

The Military Postal History Society

A portion of this issue of the *American Philatelist* (AP) is dedicated to a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Military Postal History Society (MPHS). We hope that you enjoy the four articles that make up the AP's celebration of the MPHS.

The original *War Cover Club* focused largely on researching the postal history of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in World War I. The group changed the name in August 1991 to better reflect the wide variety of collecting interests of its worldwide membership.

The *War Cover Club* was founded in May 1937 and subsequently became *American Philatelic Society Unit #19*. It began as a small group of collectors meeting informally to provide information on military markings in a "War Cover Club" column in a Chicago publication called *Postal Markings*. The club adopted a Constitution at a meeting in April 1938 where a member's publication called *The War Cover Philatelist* was selected as the club's official publication. The need for additional coverage of newly emerging World War II resulted in a second official club publication called *The War Cover Club Bulletin*, which appeared until June 1941. Both publications were suspended during World War II, due in part to restrictions on the release of military markings information. *The War Cover Club Bulletin* reappeared in July 1944



and continued as such until 1991 when the club name was changed and the newsletter became the current *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*.

While the term "war covers" appears at first glance to raise connotations of a very limited or specialized field of collecting, reflection on the subject will reveal the tremendous scope encompassed under this meaning. Our society promotes **the study of the postal aspects of all wars and military actions of all nations**. Members have researched, exhibited, and published on military postal history around the world from the American Revolution to the present.

Today, members' interests include soldier campaign covers, patriotics, prisoner-of-war mail, naval mail, occupation and internment covers, picture postcards of a military nature, camp cancels, field post offices, propaganda labels and leaflets, V-mail, censored mail and similar related material. Postal history can include anything and everything relating to a postal service and the delivery of mail. Military postal history includes both private mail from and to individual service personnel and Official mail.

The MPHS gathers and publishes original research articles in the quarterly *Bulletin* and also supports the publication of more extensive books and catalogues on many related subjects. Current efforts are directed at making this information available in both hard copy and digital format. In 2011 color illustrations were added to the *Bulletin*. In addition, the Society offers quarterly auctions for interested parties.

We thank *The American Philatelist* for this opportunity to share a brief history of the **Military Postal History Society** with you and we hope you will want further information. Please go to our website at <http://militaryPHS.org> or contact the MPHS secretary at P.O. Box 15927, Seattle, WA 98115-0927.

Anthony K. Brooks, President
Military Postal History Society

