

Important Checklist Information/Lists See Page 68

TOPICAL TIME

January-February 2015

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A Philatelic Window into Santa's Evolution

Page 37

New Jersey:
350 Years

Page 25



and MUCH
more!



Journal of Thematic Philately

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Boldly to the Future continues for ATA! See Page 10.

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TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

The solution wasn't obvious, but with your help (Collectors) – would it work?

Managing Director Andrew McGavin of Universal Philatelic Auctions explains:

Twenty years ago, and I suspect the same is true today, the typical stamp dealer's biggest problem was not what sold, but what would not sell. In those days mail-bid postal auctions would parcel up their unsold lots (unsolds) and sell them on to other auctions which hopefully had different collectors in their database to whom such material would be new.

In this way they would "release" funds in order to be able to purchase new stamp collections. Other auctions not participating in this exercise would spend a significant proportion of their describing time in re-describing "unsolds" in order to re-present them as "new."

The significance of re-cycling/re-presenting material should not be underestimated – too high a proportion of unsold material stymied dealers from purchasing new stock – a problem many collectors may recognize today when re-visiting suppliers who never seem to have something new to offer: ultimately collectors stop going back to dealers who offer only stale stock.

In essence a dealer selling the best stamps out of any collection he or she has purchased may cover costs, but the profit in any typical collection lies in slower moving stock which is more difficult and takes longer to sell.

Try as they might, there didn't seem to be a satisfactory solution, although today many dealers use eBay to clear unsold stock even at a loss.

Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA) puzzled long over the problem, seeking to turn a "negative" into a "positive." The breakthrough came when its Director took the view that if it was not selling it must be too expensive. This soon led to the conclusion "why don't we reduce the estimate (and reserve) until sold or given away" – after all – everything must be worth something, and if not it should be given away to make way for new stock ... and so ... twelve years ago ...

The Universal Unique Reducing Estimate lot system was born

In 1999 a 6,500-lot UPA auction was created. The director agonized – "would it work?" No dealer or auction, to his knowledge, had ever done this before. Would collectors hold off from bidding and wait until the next auction when the estimate was lower? – or, worse still, the following auction – when the estimate was reduced even lower? Would collectors pass up the first opportunity at new stock and wait – and, if so, for how long?

It was a tense few months, but in the end the director need not have worried. There were 650 different collectors who bid in that first auction, spending £65,000 (US \$100,000+). Collectors who saw something they really wanted would bid first time. But, what of the unsold stock – did it sell? Universal had done something never seen in stamps before, or since – it actually told collectors in subsequent auctions how many times a lot had been unsold – so that collectors could work out how much it had been reduced by from the original estimate ...

... and did the unsolds sell? Collectors bid on the unsolds in following auctions – so that sometimes an unsold lot reoffered actually sold for more than available before.

And now, some 12 years later, we come to today. UPA runs quarterly auctions with approximately 17,000 lots in each auction and over £700,000 (US \$1,000,000+) of stamps from all over the world offered – including Thematics, British, US, and most countries of the world. Today UPA holds the United Kingdom record for the most stamp collectors bidding in a single auction – 1,491 different collectors – collectors who live in all corners of the world ... and yet, surprisingly, 9 out of 10 bidders are successful due to the auctions' significant 17,000+ lots size. Could you be one of them?

**If you would like to see Universal Philatelic Auction's next World Auction catalogue FREE OF CHARGE,
please request on line, e-mail, fax, telephone or write to:**

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**Please contribute to the 2014 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...
Your name will appear in good company
in next year's listing of donors!**



JACK'S JOURNAL

ATA Estate Planning

There are many different roads that lead

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

Hopefully, long after you and I are gone, there will still be an ATA that continues to:

- Encourage the collection, research and study of topical stamps and their subjects.
- Provide for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.
- Develop and publish books, checklists and multi-media programs.
- Hold or participate in philatelic exhibitions.
- Assist members to acquire and dispose of collections.

You and I can help ensure that the ATA will keep going BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE for many years to come. Perhaps you are among the hundreds of members who have given generously to our financial campaigns. We thank you for those important contributions. We can also remember the ATA through our estates. Our new "Planned Giving" brochure was included with the November-December issue of *Topical Time*. It suggests ways we can use estate planning or our wills to plan such donations. (The ATA Office will gladly send you another copy.)

All members who let us know that they have included the ATA in their will or estate plan will be listed as members of "The 1949 Society." That name recalls the year the ATA was founded – it was then that our mission of promoting topical philately began. I invite you to join me and other ATAers in showing our gratitude for topical collecting and the ATA in this way.

Here is what one member wrote:

"When I first became interested in stamp collecting, the main attraction was the design of the stamp and what was the reason for its issuance. Many years ago I decided

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to join the American Topical Association as that organization most closely reflected my philatelic interests. I have never regretted that decision. It is a collector-friendly organization that showers its members with numerous benefits. Its journal, the many study units under its umbrella and literally hundreds of topical checklists have made my stamp collecting very rewarding. Add to that, the wonderful, friendly people that I have met over the years at the American Topical Association's annual meeting and through correspondence with members of the various study units and it is difficult to imagine my philatelic world without the ATA. By making donations and including the ATA in my estate plan, I am attempting to repay the organization for all the enjoyment that they have helped me achieve in my philatelic pursuits."

— Frederick C. Skvara

Initial members of the 1949 society

Jack André Denys

Ingeburg Fisher

Jerry and Sally Husak

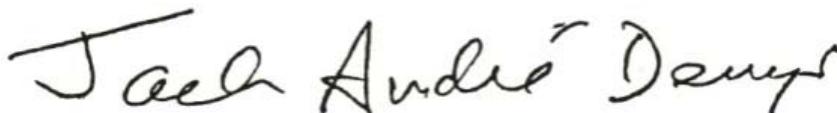
Robert E. Lamb

Dawn Hamman

Frederick C. Skvara

***Roland Essig** – left his entire philatelic estate to ATA when he died in May.

We'd like to add your name here!



About ATA

For information about contacting ATA Office or leaders – please see page 4.

New on our Website: www.americantopicalassn.org

- Youth page: Topical Tidbits: The Iditarod
- Press releases: ATA Chooses New Chapter and Checklist Coordinators
- Checklist dATABse: December listings totaled 617,018

The December checklist entries included 2,634 new entries. Checklists with significant increases in stamp numbers (more than 25 during the past month) include: Army/Infantry/Militias/Soldiers, Art (misc/other), Children/Infants, Fish/Fishing, Flags, Flowers (misc/other), Fruits/Berries/Nuts, Holy Family, Jesus of Nazareth, Letters/Post

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TopicalsOnLine

Want to get a good look at the stamp before buying online? Our sales site, [**www.TopicalsOnLine.com**](http://www.TopicalsOnLine.com) makes it easy: Just click on the Country/Catalog Number in the stamp listing, and a nice enlargement will pop up. **TopicalsOnLine.com** — a great way to find stamps by topic, country or Scott number.

