THE GUYANA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Fostering and facilitating interest in stamp collecting

The Guyana Philatelic Society (GPS) aims to create greater interest and activity in the study of British Guiana and Guyana stamps and postal history. It is a source of information for British Guiana and Guyana collectors, where they net connect via exhibitions and group meetings and by using the Society's social media and its website being developed.

With these tools, GPS facilitates a collector's exchange by buying and selling of stamps by its members. This includes all philatelic materials, envelopes, collections, books, to name just a few. The Society also offers philatelic advice from its experts and conducts appraisal of single stamps or collections of stamps from Guyana.

The purpose of GPS is to provide up-to-date information on Guyana stamps, assist collectors to build bigger and better collections by providing greater opportunities to obtain philatelic material, and educate the youth of Guyana on stamp collecting.

In an interview with Sunday Times Magazine, Ana Wood, founder of the Guyana Philatelic Society, related that the Society was started in 2012 as a nonprofit organization based in California, U.S.A.

"I started out by holding a small stamp show with displays of British Guiana stamps at the Olympic Hotel in Brooklyn, I was pleasantly surprised at the attendance and interest in stamp collecting. It seemed like everyone that came was a collector during a period of their life or knew someone who was a stamp collector. Needless to say during that show, I felt compelled to start a stamp club to rekindle the interest and provide support for collectors in Guyana, thus GPS started. In 2013, I contacted the former Postmaster General, Mr. Henry Duncs, about exhibiting at GPO in Georgetown; since the Philatelic Bureau is located there. He gladly welcomed us and we have been exhibiting at GPO regularly since then," Ana recollected. Ana is originally from Kitty, Georgetown, and has lived for more than 30 years in the United States.

As a child, she became fascinated by the stamps on the letters that her father, Dr. Sam Rampah, a radio evangelist, received as a result of the radio program, "Deliverance Time." During that period, she started her collection and is still an avid collector of British Guiana and Guyana stamps.

Over the years, Ana acquired most of her Guyana stamps through the mail with the help of the Guyana Philatelic Bureau where she has held an account for more than 30 years. She also regularly attends stamp shows throughout the world and searches the internet to find stamps.

Ana is a member of the American Philatelic Society, The Royal Philatelic Society London, the British West Indies Study Group, The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and other specialized stamp clubs. In addition, she is an expert with the American Philatelic Society for British Guiana and Guyana stamps.

The avid stamp collector travels from the US to Guyana twice a year to organize stamp exhibitions, workshops, and school visits, and gives away free stamps at all events to promote the hobby.

In 2014, Ana, with the guidance of former Postmaster, Henry Duncs, visited and photographed all 70 of Guyana post offices, something that has rarely been done by anyone. She has also created postcards of the post offices.

Ana continues sharing her knowledge, time, and resources so that others can enjoy and learn from stamp collecting just like she does.

"We hope to use stamp collecting as an educational tool in schools across Guyana to help collectors increase their knowledge of stamp collecting by providing access to philatelic books and catalogs for research, and to provide philatelic resources for collectors," Ana noted.

GPS will be donating several stamp catalogs and philatelic books to the National Library during the week of November 11, 2016, where the Society will be giving away over 100 pounds of stamps. Additionally, the Society will be visiting schools in Machete and Lusena. Members' meetings, workshops, stamp shows, and stamp swaps are also planned.

In May 2016, the Society was at the World Stamp Show held in New York with over 10,600 collectors in attendance. GPS displayed the postcards with the post offices of Guyana and held a members meeting with many of its international members in attendance.

GPS has grown to more than 200 members in several countries and continues to grow rapidly. Its members are people from all walks of life, those who collect new issues from Guyana to those who have only very limited stamp budgets. Above all, GPS stamp club offers the friendship, knowledge, and experience of its members who give advice on all aspects of collecting.

For more information, visit https://guyanastamps.com or Guyana Philatelic Society on Facebook.