

# *A Tribute to Al Kugel*

By the American Philatelic Society

The material within these pages comes from the estate of Alfred “Al” F. Kugel on behalf of the American Philatelic Society. Al Kugel of Hinsdale, Illinois, died May 11, 2022, at age 91 and is survived by his devoted wife, Dottie.

Al was not just a philatelist but a beacon of dedication and a longtime friend of the American Philatelic Society. His unwavering passion for the APS and various other philatelic organizations and his profound contributions to the expert literature of military postal history was a testament to his love for the hobby.

Al’s best and most significant contributions were to the Military Postal History Society and the field of military postal history research. He served the MPHS as its director, vice president, and president. As the foremost military postal historian of his time, Al built more than 100 single-frame and multiframe exhibits and wrote scores of articles for multiple publications, including *The American Philatelist*, the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *German Postal Specialist*, *Rossica*, and the *Postal History Society* journal among others.

For the APS, Al served as an accredited philatelic judge and on the APS finance committee. In 2005, he was awarded the John N. Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research. After his death in 2022, the APS elected Al to the APS Hall of Fame.

Al’s most impactful gift to the American Philatelic Society, however, was in entrusting the APS with his philatelic estate, which included 180 boxes of philatelic literature and military postal history material. The collection primarily covers global wars and military mail from the late 1800s to modern times, focusing on the Ottoman Empire, Turkish wars, Spanish-American & Mexican wars, World War I and II with some post-WWII items. Some of the most stunning material from Al’s collection was his regional military covers from the United States, Germany, France, Poland, Great Britain, Russia, China, Japan, and more.

Much of the material from Al’s collection has been off the market for several decades, and much of it was originally purchased from Cherrystone Auctions, where he was a frequent client. The material that returns to the market now will be in the hands of new collectors for the first time in many years, with the added benefit of Al’s knowledge and research.

Al’s expertise lives on in his more than 100 single and multiframe exhibits – a remarkable feat of lifelong scholarship – including “The ‘Prexies’ Go to War,” an exhibit of wartime covers featuring the Presidential Issues of 1938 (Coming in the next sale) and “U. S. Intervention in Vera Cruz 1914.” All of Al’s exhibits have been compiled and digitized by the American Philatelic Research Library for future researchers to access.

Al Kugel’s legacy is not just his great scholarship, but the profound impact he has left on our community. By entrusting his collection to the APS and APRL, Al has given us a tool to continue our mission toward the hobby’s future and long-term health. We are deeply grateful to Al for his invaluable contributions.

*Photo caption: Al Kugel and his wife, Dottie.*



# JOIN THE American Philatelic Society

Whether you are a beginning collector or have collected for years, we welcome you to join the world's largest community of stamp collectors.

## Benefits of membership include:

- **Monthly *The American Philatelist***  
Articles covering all aspects of the hobby, available print and digital
- **Buy and sell with confidence**  
**www.StampStore.org and Circuit Mail Sales**  
Thousands of items available online and via circuits program, with new items added every business day
- **Authoritative expertizing service**  
Offering guaranteed opinions on the genuineness of philatelic material
- **News and education — [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)**  
Collecting news, philatelic updates, videos, and learning opportunities, and a weekly e-newsletter
- **American Philatelic Research Library**  
Nearly four miles of borrowable material and an extensive, freely-available digitized collection, APRL Digital
- **StampEd — [www.stamped.pub](http://www.stamped.pub)**  
A free digital magazine for the new generation of stamp collectors.

**DIGITAL  
MEMBERSHIP**  
**\$35** /YEAR\*



\*Regular and digital membership rates are prorated. See [stamps.org/join](http://stamps.org/join) for current rates.



**[stamps.org/join](http://stamps.org/join)**

100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: 814-933-3803

Email: [membership@stamps.org](mailto:membership@stamps.org)