(As of November 2022)*

| Recent content ↑↓                                                   | Type | Reach ⓘ ↑↓ | Likes and reacti... ⓘ ↓ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-------------------------|
| <p>Welcome to Women Who Stamp! ...<br/>Tue Mar 1, 10:11am</p>       | Post | 335        | 30                      |
| <p>As the child of stamp collectors, ...<br/>Wed Jun 15, 2:14pm</p> | Post | 34         | 11                      |
| <p>Had the opportunity to attended ...<br/>Tue Oct 18, 1:38pm</p>   | Post | 21         | 8                       |
| <p>Charlene "The Stampkeeper" Blai...<br/>Fri May 6, 12:02pm</p>    | Post | 127        | 8                       |
| <p>When the news feels so heavy, I a...<br/>Fri May 27, 7:02am</p>  | Post | 51         | 7                       |

30 Likes (Reach: 335)



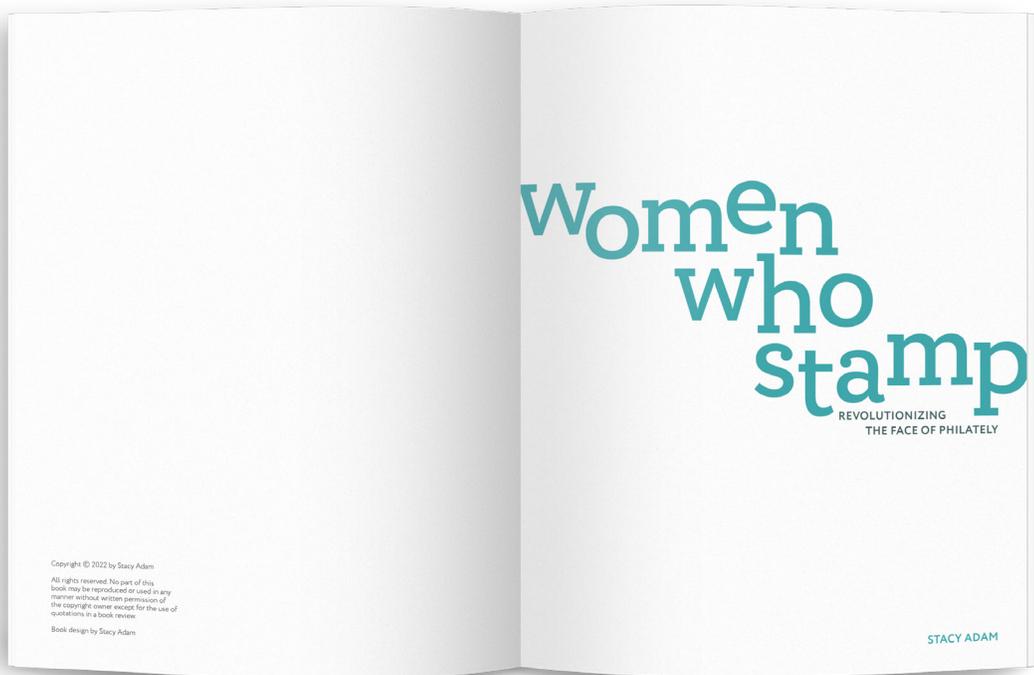
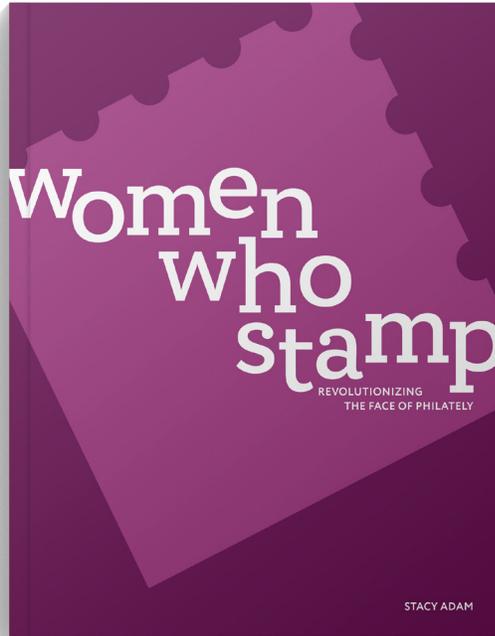
11 Likes (Reach: 34)