Appointments

- **Chapter Coordinator - Jim Hogbin** of Arkansas.
- **Free-Style Exhibits Planning Team for NTSS 2015: Larry Davidson, Dawn Hamman and Doug Clark; Jack Denys**, convener.
- **Assistant Bourse Chair for NTSS 2015 - John Hamman** of Florida - with the understanding that he would become Bourse Chair for NTSS 2017. (Because of the international show, New York 2016, there is no NTSS that year.)
- **Joint NTSS 2017 Research Team - Dale Smith** of Missouri as leader and **Jean Stout** of Mississippi as member. (Invitations have been sent to the other WSP national shows.)

Recent Shows and New Members

Dec. 5-7, 2014: Florex, Orlando, Fla., * new members. Ambassadors: **Dawn Hamman, John Hamman, Courtland Munroe**.

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

If you can assist at the ATA table for an hour or two, please contact the ATA Office.

Members may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (such as *Topical Time* archives, handbooks, membership directories, checklists, DVDs) be brought to these shows for them.

For the shows listed in **green**, we will have the capability to print checklists upon request.

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2015, Southeastern Stamp Expo, Atlanta, Ga.

The following topical activities are scheduled during Southeastern Stamp Expo: thematic exhibiting presentation (**Doug Clark**), Penguin Study Unit, Halloween Study Unit (a new ATA study unit is forming!), Scouting on Stamps presentation, an ATA Night Out on Friday and an ATA Roundtable.

Mar. 7-8. Knoxpex, Knoxville, Tenn.

WANTED:

Please contact Jack Denys if you can serve: [**jdenys@verizon.net**](mailto:jdenys@verizon.net).

Members to volunteer for a few hours in ATA Office in southern Illinois (only two hours from St. Louis). Perhaps you can stop by on your way passing through the area.

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

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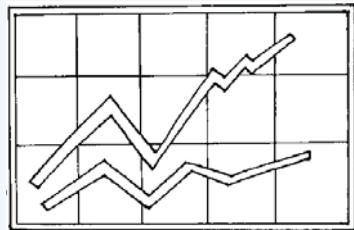


Facing the Future – Boldly

The year 2015 promises to be bright for the ATA. We had a lot to celebrate in 2014. We were able offer new services to the membership:

- a new digital, searchable archive of all 64 years of *Topical Time* – which can be very helpful to members no matter what their topic.
- our new checklist dATABase with almost 1,200 lists and the ability to produce customized checklists for 100s of topics.
- Electronic *Topical Time* with both FlippingBook and .pdf versions of our journal back to January–February 2013 – always available to all members.

TopicalsOnLine (www.topicalsonline.com), our new topical sales site, now has more than 15,000 listings, increasing every month. *Topical Time* has won three gold medals and is now available in both print and electronic versions. Membership has now increased three years in a row – a tangible result of our efforts to share the excitement of topical collecting. In 2015 we can look for new benefits including new features on the website: an ATA shop and a “Because You Belong” members section.



These achievements are a tribute to our loyal and committed members. As of press time, we cannot yet report the total donations to our Boldly To The Future, but we do know we met our goal for 2014 – and may have broken a new record. Your generosity has made this progress possible.

Our goal for 2015 is \$35,000. It is a modest goal, but the ATA can do a lot on a small budget. For us, every dollar counts. We ask for your continued support in 2015.

These are some ways you can send your BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE gift for 2015:

- Check drawn on U.S. bank in U.S. funds - *best, since it saves us fees* - payable to “American Topical Association,” PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA.
- PayPal: to american topical@msn.com. This is preferable if you pay electronically.
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover card – send card info to address above, or phone or FAX it to ATA Office @ 618-985-5100.

ATA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Each donation is tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers and is acknowledged with a “tax letter” acceptable to the IRS.

If using PayPal or credit card, please consider including a small bonus to cover fee.

Together we can advance...

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!



VERA'S VIEWS

New Year Reminders

It's that time of year when we resolve and remind ourselves to do what is "right" for us. We decide anew what is fulfilling in our lives. I hope your resolutions include spending more time with your stamps. Topical philately is a fulfilling pastime that deserves our time and energy. We are happier because we devote our thoughts to collecting and invest our hours and our resources in our hobby. I hope you will continue to include ATA in your life, this year and into the future. Your membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Thanks for making ATA an integral part of your life!

Some ways you can help ATA in 2015:

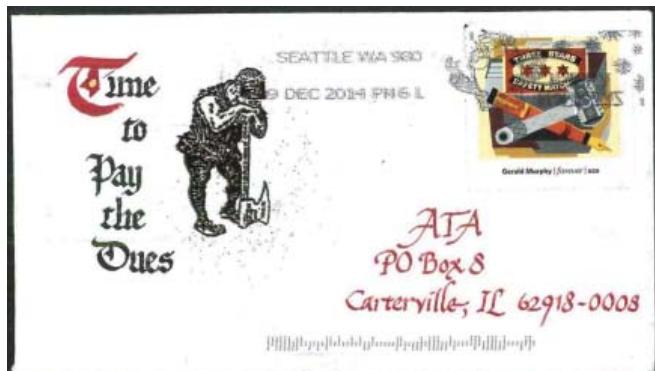
- Renew your membership when you receive your first reminder
- Order a checklist

or two or even more, and submit any changes you feel would improve our checklist service.

- Register for TopicalsOnLine and find some hard-to-locate stamps for your collection – and sell your duplicate stamps there, too!
- Add an "overage" to a renewal or order payment for **BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!**

- Tell other collectors about *Topical Time* and ATA. Recruit at least one ATA member this year!
- Volunteer to promote ATA by distributing bookmarks or postcards at your club meeting or show.
- Supply the ATA Office with your email address if you are not currently receiving "Because You Belong" emails from us.
- Make yourself and your family happy by ordering the *Topical Time Archive*, then give away your printed back issues of our journal to promote ATA.

