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CONSTITUTION



OF THE

AMERICAN

PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

GRAND CROSSING, ILLINOIS

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION

1886

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

USA — AMERICAN

PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

ADOPTED AT ITS FIRST SESSION,
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1886

GRAND CROSSING, ILLINOIS
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION

1886

FIRST BOARD OF OFFICERS.

ELECTED SEPTEMBER 13, 1886.

President:

J. K. TIFFANY, - - - St. Louis, Mo.

Vice-President:

R. R. BOGERT, - - - New York.

General Secretary:

S. B. BRADT, - - - Grand Crossing, Ill.

Treasurer:

L. W. DURBIN, - - - Philadelphia, Pa.

International Secretary:

JOSEPH RECHERT, - - - Hoboken, N. J.



CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

The objects of this Association are, to assist its members in acquiring knowledge in regard to Philately; to cultivate a feeling of friendship among philatelists; and to enable them to affiliate with members of similar societies in other countries.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as the AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II.

REPRESENTATION.

SECTION 1. The Association shall meet in Convention each year, on the second Monday in August, at such place as may have been designated by the last preceding Convention.

SECTION 2. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of two-thirds of the delegates appointed to that convention.

SECTION 3. A special convention may be called by the President, provided the call has been endorsed by fifty members. The expenses of the officers attending the convention shall be paid by the Association.

SECTION 4. Members participating in the conventions of the Association, or there represented by proxy, must be not less than seventeen years of age.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, an International Secretary, a Librarian, a Superintendent of Exchanges, a Purchasing Agent, a Counterfeit Detector, an Editor of the Official Journal, and three Trustees. In order to become an officer of the Association a member must have attained the age of twenty-one years.

SECTION 2. The following officers shall be elected by the Association: President, Vice-President, Secretary, International Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Official Board, and appoint all other officers prescribed by the Constitution.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 3. The elective officers of this Association shall be elected for two years, and shall serve until

their successors are qualified. The election of officers shall be by ballot, under the direction of the Board of Trustees. At all general elections it shall be necessary that two-thirds of the entire membership of the Association vote; and a plurality of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect, — provided it be one-third of the entire number of votes cast. On other questions requiring the vote of the Association, excepting the proceedings of the Association in convention assembled, the vote may be taken in the same way.

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association. He shall sign all warrants on the Treasurer for moneys required by the Association. He shall have the power of calling for a general vote in order to suspend any officer for violation of the Constitution. He shall submit an annual report, to be printed in the official organ. The President may be impeached by a general vote, upon charges being preferred by twenty-five members.

VICE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 2. The Vice-President shall act in case of vacancy in the office of President, or in the absence of the latter.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

SECTION 3. The General Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the Association,

preserve all documents, and receive all moneys due from members, giving his receipt therefor. He shall keep a correct financial account, and pay over to the Treasurer all moneys over and above the sum of twenty-five dollars, taking receipts for the same. He shall receive all applications for membership and grant the same when authorized by the President. He shall publish in the official organ, every month, the names of new members, and all other news he may have gathered in his official capacity that may be of interest to the members at large. He shall issue cards of membership, and furnish a copy of this Constitution, and all other publications of the Society, to all members in good standing. He shall receive such compensation as the Convention may determine, and shall give bonds to the Trustees to the amount of one hundred dollars.

TREASURER.

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys, property, and securities of the Association delivered to him by the General Secretary. He shall pay, through the Secretary, all warrants regularly drawn on him, signed by the President and General Secretary, and submit to each convention during his term of office a complete financial statement. He shall not hold in his possession more than seventy-five dollars, depositing all above that amount in some bank to be designated by the Trustees. The Treasurer shall give bonds to the Trustees to the amount of two hundred dollars.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY.

SECTION 5. The International Secretary shall conduct all correspondence for the Association with societies in foreign countries, and assist the Purchasing Agent whenever called upon to do so.

LIBRARIAN.

SECTION 6. The Librarian shall keep in trust for the Association all philatelic literature, albums, collections, etc., which may be purchased by or presented to the society. He shall keep a correct list of all works, etc., in his possession, and a record of the same. He shall collect, in advance, five cents and the necessary postage from every member desiring to take any periodical, book, or publication from the library. All publications shall be returned, post-paid, to the librarian within ten days after having received the same, and members who shall violate this rule shall not be entitled to have any other periodical, book, or publication issued to them until they shall have satisfied the Librarian, or the Association, concerning their delinquency. The surplus of receipts, over expenses, shall be paid to the Treasurer at the close of each fiscal year or term of office.

SUPERINTENDENT OF EXCHANGES.

SECTION 7. This officer shall conduct the exchange business of the Association, subject to the provisions therefor laid down in the By-Laws.

PURCHASING AGENT.

SECTION 8. This officer shall conduct the purchasing business of the Association, subject to the provisions therefor laid down in the By-Laws.

COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.

SECTION 9. This officer shall pass upon the genuineness of stamps, subject to the provisions therefor laid down in the By-Laws.

OFFICIAL EDITOR.

SECTION 10. This officer shall edit all literary productions and publications of the Association, in accordance with the provisions therefor laid down in the By-Laws.

TRUSTEES.

SECTION 11. The Trustees shall perform such duties as are required of them in the By-Laws, or by the Association.

LOCATION OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 12. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Association, shall be chosen from different states.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any stamp collector may become a member of this Association by applying to the Secretary; who shall thereupon cause his name to be printed in the Official Journal, or in an official circular, and if no objection shall be received by

the Secretary within one month, the candidate shall be considered elected, and entitled to receive the membership card of the Association on payment of annual dues. In case any member shall object to an applicant the application shall be submitted to the vote of the Association.

SECTION 2. Members may be expelled or suspended after charges have been preferred and proven against them before a Court composed of members of the Association — the Trustees to have the matter in charge.

ARTICLE VI.

REVENUES.

SECTION 1. The revenues of the Association shall be derived as follows: For Membership Cards, annually, two dollars; an admission fee of twenty-five cents; and the revenues from the different departments, as provided in the By-Laws. The revenues shall be used for defraying the expenses of the Association, including the publication of the Official Journal.

ARTICLE VII.

PROPERTY.

SECTION 1. All officers shall, at the expiration of their terms of office, deliver to their successors all books, papers, moneys, and other property in their possession, belonging to the Association; and they shall not be relieved from their bonds or obligations until this requirement be complied with.

ARTICLE VIII.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

SECTION I. The establishment of branch societies shall be encouraged in every town containing six or more members of this Association; such branch societies to be governed by such regulations as they may themselves provide, except on such points as may conflict with the Constitution of this Association. Branch societies may contain persons who are not members of this Association.

ARTICLE IX.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION I. Any By-Laws of this Association, not in conflict with this Constitution, may be made by the Board of Officers; but in case of an objection thereto by twenty-five members, they must be submitted to a general vote.

ARTICLE X.

AMENDMENTS.

SECTION I. This Constitution can only be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Association entitled to representation in Convention.

