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Kirk Gillis to be Eighth Executive Director of the Society



The American Philatelic Society announced today the hiring of Kirk Gillis to be the eighth Executive Director of the Society. A seasoned leader with over two decades of experience in strategic growth across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, Kirk brings a dynamic track record of innovation and impact. Most recently, he served as Deputy Associate Director and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for the U.S. Mint, where he led brand strategy, product development, e-commerce, and customer service for the numismatic and bullion programs. Under his leadership, the Mint's numismatic business grew by 50 percent over four years.

Gillis will assume the leadership role on July 14, 2025. He replaces outgoing Executive Director Scott English, who announced his departure in November 2024, completing almost ten years in the role. The APS Board of Directors established a Search Committee in November 2024, with outgoing President Cheryl Ganz serving as Chair.

"We are excited to welcome Kirk to the APS and our philatelic community," said Ganz. "He understands collecting and has a vision for leading our society and hobby into the future."

"Kirk's joining the APS as Executive Director will further our mission to serve the philatelic community," added incoming APS President Mark Banchik. "He brings skills and insights which will allow the APS to remain at the forefront of our hobby." Banchik, who also served on the Search Committee, will take over as APS President at the Great American Stamp Show in August.

Kirk's background also includes launching and scaling successful digital ventures in East Africa, including ZoomTanzania and PinPoint Africa Media, which served major global brands. Earlier in his career, he helped establish the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, directing a national outreach campaign to grow outdoor participation in the U.S. A Navy veteran with degrees from Texas A&M University and the University of Rhode Island, Kirk brings a global perspective and entrepreneurial spirit to lead the APS into its next chapter.

On taking the lead at the APS, Gillis added, "I hope to draw from these experiences as I engage the philatelic community in a collaborative strategic planning process that will grow membership and ensure a vibrant future for the APS and philately overall."

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

August 2025

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

June 2025 Newsletter uploaded

President's Message

I'm doing everything I know to try to grow club membership. I see this being two steps. First, is somewhat obvious, but I'll bet a few of us haven't given much thought. Do you know anybody who lives in the area who also collects stamps? If so, how about inviting them to join the club? Invite them to just visit, joining the club isn't required or obligated. Perhaps you know someone who you think might enjoy taking up our favorite hobby. The club can be a tremendous resource to help get off to a great start.

Second, is targeting "strangers". The Pearl Ave Library is helping us draw guests to our August meeting when our program will be "Stamp Collecting 101".

I'm sorry about missing writing for a July newsletter. I've been VERY busy with club business. I have an exciting announcement: we have engaged in a new level of commitment the library. To do that we have to start our meetings at 6:45pm so that it starts while the library is still open. I expect the time from 6:45 to 7:00pm will be welcome to come at this early time and share

social time. Consequently, I also expect to start meetings "on time". We also must follow very tight library rules which included to not buy or sell anything on library property. I'm not more to lose than what we gain by not following this rule. The other rule I'm not in agreement with is that we cannot collect due in the The club will still collect dues, but we will do this outside of library meetings. Therefore, we will set-up other means to pay the club anything you might owe.

Ok, now for the really good news – our August meeting topic will be "Stamp Collecting 101". This will be promoted to library visitors and I'm hopeful that we'll get some guests who want to try starting a stamp collecting. I'm asking that EVERYONE make attending the meeting on August 6th a priority. The program I have in mind will use the experience of long-time collectors and our newer collectors to relate to a potential new collector with the questions and issues you felt when you got started. It is my goal to introduce both traditional and creative collecting. Please start thinking about how you're going to contribute to this program. We're ALL in on this program. If this goes well, we can think about repeating at other library branches or venues. It's entirely possible that we could really grow the club.

Reminder: one of the ways the club can be a terrific asset to existing club members is the HUGE assortment of philatelic materials in my living room. While there are some CTO and other junk, there is a LOT of materials that are not junk and easily could have a valued place in someone's collection. Just in the past week, I've seen excellent materials from Canada, UK, UN, France and the USA.

Brian

Philatelic Calander:

August 6: Wed: 6:45 – 8:30pm in the Community Room of the Pearl Ave Library;

Regular club meeting

Special Presentation: “Stamp Collecting 101” preach the fun and learning opportunities by starting to collect to our guests. The Pearl Library is promoting our meeting to regular patrons to visit our meeting.

August 14 – 17: Great American Stamp Show 2025

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, IL

The national stamp show for the APS.

Summer Picnic: Who’s going to step up and help plan this?

Road Trip: There are several good options and could be a lot of fun. Who will lead the planning?

