May 29 and 30 was a very exciting time at the American Philatelic Center, as the Women Exhibitors (WE) held their first Festival for Philatelic Women at APS headquarters in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The festival opened Thursday evening with a “Meet, Greet, and Eat Pizza” party. More than forty women and men attended the event, where learning to create an eye-catching exhibit was the focus of the various speakers, seminars, and workshops. Member exhibits were on display throughout the building for everyone to enjoy. Additional activities included a special philatelic “rummage sale,” access to Sales Division circuit books of stamps and covers, and browsing the American Philatelic Research Library’s overstock book sale. Attendees (including a mother-daughter team!) came from all over the United States and Canada, by plane, bus, and car.

The enthusiasm of the participants says it all:

“The festival was fabulous! Friends — seeing out of town friends again. Fun — Rummage Sale, Library, Sales Division. Workshops — helpful seminars on a variety of topics. Fun — excellent fun at incredibly low prices. Stamps, Stamps, Stamps, morning, noon, and night. Nice hotel — fun, fun, fun!”

“Wonderful weekend! Camaraderie, education, a little bit of silliness, and a whole lotta chocolate! What’s not to love?”

“From the rolling green hills of Pennsylvania, women philatelists rose to new heights of leadership, contribution to the hobby, and camaraderie. Many of us filled the student rolls, teachers roles, and administrative roles. Fun was had by all! The Library offered Xeroxing to support exhibit research. Title pages, stories, and philatelic elements have been reorganized, critiqued, and approved for future exposition. Westward WE go! A wonderful time was had by all!”

“My two goals for the weekend were to have fun and meet some nice people. Well, not only that, but I also learned some neat stuff along the way. This is the first philatelic event I have attended where I felt I was in my element and welcomed by all. I made instant friendships that I will cherish always.”
Information on the Women Exhibitors, one of more than 200 APS affiliates, is available from www.aapec.org/Weweb.asp. Another APS affiliate, the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, will meet at the APC October 30–November 1.

The American Philatelic Society, founded in 1886, is the national stamp collecting organization of the United States, with more than 37,000 members in 110 countries worldwide. For more information about the Society and its services, contact the APS at 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823; e-mail requests@stamps.org; or visit www.stamps.org.