

AMERISTAMP EXPO 2018

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The American Philatelic Society (APS) held their annual winter stamp show on 23–25 February at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama. This was their 61st winter meeting.

The ASE show is also the venue where the Single Frame Grand Award winners from each of the 31 World Series of Philately (WSP) national shows compete for the APS Single Frame Champion of Champions award.

The show was promoted to have 50 dealers, but I only counted 27 actually present. There were a number of meetings and presentations and there was a large area devoted to Youth and Family activities.

However, the highlight of this show was the exhibits. There were 27 frames competing in the Single Frame Championship, 55 frames competing in the Most Popular Championship, 168 frames in the open competition, and 23 frames in the Court of Honor.

The Court of Honor held some great rarities including a copy of the 24 cent Inverted Jenny stamp, the discovery sheet of the Dag Hammarskjold inverts, and one of the first free frank letters signed by George Washington after he became President.

Several societies had booths including the American Topical Association. The US Postal Service had a small booth and was doing good business selling recent stamp issues on Friday and Saturday.

The American Mobile Postal Museum, a private organization, had a very interesting display of postal memorabilia.

The winner of the Single Frame Championship was Cheryl R. Ganz with *Zeppelin LZ-129 Hindenburg Onboard Postmarks*. This exhibit included several covers salvaged from the famous Hindenburg crash at Lakehurst, New Jersey, in 1937.

The winner of the Most Popular Championship was Rick Gibson with *The Forest Conservation Issue of 1958*.

The Grand Award winner in the open competition was Robert Mayo with *The Straightlines of Richmond, VA 1782–1800*. This single frame exhibit contained stampless covers showing examples of all of the known Richmond straightline handstamps from the period. It is eligible to compete in the 2019 Champion of Champions event,

Members of the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship operated their own booth at the show. The goal of this program is to help young collectors become the philatelic leaders of tomorrow. They pick an area of specialization: Exhibitor, Dealer, Writer, Curator, Designer, etc., and are assigned a mentor to help with their education.

The 2019 winter show will be a joint show with ARIPEX in Mesa, Arizona, on 15–17 February 2019. That will probably be the last winter show put on by the APS as they plan to end them due to financial reasons.



American Mobile Postal Museum



Young Philatelic Leaders Fellows
Grace Rogansky (exhibitor), Darren Corapcioglu (exhibitor), Tasos Kalfas (curator), Dani Leviss (designer)