



# A Look Back

The Tucson Stamp Club traces its origin to 1883 when small groups of men and boys met in the back room of a tobacco shop to discuss their philatelic interests. This makes it the oldest existing stamp club in the US.

At that time Tucson was a frontier town with a population of less than 10,000 and an estimated 26 stamp collectors, including four described as “advanced.” At that time the US had issued about 40 different stamp designs.

In 1885 Eugene A. Browne, a local dealer in foreign stamps, began issuing an eight-page monthly publication for the group: *The Arizona Pride of Philately*. The name is still in use on today’s club newsletter. Original copies of this newsletter are in the library at the Postal History Foundation in Tucson.

Records of the next three decades are sketchy; apparently there were extended periods of inactivity. But in 1924 the club was formally reorganized with 14 members led by Major E. A. Norton, E. K. Cone, Dr. Forrest Shreve and George Bradbury. The latter paid for a club life membership (number 59) in the American Philatelic Society.

Members included University of Arizona professors and students as well as winter visitors. The club also operated a branch in Phoenix until collectors there formed their own club in 1929.

Len Miller, Vice President