8 Likes (Reach: 21)



Appendix O  
Book Prototype



Appendix O (continued)  
Book Prototype

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**philately** [ fi-lat-l-ee ]  
*noun*

“ The collection and study of postage and imprinted stamps: stamp collecting.  
— MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The examination and study of postage stamps, revenues, postal stationery, postage due stamps, covers, and other postal-related items... However, the distinction between a “philatelist” and a “stamp collector” is not universal. In many languages, the exact translation of the word “philatelist” is itself the common term for “stamp collecting.”  
— THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILATELY

The *phil-* at the beginning of philatelist gives you a hint as to its meaning: it means “love.” The Greek *ateleia* meant “exemption from payment.” So a philatelist is literally a person who “loves stamps.”  
— VOCABULARY.COM ”

## Appendix O (continued) Book Prototype



# Introduction

When I began collecting stamps in my mid-30s, I almost immediately identified as a philatelist. Even though I'd never been exposed to the hobby before, I believed that since I enjoyed collecting stamps, that I was absolutely a philatelist. I realized I still had a lot to learn, but figured over time I would gain more knowledge and experience, so there was no reason for me not to say, "I am a philatelist."

While I was diving into this new hobby, I made connections with many other women on Instagram who were also interested in stamps. I began postcard swapping, pen-pal-ing, and joining chain card groups with them. Their passion for sending and receiving mail, and collecting stamps from around the world was undeniable. I learned so much from them in those early days, and assumed that with their love of stamps, many of them must also consider themselves philatelists.

As I learned more about philately, I heard some collectors strictly define it as "the study of stamps," and not just stamp collecting. Since I'm a researcher by nature, that didn't phase me as I was already researching stamps, postmarks, or the history behind the stamp or country of origin. In my mind, I was still rightfully a philatelist.

About two years after I began collecting, I learned that one of the largest philatelic organizations in the United States only had a 9% female membership base. I was well acquainted with the "old man" stereotype of stamp collecting, but with all the women I had met on Instagram, I wasn't expecting it to be so low. Trying to uncover this lingering divide is what ultimately led to Women Who Stamp.

If you love stamps and are reading this book, you are most likely a philatelist. If you disagree, consider this book—filled with the history of stamp collecting and research about women in philately—your first step, and let me be the first to say, "Welcome to philately."

INTRODUCTION | 5

## history of women in philately

Even though women were among the first to collect stamps around the world, it wasn't long before men took over, creating societies with strict guidelines on what constituted "philately" and what did not.<sup>1</sup> Despite this, women have always collected, and there are several pioneers who established themselves as serious collectors inside of these "boy clubs." Even when clubs did allow women to join, they are often not taken seriously or treated with respect.<sup>2</sup> This exclusion was not limited to philatelic organizations, considering that it took nearly fifty years for a woman to first appear on a postage stamp in the United States.<sup>3</sup> Then, it took another forty-five years for a woman to be selected to design postage stamps.<sup>4</sup> This timeline highlights moments throughout history that have included and excluded women in philately, showing why stamp collecting is often still viewed as a man's hobby.

Footnotes begin on page 52.

**1800s**

The first stamp, known as the Penny Black, is issued in England. It featured a portrait of Queen Victoria. Within just two years, stamp collecting had begun, and was so popular among women that it was referred to as a "new mania." One satiric journal wrote, "The ladies of England are indefatigable in their endeavours to collect old penny stamps."<sup>1</sup>

In the early decades of collecting, stamps were often used for decorating, including papering the walls and ceilings of homes!<sup>2</sup> This trend carried on for many years to follow, and not just by women. Richard Sharp, a stamp collector, began decorating picture frames with spare stamps. In 1882, he was challenged to cover a wall with stamps, but he didn't stop there. He papered furniture, more walls, more rooms, until the house was covered in more than two million stamps!<sup>3</sup>

Although some of the first gatherings in Paris were hosted and attended by women, when societies began to appear in the 1860s, most were built with a "brotherhood" mentality, excluding women.<sup>4</sup> Around this same time publications in the United States, were referring to stamp collecting as a "young ladies mania."<sup>5</sup>

