THE Postscript

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society
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TALPEX 2026 *by Sahitya Setty*

United States Semiquincentennial Show

The Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club (TSCC) is proud to host its 16th Annual Stamp and Coin Show on March 21–22, 2026. This year's event is especially significant as it coincides with the 250th Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776). To commemorate this historic milestone, TSCC will be releasing a special commemorative cover, while the Tallahassee Coin Club, co-hosting the event, will unveil a special 250th Anniversary coin slab. The show will feature several stamp and coin exhibit displays illustrating the nation's 250-year journey through history.

This event offers a unique opportunity for both seasoned collectors and enthusiastic beginners to explore how stamps and coins have contributed to the economic, cultural, political, and historical development of the United States. The show is expected to include six stamp dealers and four-coin dealers, offering a wide variety of materials for collectors of all levels, including supplies to safely store and preserve collections. Attendees may buy, sell, and trade stamps and coins, and knowledgeable club members will be available to help evaluate personal or inherited collections.

Although stamps and coins are small objects, they have played a vital role in shaping nations. Coins facilitate everyday transactions and support trade and commerce, while governments generate revenue through commemorative coins and postage stamps sold at premium prices. Philately and numismatics attract collectors worldwide, bringing foreign exchange and fostering international connections. Affordable postal services enabled by stamps have supported business communication, contracts, and the movement of goods.

Beyond economics, stamps and coins serve as powerful cultural symbols. They feature national emblems, flags, leaders, monuments, wildlife, festivals, and languages reinforcing national identity, pride, and unity. They document important historical events, rulers, freedom struggles, and milestones, offering students and collectors an engaging way to learn history, geography, culture, and economics. Ancient and commemorative coins preserve valuable knowledge about past civilizations and systems of governance.

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NOTICE:

1. **Mark your calendar. The club will be hosting their 16th annual show TALPEX 2026 on March 21-22.**
2. **Annual membership dues should have been paid by the time you read this bulletin. If you have not paid your dues, please give them to Dana at the next meeting or mail him your check.**
3. **Looking for articles for the Postscript. Anything that is philatelic related will do.**
4. **Sad News**
   - **One of our long-time member Annabel Horward passed away on December 29, 2025**
   - **Also sorry to inform that our club member Bobby Stinson's wife passed away on December 29, 2025**
5. **Upcoming Show**
   - **Do not miss once in a decade show BOSTON 2026 (May 23 - 30)**

Governments also use stamps to raise awareness of social issues such as health, environmental protection, and national campaigns. Newly independent nations often issue stamps and coins to celebrate freedom and political change. International stamp exchanges and coin exhibitions promote a country's image abroad, while advances in security printing, metallurgy, and design drive innovation and create jobs. Coins and stamps depicting heritage sites and wildlife also promote tourism, acting as cultural ambassadors carried around the world.

Discover how much you can learn from stamps and coins. This is truly a lifelong, rewarding hobby.

This is a show to remember.
Come explore stamps and coins as more than tools for postage and money.
Come learn. Come collect. Come enjoy the show.

Dr. Mike Francis by Dr. Hemanth Setty

The Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club (TSCC) has been in existence since 1974. At its monthly meeting on January 13, 2026, the club proudly celebrated the 80th birthday of one of its most beloved members and long-serving president, Dr. Mike Francis. Heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Alex Hall for providing the cake and wine for the occasion.

Happy 80th Birthday Dr. Mike Francis

It was touching, though sad, to see Dr. Francis in a wheelchair. He has always been known as an energetic and enthusiastic individual who is ever willing to help fellow collectors. Dr. Francis assumed the presidency of TSCC in 1991, and for more than 30 years his contributions to the club have been immense. It is fair to say that without his invaluable and selfless service, the club might not have survived all these years. He was and continues to be the backbone of TSCC.

As president, Dr. Francis has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and multitasking abilities. He serves as the publisher and editor of the club's only magazine, *The Postscript*. He played a key role in securing a permanent meeting location for the club at the Senior Center. He also initiated and has been instrumental in organizing the annual Tallahassee Stamp and Coin Show. This year, the club will host its 16th annual show, TALPEX 2026, scheduled for March 21–22.

Dr. Francis regularly shares his vast experience and knowledge at the club's monthly meetings. He is also a generous contributor of philatelic materials to the raffle and auction tables, which provide important financial support to the club. As an ambassador for the American Philatelic Society (APS), he has significantly contributed to the growth of philately throughout the Big Bend area. An expert in stamp identification, he has helped countless members fill gaps in their collections and assisted in evaluating personal or inherited collections. In every sense, Dr. Francis is a complete philatelist.

On behalf of all the members of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, we extend our warmest wishes to Dr. Mike Francis for continued strength, happiness, and good health.

2025 Club Activities Highlights

TALPEX 2025 was a great success. Special thanks go to our Show Chairman, Dr. Tom Ahlfeld, for organizing a flawless event. We also extend our sincere appreciation to all the members who helped throughout the show, from setup to breakdown. Dealers and collectors were very pleased with the experience and have expressed their interest in returning next year.

TSSC conducted its annual one-page exhibit competition during the October meeting. First place was awarded to Ms. Sahitya Setty for her exhibit, *"A Wonderful World of Butterflies."* There was a tie for second place between Hemanth Setty for *"Mango: The King of Fruits,"* and Tom Ahlfeld for his exhibit "*Local Carriage Stamps of Great Britain's Offshore Islands*".

TSSC also hosted its annual Christmas party during the December meeting. An abundance of excellent food was catered by Four Rivers Smokehouse and enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Marti and Larry for the festive table decorations and to the members who contributed homemade cookies and brownies.

2025 Christmas Party Pictures by Dr. Hemanth Setty

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The Postscript is the quarterly or less frequent journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club (TS&CC.) Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this publication and the author.

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Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Members and other stamp collectors are encouraged to follow the club's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068250032229.

You can also just search on Facebook for TS&CC. The page currently has 135 followers. Most posts are contributed by Club Treasurer Dana Bryan, although others are encouraged to contribute. The posts are designed to encourage interest and knowledge about stamp collecting, as well as to report relevant news stories and announce club events. If you're new to the page, we encourage you to scroll back to see what you have missed! The page also receives regular questions from the public, usually about what they can do with their inherited stamp collections. All of these inquiries are answered, and many of the collections eventually find their way to club meetings for members to peruse.

Vice President's Message from Tom Ahlfeld

Now that the baby boomers are aging and "moving on" more and more collections are showing up to be appraised, sold or just reviewed. For the next decade we can expect a load of philatelic material to show up. I suspect that the TS&CC will have its hands full with collections. Seniors are contacting us directly and the Senior Center staff wanting to know what they should do with the material. By design, we are the service unit associated with the Senior Center that handles such requests. We will be busy! I would like to personally thank all of you for the very productive meetings we have been having lately. As several members routinely like to point out, our club is robust and fun. The raffle and silent auction have been busy with items for everyone. Keep up the great work!

We are always looking for articles for the Postscript and for volunteers for speaking and presenting at the meetings. A fifteen or twenty minute presentation is more than enough for our meetings. In 2026, we will try and get back to regular Postscript issues. Just want to thank all of you for buying those 25¢ raffle tickets. Our raffle has been very successful. Please consider donating items of interest, whether philatelic, numismatic, or otherwise to place on the raffle table.

Dr. TomAhlfeld