National Postal Museum: The club has donated \$125 to our national museum for stamp collecting. The United States Postal Service turns 250 this year and our donation will help with celebrating this special event. The club’s name will be listed on the digital donor wall at the museum. The NPM does an amazing job of documenting and preserving the history of one of our greatest national resources: our postal service!



June Stamp Club Meeting

June 4, 2025

Attendance: We had a terrific meeting on June 4th. There was a total attendance 14 people including 11 existing club members and 3 guests. One visitor is a member of the Sequoia Stamp Club and a serious Machin collector who wanted to hear speaker for the evening. The other 2 guests are potential new club members. John Quilichi is a long time friend of Brian and collects US. He lives in San Martin, so driving to meetings is normally prohibitive. However, his scheduled allowed him to attend this month. I hope to get our meetings back up on Zoom to facilitate participation for members living at a distance or unable to drive. Our 2nd guest is was Andy Symons, who is recently retired and getting back into his old hobby.

Club Business: Per a request received via snail mail, the club voted unanimously to give a donation to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum of \$125.

Brian Jones showed off his homemade precut mount sorter using a matrix of 16 boxes. See the article and photo in May newsletter. Others are encouraged to bring in any interesting tools or resources your using.

A coil of US Scott #598, 1 ½ cent Warren G. Harding perf 10 vertical coil was received in a recent donation. It is Pre-cancelled "BERKLEY CALIF". Does anybody know anything about it or interested in adding to your collection?

Speaker: The highlight of the meeting was Alan Smith's presentation on "Early Machin's, and Technology Development". Typical of any of Alan's presentations (this was his 7th), he did a great job of covering some very detailed aspects of these issues without drowning us listeners in too much detail. It was fascinating to learn how the UK struggled with printing quality stamps but a low cost.

Alan donated the book: "The Complete MACHIN Stamp Catalogue" by G. J. Burgess to club's library. Also, the club has a HUGE accumulation of used Machin stamps.



July Stamp Club Meeting

July 2, 2025

Attendance: Despite the proximity to a major holiday, we had a great turnout of 16 at our meeting. I've spoken to library staff and have a potential solution to the problems with running our meetings over Zoom. **Please let me know if you would like to use Zoom to attend meetings.** I'd like to get an idea of how many will use it if I'm able to restore this service.

Club Business: It's great that we have several new members and guests attending our meetings. Therefore, it has been suggested that we have name badges. My suggestion is to have printed ones on lanyards that can be reused month to month. Who can help me organize this?

Banking: The Filatelica Fiesta checking account had a glitch when the names on the account were changed after Andy Hilton passed away. We can overcome this by opening a new account and transferring the funds from the existing account. The bigger issue is that we've using this to make sure that all appropriate forms are filled out at the city, county, state and federal levels. However, it is proving to be a significant challenge to find out what is required at each government level. Does anybody have experience with this issue?

Presentation: Our planned presenter wasn't feeling well and couldn't make it, so we talked about plans for the August meeting. There was lively discussion of how to speak to potential guests. The library committed to promoting our meeting to library guests. Naturally, we have no idea if any or how many visitors we get at our meeting. The plan is to focus the presentation on "Why" to start a stamp collection and provide a few stamps for free.

At the August meeting, Alan Smith will give a presentation on "History of Egypt & Its Postage Stamps, 1866-1922".

In September, I'm working with a philatelist visiting from Israel. We are still discussing what he will present.

SJSC Members Win Prestigious Awards!

The San Jose Stamp Club is honored to have TWO members who have been recognized with national awards from the APS in 2025. Wayne Menuz is the recipient of the prestigious Luff Award and Larry Rosenblum won the Carter Award. While we cannot claim ANY credit for their work, their award should be recognized by the club. We've enjoyed presentations from each of them in recent meetings. It is real asset to the club to have such phenomenal philatelists contributing to our meetings.

The APS Luff Award:

The Luff Awards are presented annually during the American Philatelic Society's convention and exhibition, which in 2025 will occur in Schaumburg, Illinois, on August 16. Recipients sign the Luff Award Scroll and are presented with engraved rings. The 2025 Luff Award winners will join a distinguished company of 160 prominent philatelists.



For Distinguished Philatelic Research - Wayne Menuz

Wayne Menuz is a retired electrical engineer living in San Jose, California. In 1961, at 16, Wayne switched from collecting stamps to postal stationery.

He has served as the treasurer of the Collectors Club of San Francisco since 1978 and has been an APS-accredited judge since 1979. From 1983 to 2008, Wayne was a member of the WESTPEX Board of Directors and served as the chairman of Filatelic Fiesta. He is president of the United Postal Stationery Society and has been the editor of its *Postal Stationery* magazine since 2001, receiving two reserve grand literature awards. He is co-editor of *British East Asia Postal Stationery A Priced Catalog* and *Postal Stationery of Mexico* and editor of *Catalog of Postal Stationery Airgraphs*.