**1840**

In France, principles that focused on paper, perforations, and variations developed, while the English school focused on design, historical themes, and location. In 1848, a male philatelist from the English school wrote, "It is my earnest desire to point out the absurdity and futility of the extremes practised by the [French]."<sup>6</sup> These "extreme" needs soon become the foundations of philately, further excluding women from the hobby.<sup>7</sup>

**1850s**

In the 1870s, '80s, and '90s members were expected to organize and analyze stamps in particular ways. Club philatelists, never advocated decorating with stamps, instead they encouraged collectors to protect and save stamps carefully in albums.<sup>8</sup>

**1860s**

Even when philatelic organizations were trying to expand their membership, they often required applicants to be sponsored by a current member, denying membership to women and minorities. Additionally, many clubs had names like "The Sons of Philately" and the "Philatelic Sons of America," that stressed male dominance, continuing to exclude girls and women.<sup>9</sup>

**1868**

While England's first stamp showed Queen Victoria, it took the United States nearly fifty years to issue a postage stamp depicting a woman. Using artwork by artist Yvette Van Ezzell, this stamp shows Columbus soliciting Queen Isabella.<sup>10</sup>

**1870s-1890s**

**1900s**

In 1902, Martha Washington was the first woman honored with her own stamp. In the following fifty years, only fifteen more stamps would focus on women as the main subject matter.<sup>11</sup>

The "brotherhood" mentality of many societies and clubs continued to be reinforced through references in journal articles and advertisements. Even in documented proceedings for a convention, there were many references about inviting and including boys, but no mention of girls. To this day, philately is often referred to as the "hobby of kings."<sup>12</sup>

**1893**

**1902**

**1920s**

**The Collectors Journal for the use with a Hobby**  
A monthly magazine devoted to the interests of collectors of stamps, coins, etc.

**Give Your Boy a Chance to Learn**  
... ..

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN PHILATELY | 7

# Appendix O (continued)

## Book Prototype

**1922**  
 Catherine L. Manning was selected as curator of the National Philatelic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. She served for more than 30 years longer than any other person. In 1925, Manning was the first woman elected to office as the Vice President for the American Philatelic Society (APS). In 1993, Manning was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame.<sup>16</sup>

**1922**  
 Women artists have often been overlooked in stamp design, like Gyo Fujikawa who created multiple illustrations for the US Post Office. The first was the United States-Japan Treaty stamp of 1960. Her artwork appeared on five more stamps from 1963 to 1997.<sup>17</sup>

**1933**  
 Sophie Buser created the Women's Philatelic Society of New York, dedicated to women in philately. In 1935 the society issued their first bulletin named *Post and Impact*; the bulletin was renamed the *Philatotele* and appeared monthly. In 2020, Sophie Buser was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame.<sup>18</sup>

**1938**  
 Elaine Reelinson was recognized as the first woman to design a US postage stamp after winning a competition held by the Post Office. Her design of the Presidential Series (Presies) was groundbreaking using simplicity and modern typography, instead of the elaborate frames that had been customary up until then.<sup>19</sup>

**1960**  
 A new group, WE (Women Exhibitors) is formed at the Ameristamp Expo. The organization publishes a successful e-newsletter, *WE Expressions*, focusing on encouragement for women in philately.<sup>20</sup>

**1970s-1990s**  
 During the 1970s, as stamp clubs became more accepting of women, many women's societies started to disband. However, one prominent club still didn't allow women to join until the 1990s. In addition, two books published in 1990, *The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors* and *More of the World's Greatest Stamp Collectors*, only mentions one woman, even though there were plenty of well-known women philatelists by that time.<sup>21</sup>

**1970s-1990s**  
 The National Postal Museum inducts Mary-Ann Bowman, Liz Hisey, and May Day Taylor to the Council of Philatelists Advisory Board.<sup>22</sup>

**1980**  
 The group "Women in Philately" was organized to try to break gender barriers through their newsletter, *The Whip*. President Cheryl Ganz and editor Janet Klug worked with other philatelic leaders to recognize that women are serious collectors.<sup>23</sup>

**1980**  
 The APS elected Janet Klug as the first woman to serve as their President. Previously, she served as their secretary (1997-2003), and vice president (2001-2003). In addition to her many achievements, Klug is a philatelic author who has written countless articles and published three books.<sup>24</sup>

