

Call for Papers
The Seventh Annual
Postal History Symposium
November 2 – 4, 2012
American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by
American Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Research Library
Smithsonian National Postal Museum

Theme of the Symposium: “Blue & Gray: Mail and the Civil War”

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with a philatelic exhibition hosted by the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS). The USPCS is a non-profit, volunteer-run association of collectors that promotes study of the stamps and postal history of the United States until 1894.

Panels will be interspersed with opportunities to view award-winning exhibitions of stamps and postal history and use the collection of the American Philatelic Research Library. There will be a reception and a keynote address on one evening.

Located 15 miles from State College, Pennsylvania, the American Philatelic Center is home to the 35,000-member American Philatelic Society, the largest stamp collecting organization in the nation, and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), dedicated to supporting and advancing postal and philatelic scholarship.

Papers

The symposium seeks papers that will address any aspect of the mail and post office related to the Civil War. The topic is not limited to just soldier’s mail or to the years of armed conflict. Papers may consider the political, economic, social, or cultural, as well as military aspects of the mail. Possible themes range from the role of the mail in the debate over slavery beginning with the 1835 burning of abolitionist mail in the Charleston, South Carolina Post Office through the reestablishment of postal service in the South during reconstruction. Papers on the mail and post office during this conflict are welcome from Union, Confederate, Border States, the west, and even foreign viewpoints. Proposals for symposium papers may be submitted either as individual papers or in panels.

Proceedings of the Symposium will be considered for publication by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Deadline for proposals — June 1, 2012

Proposals should be no more than one page and be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vita with contact information (e-mail, phone, and address).

Please e-mail complete proposals to symposium@stamps.org.

Notification of accepted papers will be issued in mid-July.

Conference papers will be posted on the American Philatelic Society website and will be considered for possible publication.

Conference co-chairs are Thomas Lera, Tara Murray, and David L. Straight.



Smithsonian
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About the Postal History Symposium

The Postal History Symposium gathers together scholars, philatelists, and the interested public, integrating philately and the history of postal operations within the broader context of history. The Symposium promotes research and brings national visibility to scholars, libraries, and resources.

The American Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Research Library, and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum jointly produce the Symposium, which has been held annually since 2006.

Past Symposium themes:

September 16-18, 2011, American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA

Sixth Annual Postal History Symposium: How Commerce and Industry Shaped the Mails

held in conjunction with the United States Stamp Society 85th Anniversary Celebration

September 30-October 1, 2010, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC

Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History: Stamps and the Mail: Imagery, Icons, & Identity

October 30-November 1, 2009, American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA

The Fourth Annual Postal History Symposium: Post Office Reform

held in conjunction with U.S. Classics 2009, an exhibition hosted by the United States Philatelic Classics Society

September 26-27, 2008, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC

Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History: When the Mail Goes to War

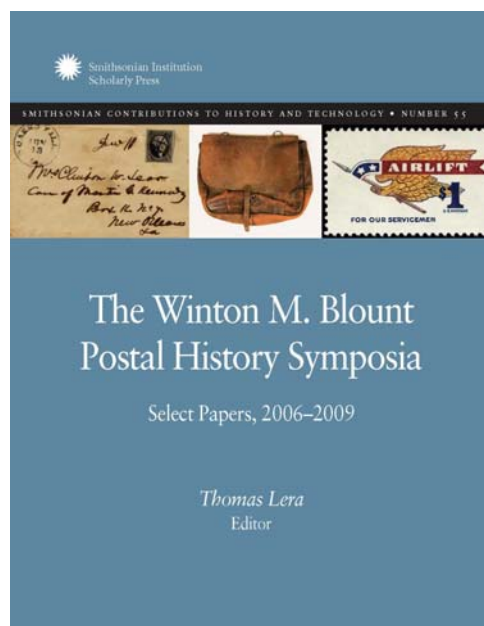
October 21-22, 2007, American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA

Second Annual Postal History Symposium: Further, Farther, Faster: Transportation Technology and the Mail

held in conjunction with Aerophilately 2007, a one-time, all-air mail exhibition sanctioned by the American Air Mail Society

November 3-4, 2006, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC

Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History



View papers and presentations from Symposia at <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposiums/>

Selected papers from the first four Symposia were published by the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press in 2010.

