

The Cover Story

The APS Visit – 11 Years Later by Francis Ferguson

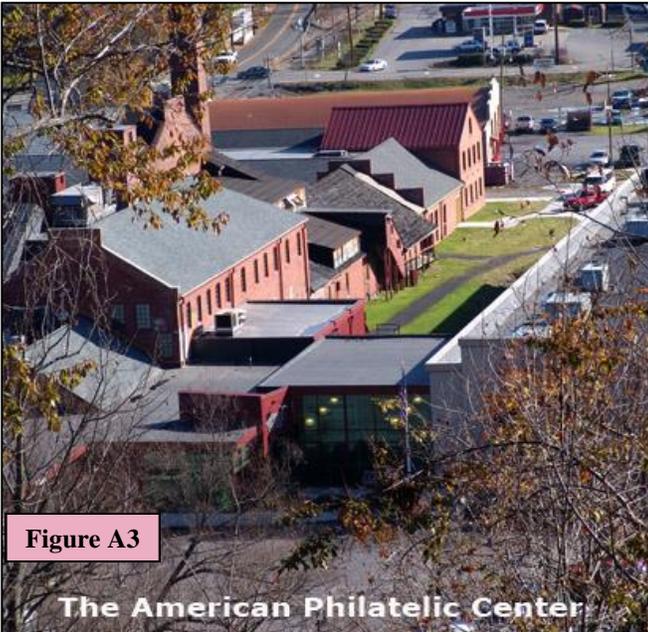


Figure A3

The American Philatelic Center

It was time to revisit the APS headquarters [Figure A1 on front cover taken in 2019 and Figure A2 taken in 2008] as we had a trip north planned in early October. The previous visit in the Fall of 2008 was my first glimpse of the ‘new’ headquarters after the move from State College. While I was at the time impressed with the plans for the Match Factory complex, as they were laid out – the reality of the situation was disturbing to say the very least. Thankfully the years of work and toil by many dedicated souls has resulted in a stunning building that is a proud symbol of the philatelic community. Words simply can not convey the sense of belonging that one feels strolling through the halls. [Figure A3, bird’s eye view of the completed complex.] Brief encounters with Ken Martin, Scott English and Gary Lowe reinforced the feeling of being part of a much greater whole.

A couple of unexpected surprises happened that helped to make the trip even more special.

First, the completed structure that houses the APRL – is stunning beyond words. Figure A4 is a great picture of the inside of the library. During the visit in 2008, I was given a brief look at the intended space for the library and the numerous holes in the roof along with the general look of decay was not reaffirming. Today the space is modern and welcoming to everyone. I was able to locate and scan two FLOREX show booklets (1960 & 1967) that I had never seen and did not even know existed. In a nice turn of events, I used a piece of equipment (a book scanner) that the CFSC and myself donated monies towards to purchase. The scanning process was quick and easy to master. Now that is a gratifying experience! Additional time in the stacks was spent locating a couple of very old Scott’s catalogs that I was able to take a picture of the covers for my future reference. If you did not know – there is no complete collection of Scott’s catalogs – anywhere.

Figure A5

The second surprise was totally unexpected. I wandered into a small room that

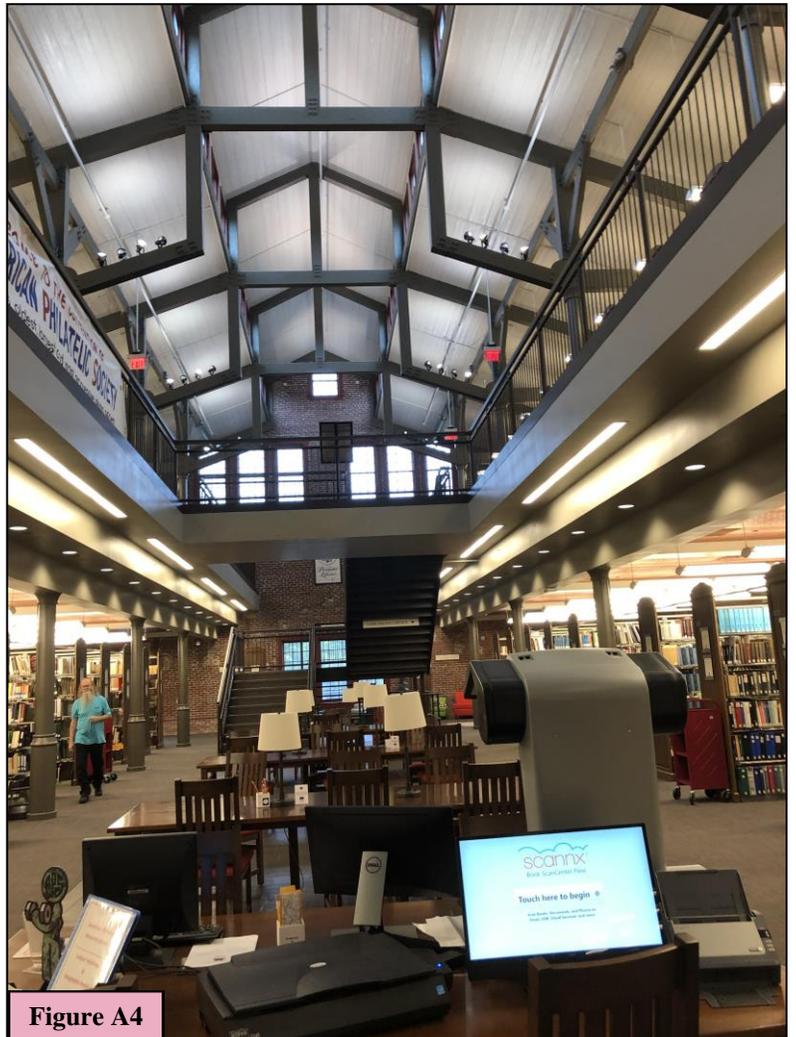


Figure A4



was for awards and recognition. On the wall was a nicely framed certificate detailing the APS Chapters who have achieved 100, 75 and 50 years of membership. There on the 50-year plaque the CFSC is listed. Now that was special and heartwarming to see. I realize that **Figure A5** does not show the name of the CFSC clearly – but it is there. I was further surprised by the sheer number of clubs that have been in existence for 100, 75 and 50 year.

Now it is time for me to get on my soap box.

If you are not a member of the APS – you should be. I have been a member for 20 years and write the dues check every December without hesitation. The benefits of being a member – far outweigh the cost. The organization provides a central hub of activity for the philatelic world to revolve around. That is not a grandiose statement, it is the truth. The membership cost of \$45/year is well within the grasp of virtually every member of the CFSC. How much do you spend in one night out with friends? Think about it.

[Editor’s note: This article references a visit to the APS in the Fall of 2008 that was detailed in a CFSC Newsletter, which can be found in the CFSC online archives for November of 2008.]

Dinner time on the move!!



In 2007 a small group met for dinner at this restaurant.

That small group blossomed into a group of anywhere from ten to a high of twenty who gathered for conversation, food and the gift of fellowship.

After twelve years, Viet Garden is closing permanently on 10.24.19 according to the management. Thus, the dinner group will be on the move for the time being, until a suitable candidate is identified.

Please contact Francis at 407.493.0956 for real-time information as the group finds a new place to enjoy the gift of fellowship and food.