Membership reminders: A large part of ATA Office staff time goes to reminding you about membership dues. A first reminder goes out about eight weeks before your membership is due to expire. For members whose expiration date is May 1, your first reminder will be sent the first week in March. A membership bonus is offered if you renew before your due date for two or more years. Your membership reminder will be emailed to you if you have supplied us with your email address. However, if you prefer to receive a mailed reminder, a mailed or emailed invoice or



Special holiday display created by Fred Haynes of the Rochester (N.Y.) Philatelic Association.

a PayPal invoice, just let us know and we will gladly accommodate your request. Your reminder will arrive via a mailed postcard if your email address is not in our records. It would cost ATA more than \$1,000 extra in postage each year to send all membership reminders by mail, so we do appreciate having your email address! You can greatly assist ATA staff if you choose to renew your membership even before you receive our first reminder and definitely before your membership actually expires. For your renewal convenience, there is a form on the front outer cover of every mailed copy of *Topical Time*—and your expiration date is given on the top line of the address label.

Financial transactions: Sometimes members ask about the best way to transmit money to ATA. In today's electronic world, the "rules" seem to change often, so it's a valid question. Mailing a paper check – how quaint! – is still the very best way, but it's practical only for U.S members who have a checking account. Postal or bank money orders work well for us but might be costly to you.

Transferring money electronically is fast and easy for any U.S. or international member with an email address. PayPal is the most economical way for us to receive money electronically; for instance, the cost to ATA is about \$3 per \$100 you send us. Thanks to the dozens of ATA members who have added a small amount to their ATA payment this year; as a result, ATA has received needed dollars to help our budget.

ATA does accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover, but the cost to ATA can be double the cost of using PayPal. If you pay us with a credit card through your PayPal account, ATA receives money at the PayPal rate instead of the credit card rate – a big help to us.

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ATA Ambassadoring: ATA Ambassadors do more than represent our organization at stamp shows. Many Ambassadors seek out other ways to publicize topical collecting and our organization. Case in point: Fred Haynes is an active member of the Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA); in 2013 he trained to be an ATA Ambassador at NTSS in Rochester, N.Y. Fred has been helping the RPA by setting up traditional philatelic displays at various libraries in the Rochester area. This past fall, he created a topical holiday display that was both eye-catching and interesting – and presented topical philately to hundreds of library patrons, young and old. Thanks to Fred for sharing this photo with us.

You don't have to be an Ambassador or an exhibitor to bring topical collecting to the attention of others. Do you collect art on stamps? Surely a nearby community has an art fair or show, or a museum or gallery whose management would welcome some of your stamps being displayed. Have some Christmas art or nativity stamps? Your own church or religious institution would be a great place to show them off. Happen to collect blood donation stamps? When there is a Red Cross Bloodmobile in your area, your stamps could be perfectly displayed in the pre- or post-donation areas. Your local farmer's market could easily make a place to display stamps showing fruits and vegetables. Whatever topics you collect, I'm certain that with a bit of creativity you can find a way to display them. Do let me know how you share your stamps with others!

From the ATA Office: The ATA Office staff consists of Vera (full time), Jane and Angela (each working 12-14 hours weekly). We're a small staff but we pride ourselves in serving our members and communicating well. However, sometimes we "drop" an email or a phone message. We hope it's not your message we accidentally overlook! But, if it is, we are very grateful when you send us a reminder, and we will try to take care of your inquiry in a timely fashion.

Enjoy your stamps! Check out [www.TopicalsOnLine.com!](http://www.TopicalsOnLine.com) 



Special holiday display created by Fred Haynes of the Rochester (N.Y.) Philatelic Association.



WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Topiary topicals and changes in store

Now, what in the world would a topiary topical have in common with *Topical Time* and past and future editorial changes? Read on...

I realized, as I was preparing to begin work on this issue of *Topical Time*, that I've been your editor for five years—this issue marks the beginning of the sixth. Our publication has been completely redesigned inside and out, we've made the transition from black & white to full color, switched printers three times, refocused the editorial direction of the publication, now have a digital edition of each issue available, have a complete archive of the publication available and much more. Ours is a dynamic organization with a membership to match and a publication that reflects this forward motion.

A publication – particularly one that exists to serve an organization's membership needs – is not a static thing (or at least it shouldn't be). It's a dynamic, evolving and organic mix of high-quality editorial and advertising material that not only reflects members' tastes, but also offers entertainment, growth and development opportunities within its special interests, while offering the ability for members to purchase what they need from trusted sellers. To that end, while the most drastic physical and philosophical changes to *Topical Time* were made shortly after I took over as editor, more subtle changes and consistent development have continued to take place. My extensive experience as an editor and my art and design background have helped.



But, since the physical manifestation of the publication represents the editor's vision (as well as that of his valued back-up crew of loved ones, ATA staff, board members and membership contributors), it's important to continue to move forward and not become complacent. What may look attractive to me may look stale, dated or unattractive to others.

During late 2014, President Jack Denys formed a small ad-hoc committee to begin studying *Topical Time*: why we exist, how well we serve you and, ultimately, to work towards achieving those things we can do better. It's not enough to consistently win multiple gold medals, we want to continue to be a must-read for you and within the hobby in general. While our committee work has just begun, I felt it was important to mark this anniversary in this issue with the first of many positive changes to come. Rather than spell out all the types and number of changes made, we'll let you discover them. Most, at this point, are primarily visual, and some are more obvious than others (several will likely go unnoticed). The goal with this first step is to make *Topical Time*'s appearance more modern and attractive, within our current limitations of page size and format.

Despite our committee work, which will be ongoing for awhile, what is it you most want to see in *Topical Time* (or don't wish to see, for that matter)?

One consistent criticism we receive is that "there's never anything on my topic." Because there are so very many topics and themes to collect, it is by nature impossible to reflect them all in every issue (or even once a year).



This is the primary reason I have been trying to develop more of a philatelic writing style within the publication and less of what I call "Wikitelic." A Wikitelic feature may give you a tremendous amount of material about, say, topiary on stamps and images of some, such as those shown nearby. A Wikitelic topiary feature will also give you a solid non-philatelic background of the art form itself and, likely, a history. While this can be extremely interesting, it is not philatelic and does not meet the needs of someone who collects mazes or dogs on stamps (unless the feature happens to mention one or the other as it applies to topiary).

However, a philatelically written piece should be accessible to all, with some needs being met for many readers. A description of topiary on stamps; illustrations of stamps, covers, meters, Cinderellas and other material depicting topiary; a description of how to form such a collection or exhibit; a how-to on searching for a fairly esoteric topic; the challenges of organization; or many other aspects can benefit virtually every reader and aid him or her in their own collecting activities, thus minimizing the potential for "there's nothing for me."