**2000s**  
 In the last ten years, 21% of the award winners for the APS's Luff Award (one of the most prestigious philatelic honors) have been women. Compared to the first 60 years of the Luff Award (1942-2000), when only 5% of award honorees were women.<sup>25</sup>

**2007**

**2010**

**2018**  
 9%  
 The demographic data from the American Philatelic Society (APS)—one of the most prominent stamp collecting organizations—shows that only 9% of their membership are women.<sup>26</sup>

**2020**

**what happens now?**

History can give us an understanding about why stamp collecting has been viewed as a "man's hobby," but why has the male dominance still prevailed? A 2019 survey shows that there is a shared perception that women often do not consider themselves philatelists, despite having similar interests as their male counterparts.<sup>27</sup>

In this survey, many women expressed that they don't feel serious enough to consider themselves a philatelist, or they don't feel welcomed at stamp shows. This is largely due to history, but is also continuously reinforced when women aren't represented in social media posts, on advertisements, or in publications. The presence of women has always been more of a rarity than the norm, as such we don't always get the same respect as male collectors.

To change this we must continue to promote the amazing women who stamp, and we need to encourage women interested in stamps, postcards, mail and other related hobbies to join together and attend stamp shows and clubs meetings. As a result, we will show others in the hobby that there is no right or wrong way to collect, and that anyone can be a philatelist.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? | 9

**“** In collecting, every new stamp is an event, a pleasure in itself and, simultaneously, a step toward the growth of one's collection. A collector is not a passive spectator, but an active, purposeful agent in a cumulative drive... In collecting, there is no such thing as too many stamps: the more one gets, the more one wants. The sense of action, of movement, of progression is wonderful... and habit-forming. **”**

— AYN RAND

Above quote from, "Why I Like Stamp Collecting" by Ayn Rand, published in the *Midwest Stamp Journal*, Vol. VI, No. 2 - 1971. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor in 1999.

## Appendix O (continued)

### Book Prototype

LASTING IMPRESSION | an interview with...

# lisa foster

Lisa Foster is a dedicated philatelist who encourages, supports, and mentors women who show interest in philately. Lisa is the current president of Women Exhibitors (WE) and president of Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS). In addition to these organizations, Lisa is also the president of the Evergreen Stamp Club (ESC) located in Washington state, and is an active member in many other philatelic clubs and societies. Lisa's passion for promoting women in philately inspired her to create the "WIPS - Women in Philately" Facebook page, where she shares all things related to women and philately. As guest editor for the March 2020 edition of *American Philatelist*, Lisa wrote, "As a lifelong woman philatelist, I strongly believe that in order to sustain our hobby it is imperative we promote diversity. One route is to ensure women and people of color are represented in our publications as authors, and in the topics represented."

**Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**  
If the definition of a philatelist is the "Love of Stamps", then yes, I am a philatelist. I have always enjoyed receiving and sending mail. I enjoy card making, sending postcards while traveling and frequenting Hallmark. I enjoy choosing postage stamps to mirror the purpose of the mailings. It is an intricate form of connecting to others that brings others joy, and feelings that they are loved, remembered, important, and so much more.

**Although I enjoy the hunt and the satisfaction in finding a desired philatelic item, I do consider myself to be more than a "Stamp Collector." For me philately is more than a hobby; it's a major part of my identity.**

**What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows interest in philatelic related topics?**  
It depends. I would inquire for more specifics, what aspects of the hobby they find attractive and then provide networks and resources in that area. I would ask what if any misgivings they may have in pursuing the hobby and dismiss myths. I have tried to expand on interests they already have and find ways to incorporate philately into them. I have invited them to stamp shows, provided tours of exhibits, and shared my experiences. Philately is a large hobby, it is not just buying stamps and putting them in an album. It can be a solitary or social hobby. As the hobby has moved online, I have shared/encouraged others to watch philatelic videos, listen to philatelic podcasts about topics they find important.

**Can you share your experience with the philatelic community?**  
For the most part my experiences have been good. There have been some that have been negative. The most negative aspect of philately is the gender bias, old boy network and mentality. It gets old at times, and trying I have invested hours assisting with philatelic projects and not only not been thanked or acknowledged, but men have taken the credit and/or been awarded for the result.

I have been criticized for what I have done (create a membership form/write an article/etc) rather than encouraged or educated regarding what would/could make it better and how to do it.

