



APS "Courses on the Road"

**November 30-December 1, 2011 • Prior to FLOREX
Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando –Maitland, FL**

The American Philatelic Society is offering this course as part of its continuing education series. The cost for each course is \$195 for APS members; \$295 for nonmembers. Register at www.stamps.org/on-the-road-courses.

CSI Philately 2011 – Uncovering the Less Than Obvious with Mercer Bristow

Ever wonder what the experts look for when they examine stamps and covers for formal certification for authenticity and condition? Here is your opportunity to get hands-on experience in revealing spurious philatelic material.



The American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) was first offered by the APS in 1903. Today, over 130 examiners, both collectors and dealers, are part of the largest pool of philatelic expertise in the world. Mercer will take you on a virtual tour of the APEX offices, revealing the day-to-day operations and explain the methods of detective work used by the committee. You will become familiar with the various tools used to uncover hidden flaws, characteristics of forgeries, and how the final opinion is formed. Mercer will also review the published works that help “experts” arrive at their conclusions. The genuine and forged material used for the seminar will be both U.S. and worldwide. So we will cover whatever you might personally collect. Don’t forget to bring along your problem stamps. The class will work together as a team to identify and certify them. While it will be touched on during the course, a basic knowledge in printing techniques is a prerequisite.

Mercer Bristow, a lifelong collector, has headed the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) since he joined the APS staff in 1981. His interest in the art and science of philatelic expertizing began as a full-time lot describer for Matthew Bennett Auctions (1977-80) and in part time retail with the Handy Stamp Company (1974-81). He established and curates the APS Philatelic Reference Collections since 1992, and established the APS Quick ID Service in 2005.

Course Schedule

The Course begins each day at 9:00 a.m. and concludes after 4:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. Meet in the Lake Lucien room of the Homewood Suites by Hilton, 290 Southhall Lane, Maitland, FL 32751. Lunches and dinner are at the participants’ expense. The APS is arranging several local options for meals.

Accommodations

Following the course, the **FLOREX Show** will be held **December 2-4, 2011**, www.florestampshow.com. The FLOREX Show committee has reserved a block of rooms, each at a rate of \$99 a night, at the Sheraton Downtown Orlando Hotel, 400 West Livingston Street, Orlando, FL 32801, approximately 5 miles from the *Fakes and Forgeries* Course location. Contact the Sheraton for reservations at 407-843-6664 and mention you are with the FLOREX Show group.

If you are not staying for the Stamp Show and wish to reserve a room at the Course hotel, Homewood Suites by Hilton, the rate is \$99 a night to include a King room and a hot buffet breakfast. Call 407-875-8777 and mention that you are attending the APS Course.

\$15 Registration Discount until November 9, 2011

For questions, contact Gretchen Moody, gretchen@stamps.org