You'll also note the resurrection of the "Topical Meter Stamps" column in this issue – an area missed greatly by many of us. While I've finally committed to its regular appearance and have ammassed enough material to keep the column going for awhile, our meter column does not need to be written exclusively by me. If you have meter stamps reflecting various topics or a story about a serendiptitous discovery (of which many meter finds are), please let us know (with illustrations), or write a feature about meters.

But back to the original question: What do you want to see in *Topical Time*? Are there new columns you'd like to see appear regularly? Are there things you feel we could present online only (and not in print)? Are there components of the magazine you feel we should eliminate? Do you feel some columns could be alternated with others to make more room for either new columns or more features?

Topical Time is your journal. I'd love to hear from you, although I likely will not be able to acknowledge every response. If you have an idea, suggestion, criticism or even a letter to the editor, please let me know. The most convenient form of communication is via email: wystamps@gmail.com (with *Topical Time* in the subject line), but please feel free to send hard copy as well, to: Wayne Youngblood, Topical Time, 4615 Lindell Blvd Apt 1102, Saint Louis MO 63108.

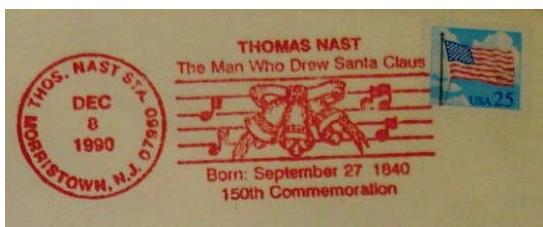
Remember, it is – truly – all about you. ☺



TOPICAL POSTLINE

The man who...

As father of the American cartoon, Thomas Nast, not only created “the image of Santa Claus as we know it today” (*Topical Time* Nov-Dec, 2014, p 46), he also designed and popularized the symbols of our major political parties, the donkey for Democrats and the elephant for Republicans. Yet neither he nor those creations appear on any United States stamp. The ATA checklist for Thomas Nast lists the only two stamps that do honor him –from Ghana and Mozambique – as well as the 26 Morristown, N.J., postmarks from 1972-2002 that celebrate him, as “The Man Who Drew Santa Claus.” Nast lived in Morristown for 20 years.



— Jack André Denys

stamps that do honor him –from Ghana and Mozambique – as well as the 26 Morristown, N.J., postmarks from 1972-2002 that celebrate him, as “The Man Who Drew Santa Claus.” Nast lived in Morristown for 20 years.



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Old Postmarks in Butterfly Form

by Vladimir Kachan

I am a philatelist from the Republic of Belarus, and my hobby is collecting philatelic material having to do with butterflies and moths. I study postal history and am always looking for old philatelic material depicting butterflies. My own research of the world of philatelic materials with butterflies is shown in my exhibit, *World of Butterflies and Moths*. In this short article I will concentrate only on old postmarks in butterfly form.

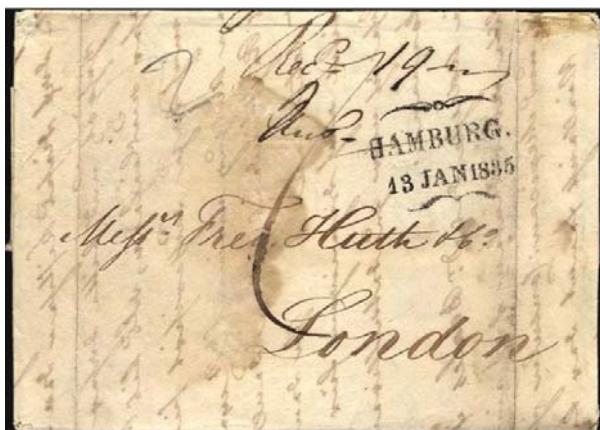


Figure 1. Hamburg “butterfly” cancel, Type I, in use from 1823-60.

illustration in the form of a stylized butterfly at top and text in two lines. Type 1 has the word “HAMBURG” with slender, pointed wingtips. It was used from 1823-60. Type 2, which is known both in black and greenish-blue, also features the word “HAMBURG,” but the butterfly has shorter, non-pointed wingtips (there are other differences as well. Type 2 was used from 1830-60 (photo attached).

My researching of postal history led me to the next discovery. Some prestamped letters of Italy have a butterfly postmark of Ripatransone, a town mark similar to the Hamburg butterfly

For those who collect butterfly topicals or thematics, there is a well-known, so-named butterfly postmark from Hamburg, Germany. The black postmark, shown in Figure 1, features an



Figure 2. The type II Hamburg butterfly postmark is known in both black and greenish-blue colors.

postmark. This postmark, also in black, features an illustration in the form of a stylized butterfly and text in one line. It is known as Type 1, the Figure 3 example with an 1843 year date. I found Type 2 of this postmark, which does not have a butterfly head between antennae. This type is presented on an 1842 Italian letter 1842, which is shown in Figure 4.

Many collectors are well aware of the butterfly cancels of Victoria. This series of stylized markings was designed by Thomas Ham in 1850. In these postmarks, the butterfly wings are surmounted by a number denoting the post office, and a "V" appears below denoting Victoria (in Australia). These cancels, known under the name "Butterflies of Victoria," are numbered from 1-50. These cancels are usually found in black, such as the one shown in Figure 5. However, this same "Butterfly of Victoria" is also known in red, in this case used as the receiving mark for Official Mail in Melbourne. That example is shown in Figure 6.

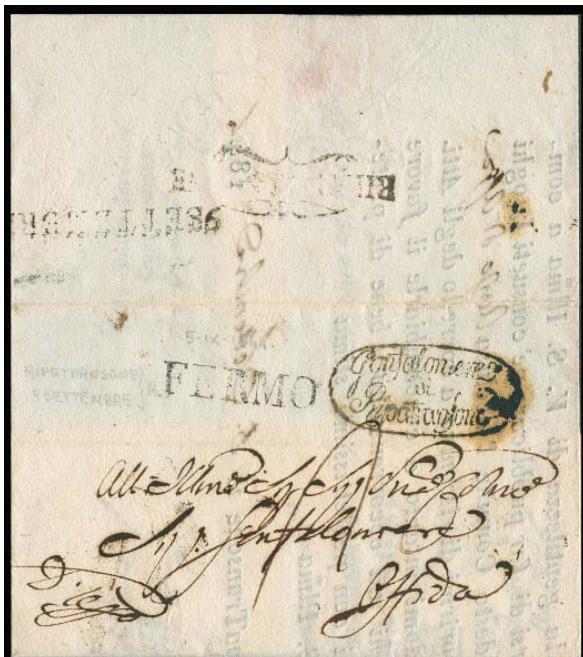


Figure 3 (above). The type I Ripatransone butterfly, which has a head between antennae.