I think individuals in the philatelic community forget that most service positions in the hobby are filled by volunteers. They are not paid employees and thus need to be treated differently, with grace, and gratitude.

**What do you enjoy about being a part of the philatelic community?**  
The shared interest in a hobby - like minded individuals. For the most part, stamp collectors get along with everyone, regardless of their political, religious, social beliefs... as long as we stay focused on our commonality: the love of stamps.

Although exhibitors are often competitive as are many stamp collectors with an "I can top that" mentality, they are most always willing to assist another collector, sharing their expertise, and resources.

Human beings as pack animals need to have a sense of community. The philatelic community has provided me with that. I am awkward socially, misunderstood by many, and have found little acceptance in the general community. The philatelic community, for the most part has accepted me, provided encouragement and engagement in a larger purpose.

INTERVIEW WITH LISA FOSTER | 13

**Left:** Enlarged example of the two-cent George Washington stamp Lisa Foster collects.

**Above:** Two-cent George Washington stamp shown at actual size.

**Right:** Artistic first day cover from Lisa Foster's collection depicting the Washington Statehood Centennial (created by Melissa Fay).

**Bottom right:** Sample of an exhibitor page of *American Philatelist* magazine created by Lisa Foster.

"One of my main life missions has been to save stamp collecting... I have dedicated years to promoting exhibiting to all regardless of age, sex, finances, or social standing. I serve in clubs that represent those collectors who are underserved, i.e. Women and LGBTQ+. If I could earn a living wage as a philatelist, I would quit my day job in a minute!" - LISA FOSTER

**What do you collect?**  
I started collecting US used as a child as it was easily accessible and arrived on mail in the mailbox.

My grandfather gave me a cigar box full of bundles 2 cent George Washington Stamps, with the triangles in the upper corners. I have worked for years to decipher which Scott number they each are based on printing, watermarks, colors, perforations, etc. Another life long pending exhibit.

Some topics I collect as they relate to me personally. For example, Nursing as I am a nurse. Mice because that was my nickname as a child. Stamp collecting as that is my hobby. In addition, some of my collecting/acquiring is related to finding an item that would be good to write about in a philatelic journal.

The Great American Eclipse of 2017 - was an awesome stamp, first of its kind in the US. My family went to Oregon to watch the eclipse. There were eclipse post offices offering cancels of the event, which fit in well with my love of macrophilately.

The APMC Flag Cancels collection/exhibit began from a pile of covers found in a dollar box. At the time I thought, "Ah ha! The beginning of an exhibit."

Exhibiting has focused my purchases a lot. Otherwise I see so many items I want to have, but I do not have the room, time or funds for everything.

**What are your thoughts on challenging the more traditional mindset of philately to be more encompassing of different styles of collecting (such as stamp art and chain cards)?**  
I could be described as a traditionalist. I was instructed that mint stamps are worth more than used stamps, they should be stored in ways to minimize damage, etc. For this reason, I was uncomfortable seeing stamps used to make art, glued on things, and damaged. I was also concerned that as a result there would be less stamps to put in albums.

These "progressive" activities have led me to evaluate my beliefs, and values. What is stamp collecting? I know what it is to me, but who am I to question or define what it is for others? If I genuinely believe and support "Philately for ALL", then I must be open to new ideas, and support others in their visions.

I have enjoyed seeing the hobby progress, the innovative and artistic ways others have incorporated stamps into their lives. My thought process has evolved as I have watched these ideas bring others joy, promote stamps, attract new interest, and ensure the continued success of the hobby.

**What are you hopes for the future of philately?**  
My main hope is that philately has a future. With the decrease in letter writing, concerns about the state of the Post Office, and the aging of the collectors/sellers/members in the hobby, I have fears the hobby will disappear altogether.

**What do you think other women should know about philately?**  
Philately is a hobby filled with opportunity, not only for the individual themselves, but also for the hobby. It can become whatever one wants or needs it to be. Although it appears to have many "rules," rules are meant to be broken. There are traditionalists, but there are visionaries who are breaking barriers and forging new ground in the hobby, and many are women.