His 10-frame exhibit "Great Britain Compound Embossed Stationery 1855-1902" won a grand award in 2015. To date, he is a contributor to more than 78 worldwide postal stationery books. In 2018, the APS Board of Directors awarded Wayne the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award for Local Service for his outstanding contributions as chairman of Filatelic Fiesta.

Wayne shared his collecting story with us:

“I started collecting stamps in 1957, switching exclusively to postal stationery in 1960, and joining the APS in 1963. In 1971, I spent the summer working for the Higgins & Gage company, which was midway through compiling its worldwide catalog. I became an APS judge in 1979, a WESTPEX board member in 1983, and served as board member or president of the United Postal Stationery Society since 1980.

“I contributed to the 6th and 7th editions of the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting. In 2001, I took over as editor of *Postal Stationery* magazine, which subsequently won two reserve grand literature awards.

“More than 150 books about postal stationery cite my name as a contributor. In 2025, Didier LeGall and I wrote the 300-page *British East Asia Postal Stationery* catalog published by the UPSS.

“I have been married to Anna for almost 54 years, and we have two daughters and three grandchildren.”

The APS Carter Awards:

The Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Awards recognize the outstanding efforts of American Philatelic Society volunteers at the national, regional and local level, and also recognize our younger members whose contributions and abundant talents are crucial to our future.

Larry Rosenblum



Larry Rosenblum began collecting stamps at age 10 at the suggestion of his father. He quickly learned to put aside 16 cents to purchase a plate block of the latest U.S. stamp.

Following the usual hiatus, he resumed collecting and immediately fell in love with Great Britain's mesmerizing, yet mystifying, Machins. A few years later, having deciphered the delightful definitives, he began to share his knowledge by writing a column, "Machin Mania," for the quarterly journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club. The column continued, with some changes in emphasis, for 30 years.

In 1992, he joined with his friend and GBCC member, the late Rev. David Alderfer, to write the monthly column "Introduction to Great Britain Philately" for *Linn's Stamp News*. In 2004, Linn's published a revised collection of their columns, *Introduction to the Stamps of Great Britain*, part of Linn's Handbook Series. In 2016, he crossed the channel to write the bimonthly column "Philately of France" for *Linn's* and later *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

Rosenblum has written articles for the Booklet Collectors Club, the Graphics Philately Association, the Western Philatelic Library, the Great Britain Philatelic Society, the Modern British Philatelic Circle, and the France and Colonies Philatelic Society. Rosenblum's writing has always been intended to help beginning and intermediate collectors understand, appreciate, and expand their collections.

In 1998, at the beginning of wide use of the worldwide web, Rosenblum established GBStamps.com as a website for news and articles about Great Britain philately. It was discontinued in 2009. He also contributed more than 200 posts to the Machin Mania blog, which is still available on the web.

Rosenblum has given presentations and workshops at many shows and club meetings. He was the first non-U.K. resident to give a presentation to the Great Britain Philatelic Society. Since the start of the pandemic, he has given numerous virtual presentations to clubs in the U.S. and U.K. He has served as an officer of the Great Britain Collectors Club, the Booklet Collectors Club, the Graphics Philately Association, and the France and Colonies Philatelic Society.

The Parcel Post Bank

The Bank of Vernal (a.k.a. the 'Parcel Post' Bank) Building (3 West Main Street) is a registered historical building in the Uintah County Landmark Register.^[15]

Also known as "the Bank that was sent by Mail", the Bank of Vernal was constructed in 1916–1917 by William H. Coltharp, a Vernal businessman and entrepreneur. Coltharp took advantage of inexpensive Parcel Post rates to ship some 80,000 masonry bricks in fifty-pound (22.6 kg) packages via the U.S. Post Office



the 180 miles (290 km) from Salt Lake City to Vernal.^{[16][17]} The Parcel Post brick shipments were transported from Salt Lake to Mack, Colorado by Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, then proceeded to Watson via the narrow gauge Uintah Railway, finally Vernal by wagon freight through steep roads. The full trip was over 420 miles (675.9 km) long.^[18] After completing delivery of the bricks, the U.S. Post Office hastily changed its regulations, establishing a limit of 200 pounds (91 kg) per day per sender. The United States Postmaster General Albert Sidney Burleson explicitly stated in a letter that "it is not the intent of the United States Postal Service that buildings be shipped through the mail".^[19] Today the building is used as a branch office of Zions Bank.

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