Figure 4 (below). The butterfly of Type II is more stylized, with no head.



GEERLINGS DESIGN

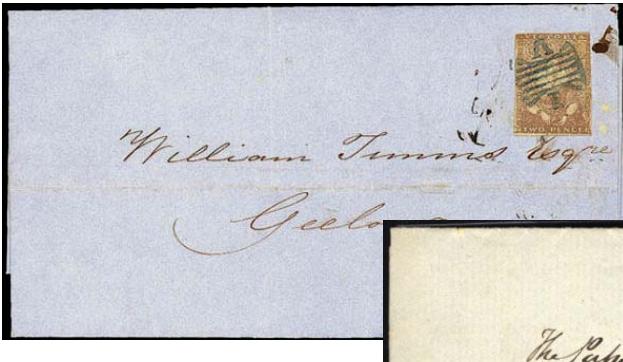
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Figures 7, 8 and 9 (left, below, bottom left). The so-called “Butterfly of Victoria” postmark is known in black, red (as a receiving mark) and even in blue (as a receiving mark) and even in blue on an 1851 cover from Australia.



The “Butterfly of Victoria” cancel is also known on an 1851 letter from Australia, in blue, which is shown in Figure 7.

I am always glad to help other philatelists create butterfly exhibits and am always happy to hear from other collectors. Please write to: Vladimir Kachan, P.O.Box-36, BY-220089, Minsk-89, Belarus. email: vladimirkachan@mail.ru. □




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TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

If you need me, I'll be at the Lodge

While I was growing up, I would have sworn that my father was born wearing a pair of ski boots. Having grown up in Budapest, a mere hop and a skip away from some serious skiing territory (and blessed with an innate sense of balance), my Dad at a very early age found himself schussing down the many slopes found amongst the European Alps. He was a gifted participant in all things winter sports, and at about 20 years of age he even ended up playing for the Hungarian



Figure 1.

National Ice Hockey Team. So, it only made sense – at least to him – that his first-born son would be equally gifted with the same sense of balance and an equal congenital desire for roaring down a mountain slope at speeds where, if anything were to run amiss, the ride could possibly not end well.

So it was that while living in London and around the age of 10 or so, it was announced to me that our next family outing



Figure 2.

would involve a two-week holiday to a nice hotel located in Megève, France, where skiing lessons would be provided after which he and I would merrily go whistling down the slopes while enjoying the crisp mountain air and the stark, yet beautiful, alpine scenery. Well, that sounded pretty good at that moment

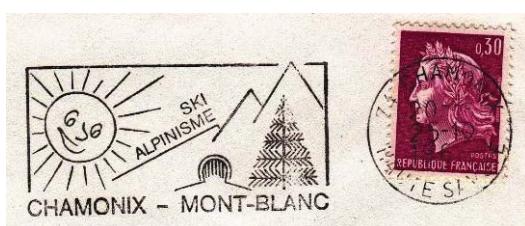


Figure 3.

and the trip to the Mont Blanc region couldn't arrive soon enough.

By the second day on the slopes I had arrived at several irrefutable conclusions. First and foremost, it became alarmingly obvious to me that the sense of balance everyone had supposed I shared was lost to some double-recessive makeup in my genome. Second, I learned that it is a major error in judgment to release from a pommel lift just before cresting the end of the ride and that “skiing” backwards and wiping out several people coming



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

another snowy winter here in the Northeast, that this issue's pictorial postmark topic will touch upon this popular seasonal pastime, both as a tribute to the gentleman who raised me, and to all the other mogul-bangers out there.

Not surprisingly, many pictorial postmarks are seen on covers originating from those European countries blessed enough to have Alps within their borders. Out of these, France, it seems, is a major source, so let's start there. In Figure 1 (and quite apropos to our introduction), we see a nice marking from Chamonix, Mont

Blanc, used in 1964. Chamonix, the site of the first Winter Olympics back in 1924, is located in the Rhône-Alpes region in southeastern France, and is an immensely popular ski resort area. Figure 2 takes us up to northeastern France and another 1964 pictorial, this one commemorating the 34th Congrès National du Ski, held at Gerardmer. I can't help but smile at the not-so-obvious concordance between the stamp with its postmark, each showing a different form of locomotion

up on the lift behind one tends to be frowned upon. Third, I learned that falling while skiing around a huge mud puddle can leave one sitting in said mud puddle, while necessitating a long, wet walk back to the hotel for a shower and a change of clothes. Fourth, and most importantly, was discovering that the hotel had a heated indoor swimming pool where – as it turns out – my mother, being the sensible woman that she was, spent most of her time during the day. This new-found knowledge left me no choice but to join her.

It is with this in mind, along with facing



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

and both offering the sensation of flying through the air!

Continuing our run with French postmarks:

Figure 3 illustrates a different Chamonix marking, this one from 1969, that adds a touch of warmth to the wintery Alpine scene by positioning a smiley-faced sun overhead.

Also used in 1969, our Figure 4 example commemorates the Philatelic Expo held at Avignon, on



Figure 8.

the left bank of the Rhône river in southeastern France.

In Figure 5 we can see a pictorial from Montluçon, a sub-prefecture in central France that provides a look into the various recreation (loisirs) opportunities available there, with a downhill skier shown at right. Note

how cleverly the skier's head serves as the first "9" in "1979," the year of this postmark's use.

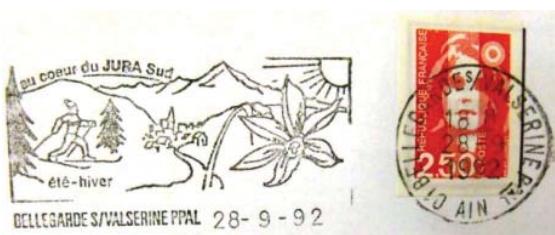


Figure 9.



Figure 10.

at the foot of Chamrousse; Dauphiné refers to the former province in which both Chamrousse and Uriage are located.

Figures 7 and 8 are both first-day pictorial postmarks placed on two different French semipostal stamps from a good-sized set issued in 1990-91 in anticipation of the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympic Games. The cancels are identical save for the post office of origin and date of issue, with the Figure 7 marking having been struck at Les Arcs, a ski

resort in Bourg-Saint-Maurice,
the one in Figure 8
at Val d'Isère in the
Rhône-Alpes region
of southeastern
France near the
Italian border. I



Figure 11 (above right).