**PHILATELIC INVOLVEMENT**

- Women Exhibitors (WE)**  
President
- Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS)**  
President
- Evergreen Stamp Club (ESC)**  
President
- WIPS - Women in Philately Facebook Page**  
Creator
- Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs**  
Regional Philatelic Judge

**MEMBER:**  
American Philatelic Society (APS)  
American Topical Association (ATA)  
American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)  
The Machine Cancel Society  
American Philatelic Research Library  
American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE)  
EFO Collectors Club  
Northwest Post Card Society (NWPCS)  
APS Writers Unit #30

INTERVIEW WITH LISA FOSTER | 13

# Appendix O (continued)

## Book Prototype

LASTING IMPRESSION | an interview with...

# kimberlee fuller

Introduced to stamp collecting at a young age, Kimberlee Fuller has evolved from a hobbyist to a professional philatelist who works with auction houses and serves on the board of many philatelic organizations. Kimberlee is currently the Northern California Regional Vice President for the United States Philatelic Classics Society, the Executive Secretary for the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and manages social networking and online member outreach for The Collectors Club of New York. Despite discrimination that she has faced within the hobby, Kimberlee's passion for stamps and postal history is unwavering, and she has created lifelong friendships with others in the collecting community. While she worries about the future of philately, she continues to share her knowledge with others, and will always enjoy the collection she has built.

**Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**  
By definition, it is one who collects or studies stamps and that is exactly what I do and have done since I was a kid. I have also worked professionally at three different philatelic auction houses, my husband is a professional philatelist, and many of our friends and those in our closest social circle are philatelists; thus our social activities revolve around philatelic events and meetings.

**How did you become interested in philately?**  
Through my grandfather (from my adopted family), Ralph Donn (now deceased), who was a philatelist and courier for the US Army in Europe during WWII. He had a basic US collection and general worldwide collection. I became interested in collecting worldwide, especially Asian countries and countries that "no longer exist," have since changed names, or become assimilated by other countries like Zanzibar (now a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania).

**Other than your grandfather's influence, did you have any mentors who helped you or that you looked up to?**  
Absolutely, my husband, Matthew Kewiga, for starters. Similar to me, he was introduced to philately through his grandfather (also a WWII veteran) and started collecting at the age of 10, but unlike me he was already bidding in auctions as a kid (he had to bring his mom to shows to have him sign checks). He began working as a professional philatelist in his early 20s. Prior to meeting Matt in 2014 at the APS Stamp Show in Hartford, Connecticut, I only attended small local shows. Although I read about the bigger national and international shows, that was the first national show I ever attended and he introduced me to countless other philatelists and stamp dealers. Being an active judge and exhibitor, he explained the entire judging and exhibiting process (which prior to then was completely foreign to me). Through his experience as a professional philatelist, Matt explained how an auction house is run, its role within the philatelic world and various nuances of bidding, consigning, acquiring and selling collections. That eventually led to me to realize that I could make a career out of my hobby, and led to me working for three different auction houses and developing my own collecting on a much more specialized level.

**Ken Lawrence has inspired and assisted me the most by allowing me to buy his Champions of Liberty collection in installments, educating me on the contents of the collection and helping me to understand the rates and usages of countless covers. I've acquired since then. The entire Greater Richmond Stamp Club and many, many others have all encouraged, assisted, and mentored me along my philatelic journey.**

**What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows an interest in philatelic related topics?**  
That they should attend a stamp show or pick up a copy of the American Philatelist or I would recommend a more specific publication in relationship to their interests. If they're local, I would offer to bring them to a stamp club meeting or refer them to their own local APS chapter. If they were really interested, I would show them how to use a Scott catalog or bid in an auction.

**What do you collect and why?**  
Owls on stamps, owl postal history and owl postcards. I collect owl figurines, stationery and all (thematic) owl objects. My mom and grandmother collected owls. I grew up surrounded by them and although I am estranged from my adopted family the sight of owls and owl imagery brings me joy. I am also interested in ornithology in general. The US Champion of Liberty issue (1957-1962) stamps and postal history. As an Asian American, I first took an interest in this collection as a kid because of the Bc Ramon Magaysay stamp (Scott 1095). He was the first Asian featured on a US stamp at that time of issue. Then, because of their interesting political/propaganda-related nature, I took an interest in collecting the rest of the series, especially the postal history and combined rate usages. Machines. I always enjoyed their multitude of colors and varieties. I also have a minor interest in general Korea and Japan and have formed small collections of countries I've enjoyed traveling to like St. Lucia and France. Topically, I also have small collections of multirooms and fiber arts themed stamps. These were formed because I am interested in mythology and I am avid knitter and crocheter.

