

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Germany Philatelic Society was formed in 1949 in New York City to further the interest in and study of the postage stamps of Germany. The Society now has about 1,200 members. Every Chapter member is urged to also become a member of the National G.P.S. Membership goes "hand in hand" with each other.

Every year the Society holds an annual meeting and exhibition, usually in conjunction with a nationally ranked postage stamp show and bourse, and is hosted by one of the 21 active chapters in the United States and Canada.

In 1969 the national Society staged its go-it-alone convention and exhibition in Brunswick, Georgia. At the close of this event a group of participants from Florida met in the Holiday Inn parking lot at the urging of Tony Herbert, who had been a member of the original GPS club in New York. He promoted the idea of organizing a Central Florida chapter of GPS, using these few people as a nucleus. In early 1970 the group met at Mr. Herbert's home in Sun City Center, elected officers, and applied for a charter in GPS membership. Tony Herbert served as the first president.

A charter was granted on April 1, 1970, and Chapter 23, the Central Florida chapter with a dozen members living as far south as Venice, as far north as Gainesville, and from the Atlantic coast to the Gulf of Mexico, was born.

The new group met initially in members' homes, and a couple of years later they settled on a central location in one of Lakeland's shopping centers. Although the actual meeting place has changed several times, the club still meets in Lakeland. Grace Lutheran Church has been the meeting place for several years, and currently there are 32 active members.

CHAPTER 23 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Chapter 23 of the GPS will enhance enjoyment in collecting stamps and all related philatelic material while emphasizing the collecting of Germany.



THE GOALS OF CHAPTER 23

1. TO PROVIDE opportunities for social interaction as members enjoy the hobby and as they develop stronger ties of camaraderie, belonging, and equality.
2. TO SHARE individual and collective talents and knowledge with other collectors by exhibiting, writing, and by presenting club programs at meetings.
3. TO SUPPORT GPS by fully accepting the responsibilities of an active chapter, by encouraging membership in GPS, participation in Society activities, and by developing relationships with persons of similar interests through membership in study groups.
4. TO RECRUIT persons to join Chapter 23 and national GPS, especially in Central Florida who love to collect stamps and study philatelic material especially of Germany.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER 23 STAMP CLUB OF THE GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

WELCOMES YOU



Meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at
2:00 p.m., September through May,
at Grace Lutheran Church,
745 S. Ingraham Ave., Lakeland, Florida.

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WE WELCOME VISITORS

Disney World is only 45 minutes from Lakeland. Take a philatelic break from Mickey and Pluto and, join us for fun and fellowship.

GET TO KNOW US

GPS Chapter 23 meets at a site centrally located to both the East and West coast of Central Florida. It is an active club.



AT A TYPICAL MEETING ...

...the first half-hour is for socializing, buying, selling or swapping personal material, or making purchases from APS Sales Circuit books (we are APS affiliate #48).

...then after a brief business meeting there is a program given by one of our own members, or an APS or GPS slide or CD presentation. Occasionally we have a "show-and-tell" session or an occasional guest speaker.

...coffee and refreshments are served.

...after the program we have a floor auction of members' material and a 50-50 drawing.

...the meeting is over when the last person has left.



WHAT ELSE DO WE DO?

- "Das Rundschreiben" is a monthly newsletter mailed to all members and friends of the club.
- "The German Postal SPECIALIST" is the award-winning monthly magazine received by all national Germany Philatelic Society members.
- The club has been of assistance in disposal of unwanted or estate collections at modest fee.
- Chapter 23 is a member of the "Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs."
- Car pooling is available.
- Members help each other with information-sharing about collecting Germany. "Specialists" on most areas of Germany collecting are always available.
- The club owns a Signoscope and some other basic tools along with a few useful books that are loaned free of charge to members.
- Chapter 23 has produced and donated to GPS six slide shows for use by its member chapters.
- Several members have successfully exhibited at prominent shows, one of whom won a Grand Award, and others have earned awards ranging from gold to bronze. Others have written articles that have been published in the GPS "Specialist" the APS "American Philatelist," "Linn's" and other commercial philatelic periodicals.
- The club has successfully hosted the national GPS conventions held in conjunction with FLOREX in 1980, 1986, and 1995. Chapter 23 also organized and hosted the German/American SALON in Melbourne in 2007.