Figure 12 (left).

Figure 13 (right).





Figure 14.

validate my theory that skiing is indeed for the birds (joking here, folks...well, sort of), is a handily concordant pair, both showing one of our avian friends, the marking sending Meilleurs Voeux (Best Wishes) for the New Year, having been applied at Paris on Jan. 1, 2004 (Figure 10).

Next let's visit Austria. There we'll begin with a pair of older pictorials, both from 1948, issued to commemorate the Austrian National Ski Championships. The postmark in Figure 11 came from Bad Aussie, an alpine town in the Austrian State of Styria considered to be the



Figure 16.

Figure 13 takes us to Mauthen in the Carinthian region of Austria, near the

Italian border, this marking issued for the 1970 national championships. The swirls used in this marking supply a sense of speed to the scene which is a nice touch.

Figure 17 (left).

Figure 18 (right).



show both merely because I chuckled at the way the skier on the marking in Figure 7 is skiing down the opposite side of the Alp as that of the skier on the stamp, whereas in Figure 8 both skiers are schussing down the same side.

Our next example – and one that is much more my speed – can be found in Figure 9, where a cross-country skier can be seen enjoying the snowy landscape in a pictorial issued in 1992 at Bellegarde-Sur-Valserine.

Last from France, and one that may indeed



Figure 15.

geographical center of the country; the one in Figure 12 was used in Bad Gastein located in the State of Salzburg. In each case, the "Bad" translates into the English word "Spa," indicating both towns historically were considered to be health resorts that include natural healing thermal springs, the one at Gastein containing radon!

A marking for the Womens' Downhill division of the 1981 World Cup, sponsored by The International Ski Federation, used at Steiermark (Styria), can be seen in Figure 14. For those collectors interested in the topical of big cats, it should be mentioned that Styria's

coat of arms, featuring a panther, is included in our postmark as the crest all the way to the right.

Next we'll jump over to Germany, literally, with a soaring ski jumper for our next country and postmark, one used at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a Bavarian mountain resort in the south, commemorating 1940's International Sports Week (Figure 15).

Figure 20.



The German Special Airmail pictorial shown in Figure 16, used in late 1987, reminded recipients that there were only 75 days left until the opening of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games to be held at Calgary, Alberta, Canada, while also reminding us that Lufthansa was both the official carrier for the German Olympic Team as well as the conveyor of special delivery mail between Frankfurt and Calgary.

On Sept. 1, 1939, German forces invaded Poland, which two days later induced Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, thus kicking off World War II. Our next postmark (Figure 17) was used in Zakopane, a town in the extreme south of Poland at the base of the Tatra Mountains, during the German occupation. The Nazi swastika, a symbol sadly ubiquitous throughout Europe during these challenging times, is found here next to



Figure 22 (above); Figure 23 (right).



Figure 19.



Figure 21.



**Figure 24.**

a set of ski poles on this pictorial used in March 1940.

Figure 18 is a more recent pictorial from Poland, this one used in 2001 to bolster national pride for their participants in the Nordic World Ski Championships held at Lahti, Finland. Concordance is neat

here, with the pictorial seemingly showing a front view of the contestant shown (side view) on the postage stamp.

Lahti, not surprisingly, also appears on a Finish skiing pictorial as shown in Figure 19, this one used in 1948. The marking mentions Salpausselkä, a ski jumping hill and ridge system left over from the ice age in southern Finland that divides Lahti in two.

Let's finish up again this month in alphabetical list format:

Figure 20: Japan, 34th annual Athletic Meet, Ski Jump.

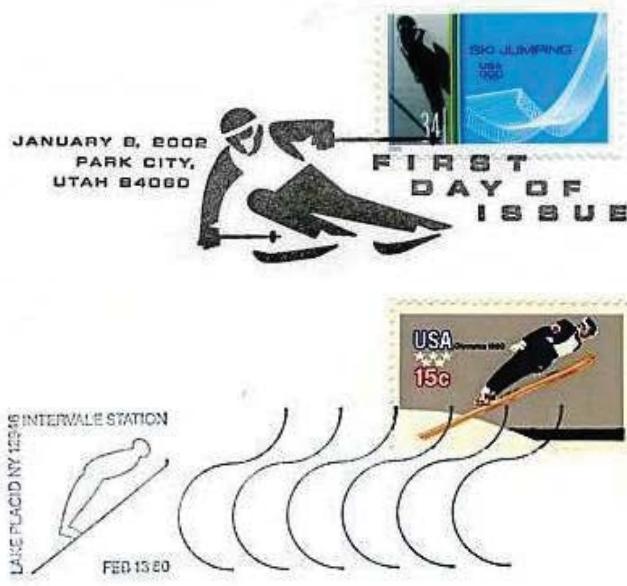
**Figure 21:** Macedonia, 2001.

Figure 22: Romania, 1988, Skiing Championships.

Figure 23: Slovenia, 2003, European Youth Olympic Festival.

Figure 24: Switzerland, 1970, XIX International Skiing Competition held at Le Brassus.

Figure 25: United Nations Postal

Figure 25 (above).

Figure 26 above left).

Figure 27 (left).

**Figure 21:** Macedonia, 2001.

Figure 22: Romania, 1988, Skiing Championships.

Figure 23: Slovenia, 2003, European Youth Olympic Festival.

Figure 24: Switzerland, 1970, XIX International Skiing Competition held at Le Brassus.

Figure 25: United Nations Postal

Figure 25 (above).

Figure 26 above left).

Figure 27 (left).

Administration (Vienna), 1988, Health through Sports.

Figure 26: United States, 1980 Winter Olympics, Lake Placid, N.Y.

Figure 27: United States, 2002, first-day pictorial, Park City, Utah.

Figure 28: Yugoslavia, 1956, Ski competition held at Jahorina.

As I finish up this issue's edition, I look out my windows and see the latest 12 inches or so of snow that fell overnight leaving behind a chilly breeze, steel-colored skies and the occasional blowing drift... and it's not even December yet. Meanwhile, as you braver and heartier souls head for the slopes, the wood stove here is roaring, keeping me and the pooch warm and comfy inside where I do believe we'll stay hunkered down. In the sage words of Erma Bombeck: "I do not participate in any sport with ambulances at the bottom of the hill."

Until next time, keep warm !

Post Script: A couple of members were kind enough to chime in after reading the article on Mushroom pictorials in the Sept.-Oct. issue. Jack Simpson from Australia wrote to say that he already is a collector of fungi on stamps, but had not considered seeking out postmarks before.