INTERVIEW WITH KIMBERLEE FULLER | 17

"Some of my fondest memories are simply quietly sorting through dealer stock or my own collection, uninterrupted and finding something I was looking for and/or something really intriguing that I wasn't looking for." - KIMBERLEE FULLER

**Can you share your experience with the philatelic community?**  
Initially it wasn't great. In fact, all of my earliest memories of attending stamp shows are negative. The community felt extremely racist, sexist, and gross. The shows were always held in dilapidated smoke filled mason or moose lodges. Many dealers didn't take me seriously. Some refused to sell to me or followed me around their booths like they were scared that I was going to steal something. Some wouldn't even let me look through their stock boxes and stock books. I would have to provide them with Scott numbers and then they would hold a gasline out in front of me and they didn't even trust me to use long, even though there were men sitting all around the table freely combing through stock unsupervised. My overall impression of the philatelic world was that it was a bunch of rich and/or stingy old, racist, sexist, white men. I've attended countless shows in Upstate New York and Richmond, Virginia where I was virtually the only non-white person and female there (who wasn't working the show). Now that I've established myself within the community, I've gained a lot more respect, but not total respect. I will probably always be referred to as "Matt's wife," and never as a philatelist in my own right. I have never attended a single stamp show without receiving racist and/or sexist remarks. As an Asian female under the age of 50, I am an extreme rarity at a US stamp show and I stick out like a sore thumb. Even at shows in Europe, while there may be a very small handful of female philatelists, women and Asians in general are a minority. I have heard this is different in Asia but I haven't attended any shows there yet; I'm really looking forward to it though! That being said, I don't need to be surrounded by women just to have fun; I've adapted. I'm also a record collector and I used to be a DJ. The record collecting world is also extremely sexist and male dominated so this is nothing new to me. Some of my fondest memories are simply quietly sorting through dealer stock or my own collection, uninterrupted and finding something I was looking for and/or something really intriguing that I wasn't looking for. I love when dealers have set something aside for me in advance that they know I will want. Some of my favorite philatelic events have been the more-or-less smaller more specialized events like The Happening in NOLA or TPR (Texas Philatelic Rendezvous) in Denton, TX where it's a more casual and relaxed show-and-tell environment without a rigid schedule.

**I suppose my fondest memory is when I first met Matt and about 30 other under-30 philatelists at the first ever Young Friends of the APS meet up at the APS Summer Show in Hartford. Many of us have since remained great friends since that event and feel that we will always be linked by our similarity in age and the fact that we are such a minority within the philatelic community.**

**What do you like about being a part of the philatelic community?**  
It's wonderful to have a community to share my hobby with. I love learning about philately in general and exchanging that information in a social environment. Matt and I love travelling to shows, participating in auctions, attending and speaking at presentations, viewing exhibits, adding to our collections, meeting up with our friends and their families. Most of our friends are philatelists and like family to us. The motto of the GRSC (Greater Richmond Stamp Club), founded by August Dietz in 1929 is, "For their mutual pleasure and benefit," and I couldn't agree more. ■

**PHILATELIC INVOLVEMENT**

- United States Philatelic Classics Society  
Northern California Regional Vice-President
- Scandinavian Collectors Club  
Executive Secretary
- Collectors Club of NY  
Social Networking & Online Member Outreach
- Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions  
Auction Manager (2016-2018)
- Greater Richmond Stamp Club  
Vice President and Newsletter Editor (2012-2017)
- Daniel F. Kellner Philatelic Auctions  
Director of Client Services (2016)
- Spin & Son  
Auction Manager (2015)

**MEMBER:**  
American Philatelic Society (APS)  
Young Friends of the APS  
Collectors Club of San Francisco

INTERVIEW WITH KIMBERLEE FULLER | 19

## Appendix O (continued) Book Prototype

LASTING IMPRESSION | an interview with...