Paul J. Brach from western New York State took issue with my calling puffballs generally inedible: "While everyone's taste buds are different, I enjoy the taste of the gem-studded puffball. It is very abundant in my part of the country, while morels are seldom seen." OK, I'm convinced. I'll have to give one of these a try. Paul went on to say that he had identified 504 species of fungi this year alone. He's one serious 'shroomer!"

All comments and corrections regarding this column are eagerly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at: gdekornfel@fairpoint.net. ☐

ATA Mission Statement

The American Topical Association promotes topical stamp collecting and the educational and recreational aspects of this hobby by...

☒ Encouraging the collection, research, and study of topical stamps and their subjects.

☒ Providing for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.

☒ Developing and publishing books, checklists, and audio-visual programs.

☒ Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.

☒ Assisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.



Figure 28.



METERS BY TOPIC

Wayne L. Youngblood

Absolutely, Mr. Pitney? Positively, Mr. Bowes!

One of the areas of our hobby that gets far less attention than it deserves (not unlike postal stationery) is the world of metered mail. Meters exist in some form from virtually every major country in the world, and there are thousands of different pictorial meters that represent hundreds of different topicals.

My own experience is that there is a deep prejudice against metered mail, simply because it doesn't bear adhesive postage stamps. Still, every meter impression is live postage and is, technically, a stamp. At least for judging purposes, meters are very much a part of the "postal" portion of an exhibit and are highly desirable.

For me, however, meters are just plain fun and add a great deal to my collecting enjoyment. Meters also represent one area within the hobby where I still can experience the serendiptious enjoyment of the discovery of an inexpensive (usually) item that fits any one (or more) of my basic collecting areas.

Indeed, for the topicalist, meter mail offers a broad and deep range of attractive (and important) material to collect. Dedicated collectors of meters call them stamps. I prefer "stamped impressions," but they're all collectible. Before proceeding, I feel it's important to give a very brief history of the development of meters, to aid understanding of why they're both a desirable and important part of our hobby.

The development of metered mail as we know it extends to the late 19th century, as a number of individuals were experimenting with the idea of creating a franking machine to apply postage to (primarily) business mail. The explosion of mail volume

brought about by the advent of prepaid postage (the postage stamp) almost immediately began causing problems for large mailers who employed clerks to stick stamps on envelopes. Another, more sinister, problem created by the use of postage stamps was the huge exposure to lost revenue in the form of stolen postage stamps, an essen-



Figure 1. The first form of meter machine as developed by Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes. Note the metal die at left (mounted on a rotating axis) that applies live postage to envelopes traveling through the machine.

tially untraceable form of embezzlement.

Both Arthur Pitney and Walter Bowes were a part of this problem solving and product development, with their early 20th-century permits and high-speed canceling devices.

To digress (but only a little), we could say that the modern postage meter may owe its existence to the World Columbian Exposition of 1893. Pitney visited the fair and was taken by the numerous mechanical exhibits. As a business clerk, he not only disliked the time-consuming task of applying massive numbers of postage stamps to outgoing mail, but also recognized the large potential of loss due to stamp theft (the same reason perfins were developed about the same time).

As a result of his experimentation, Pitney filed a patent for the first meter machine Dec. 9, 1901, and was working on marketing the idea by 1902. Although the device was secure and functional, it did not receive much acceptance from postal officials and was never sanctioned.

Meanwhile, Bowes worked his way into owning the Universal Stamping Co., a maker of high-speed canceling machines that became a contractor with the United States Post Office Dept. Despite the success of his canceling machines, he was convinced that postage stamps would become obsolete due to business needs.

When the two men combined forces in 1920, they were able to create a new form of meter that combined live postage, a “cancellation,” dated postmark and a secure form of revenue control. Bowes’ connections with the USPOD helped secure a contract.



Figure 2. An example of an early meter impression from the first PB meter type. Examples of these impressions can be found used several decades later.



Figure 3. Examples of the evolution of the now-familiar Art-Deco eagle profile design shown at lower right. Pictorial advertising dies were added early on.



Figure 4. Examples of a few different early meter types (there are many others). The example shown at top uses fixed slugs (before the advent of an adjustable-denomination die).

In this case two 3¢ slug and one 2¢ were used to pay the postage for an airmail letter. Each slug impression is considered a separate stamp.

This business exploded, eventually creating many other types of vital business equipment as well.

The basic components of an early meter machine include a feeder, imprinter die, lockdown device to prevent fraud and an envelope sealer. There are many additional components to more modern types of meter machines, including scales, folders, inserters and more.

An illustration of the first Pitney-Bowes meter machine is shown in Figure 1, which



Figure 5. Almost from the beginning, various makers of meters began using illustrated advertising as a part of their meter dies.

The top example may be the first meter depicting a meter. The bottom extols the virtues of metered mail, both in terms of mail handling and exposure.



Figure 6. Because metered mail is essentially date-stamped and precanceled (as well as sealed and faced), it offers mailers the ability to skip several mail processing steps, saving both time and money. This fact, recognized by Bowes, formed the basis of his opinion that stamps would become obsolete. This efficiency was promoted by many illustrated meters.

reveals much of how they were applied to envelopes. An early meter is shown in Figure 2. Note how closely its design matches the die shown in the Figure 1 machine.

The most familiar stamp portion of the meter (or at least in the United States) is the ever-present PB eagle profile, the design development of which is shown in Figure 3. But there are many other types of meter designs as well. In some cases the same pictorial image may be found with several different die types. A few examples of these types are shown in Figure 4. One interesting aspect of early machines was the fixed-slug type, meaning that any charge above a basic rate was necessarily paid with the use of a separate slug.

It was recognized very early that there was valuable real estate near the live postage area of a meter. A postage stamp could not contain advertising, but there was no such



Figure 7. These examples of advertising meters from the 1940s and '50s, each applied by a Pitney-Bowes type, extoll the many virtues of using metered mail.



Figure 8. This bulk-rate pictorial meter, mailed by the Pitney-Bowes company (during the 1980s), bears a slightly more subtle message than many of the early pro-meter pictorial meters. In this case the company is attempting to reinforce the fact that – despite the U.S. Postal Service's multiple rate changes – PB is there to be your friend and watch your back during trying times.

limitation to meters, leading directly to the introduction and wild success of the pictorial topical meter, which (at least in the United States) experienced its golden era from the late 1930s through the 1970s. Figures 5-8 all show different aspects of this as they relate to the many benefits of using metered mail over traditional stamped mail. It is likely because of these types of messages (as well as the fact that most meters are not adhesives) that most collectors shunned metered mail for many years.