# Mary A. Love

Dr. Mary A. Love's interest in stamp collecting began as a young child who gathered stamps from the family's mail and then glued them down on paper. Despite Dr. Love's early passion for collecting, she didn't become formally introduced to the hobby of philately until she attended college, and was another 20 years before she considered herself a philatelist when she joined her first stamp society, the North Carolina Chapter of ESPER (the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections). Dr. Love wrote that her "experiences with fellow collectors are greatly valued as we share our collections, learn, and build relationships." Nearly 50 years after being introduced to philately by her college advisor, Dr. Love now finds herself in the position to teach. Using stamps in unique ways, she is able to educate others on African American history, while exposing them to all that stamp collecting has to offer.

**Why do you consider yourself a philatelist?**  
A philatelist is one who not only collects stamps, but studies them for their history and artistic appeal. That has been a driving force for me in the last five to ten years as I have built a collection that can be an exhibition of African Americans honored on stamps. Each time a stamp is studied, the door to a new body of information opens. As a result of my research, I can teach others.

**How did you become interested in philately?**  
I became interested in stamps as a child and had no clue about philately. Being instructed by my mother to go to the mailbox to get the mail was the start. I then would ask her for the stamps once she had opened the mail. Not knowing any better, I would glue the stamps on sheets of paper. (Of course, my first collection was ruined!) It was not until I was in Washington, DC attending Wesley Seminary that I was introduced to the hobby. My Seminary Advisor, the late Dr. Mary Alice Edwards, was also a collector and somewhere in conversation she learned of my interest in stamps. There was a stamp show and exhibit at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC that she invited me to attend with her. That was my formal introduction to the hobby. From that point, I would research, attend stamp shows and exhibits in my area, often alone. I also discovered Richard's Stamp Shop in Charlotte and began to purchase albums, stamps and collecting supplies. The owner was extremely helpful in aiding my quest.

**What do you think other women should know about philately, that they may not realize?**  
Some may not realize the wealth of knowledge that is behind every stamp and may feel that the hobby is boring. Some may feel that it is too male oriented.

**What advice would you give to a woman who is concerned that philately might be too male-dominated and would not be accepting?**  
I would say to a woman interested in philately to seek other women who are interested and to pursue her interests. Attend events (virtually or in-person when possible) and contact other women philatelists. The community is more accepting of women now than it was 10-15 years ago.

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"Collecting to just collect and fill an album is not enough for me. I feel that the stamps should be used to teach and shared in creative ways."  
— DR. MARY A. LOVE

Top: Dr. Love creates unique stamp collages using event stamps combined with existing graphics. She displays these posters in high schools to educate about stamps and African American History.

Middle and bottom: These examples of stamps used in the above collage are shown to scale.

Samples of the magnets Dr. Love creates using event stamps. She combines these with artwork that is related to the stamp topic.

**What do you collect and why?**  
I started collecting world stamps. However, my interest shifted to African Americans honored on stamps or historical events/places related to African Americans. As a teacher, I found ways to connect history and stamps to teach about the history and heritage of people of color. I have been able to work with all ages and to spark an interest in history. Collecting to just collect and fill an album is not enough for me. I feel that the stamps should be used to teach and shared in creative ways. I began making what I call heritage collages using stamps and photographs that could be hung/displayed to provide visual reminders of African American History and Heritage. I have since moved to making magnets and stand-alone items that move stamps from the album to become highly visible works of art/historical reminders.

**What would you say to someone interested in philately, or who shows interest in philatelic related topics?**  
My response to anyone interested in philately, to venture to make contact with others. ESPER has a mentor program that encourages members to encourage others and walk along with the individual in the process. Sharing is learning.

**What are your thoughts on opening up the traditional mindset of philately to be more encompassing of different styles of collecting, like the collages and magnets you create?**  
I would strongly encourage more ways to use and display stamps. Various teaching strategies are needed to reach people. Being creative and doing different things with stamps sparks interest. I am not happy with just collecting and placing stamps in an album. My making of the collages and magnets allows the stamps to be displayed where it becomes a talking piece and a history lesson. Personally, I will continue to create one-of-a-kind pieces because it allows me to exercise my creativity.

**What are you hopes for the future of philately?**  
My hope is that philately will not be seen as a dying hobby, but one that is taking new turns and interests. ■

**PHILATELIC INVOLVEMENT**  
African American History and Stamps Teaching/Learning Opportunities  
Teacher/Creator  
African American Heritage Stamp Collages and Magnets Artist/Creator

**MEMBER:**  
ESPER (Ebony Society of Philatelic Events & Reflections)  
American Philatelic Society (APS)

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