I'd like to call specific attention to the top meter in Figure 5 (from a business supply company in the late 1930s). It is perhaps the earliest instance of a meter being depicted on a meter.

By the time that collectors began to collect meter impressions a bit more seriously (mostly forward-thinking topical and thematic collectors), many of the pictorials were long gone (or at least in short supply). Fortunately, at least in part due to limited demand, many fairly scarce pictorials can be found fairly cheaply, thus providing challenge with a fairly low price tag! ☐

Board Bio

Laurie Ryan

This is the eighth in a series of brief biographies of our Board of Directors.



Laurie Ryan has been an ATA member for 16 years and currently serves as secretary on the board. A member of the ATA Biology Unit, Laurie enjoys being a docent at the Cincinnati Zoo, where she inspires many to create a topical collection of animals on stamps. Her own topical interests include Hedgehogs, Iris, Beer, Bagpipes and appropriately, Endangered Animals.

When she's not stamping, Laurie likes fishkeeping, genealogy, historical research, X-stitching, history and "my four-legged kids." (Her email address includes "doxiemom.") She has a BS in British History, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and works as a respiratory therapist. ☐

My Topic

Phil Schorr

Dawn Hamman

This is the seventh in a series of brief vignettes spotlighting interests of some of our fellow ATA members.

When he isn't in his garden tending 100 roses, Missouri collector Phil Shorr is likely working on his topical collection of – you guessed it – roses on stamps.

"I got started growing roses around 1970, and within a few years I was growing over 125. I served on the board of the American Rose Society six years," Phil explained. He also co-authored a reference book that gave information on 32,000 different rose varieties.



When Phil revived his childhood stamp hobby in the 1980s, the logical choice was roses. "I enjoy finding stamps from around the world showing roses in so many different ways," he said. "It's fun to find all of the ways they can be shown, such as a rose painted on a dinner plate, roses held by a saint known for a connection to them, and so many more."



So, in the warm months you'll find Phil immersed in his colorful garden. But come winter, the beautiful roses he tends are on stamps. ☺



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Cambodia's Temples

Ray E. Cartier

A 2012 listing of the World's top 25 places to visit included Siem Reap, Cambodia, where the largest religious complex in the world, Angkor Wat, exists. One of the most must-do activities there is to arrive before 5 a.m. to watch the sun rise

behind the complex. The massive three-tiered pyramid, crowned by five lotus-like towers, rises 200 feet above the ground. The outer wall surrounding the complex is the length of 14 football fields by 16 football fields wide.



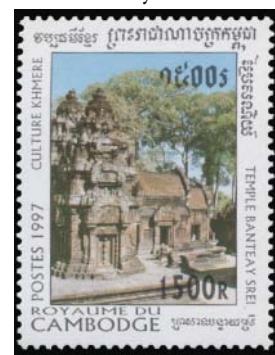
Angkor Wat, the largest religious complex in the world.

lion citizens when the Khmer kings had the vast waterworks and grand temples created. There are two huge "barays" or water reservoirs around the area, each being about 1.3 miles wide and 5 miles long. These served primarily for agriculture, providing water to the Khmer crops during drought and enabling them to export grains and rice to surrounding countries whose crops withered each year. But they served political and religious functions as well.

Several temples were built around the Angkor area by

different kings from about 802 AD, when Jayavarman II built Roulous, the first of them. King Suryavarman II in the early 1100s had Angkor Wat built. Extensive battle scenes from

his campaigns against Champ are recorded in the superb bas-reliefs on the south wall. The Cambodian female dancers are called "apsara" and there are almost 2000 distinct apsara carvings throughout Angkor Wat.



A "typical" temple.



An apsara dancer shown in a temple carving.

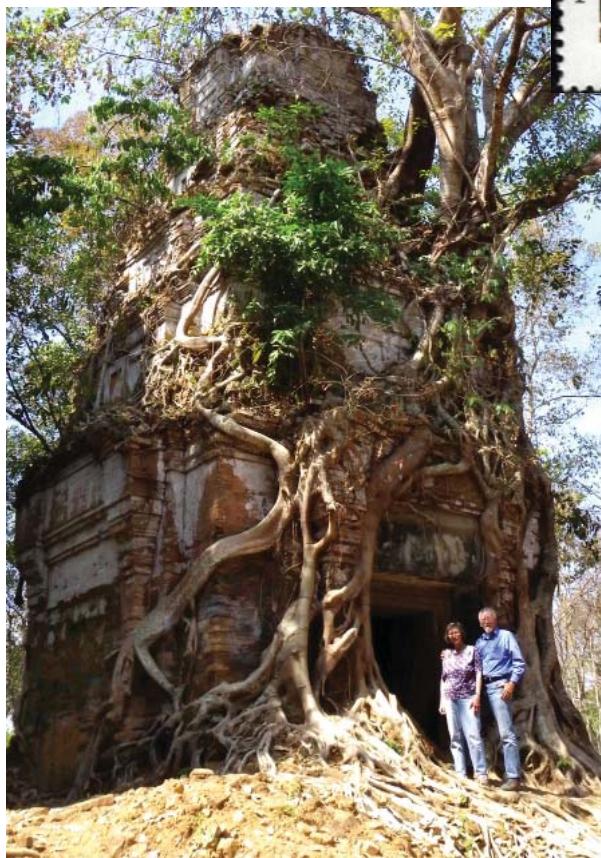


A massive stone face stares down on visitors from a Bayon temple gate.

The nearby Bayan temples are spectacular in their own way and must be seen. We rode in by elephant through the temple gate which had one of the Bayan's distinctive immense carved faces looking down on us.

The Bayon's most distinctive feature is the multitude of serene and massive stone faces on the many towers that jut out from the upper terrace and cluster around its central peak. Built around 1190 AD by King Jayavarman VII, Bayon is a Buddhist temple, but it incorporates elements of Hindu cosmology. A total of 54 structures each have four of these gigantic faces with each one facing one of the prime directions.

The temple also is known for two impressive sets of bas-relief carvings that present an unusual combination of mythological, historical and daily life scenes of its day,



Some of the Bayon carvings are shown on this stamp.



Among the well-known bas-relief carvings at Bayon is this one, depicting a cock fight.

such as cockfighting. Bayan temple had been abandoned for hundreds of years when it was rediscovered deep in the jungle of Angkor in the late 19th century.

Where the temples have not yet been restored one may find them being crushed by strangling fig trees. Ta Prohm is a sprawling monastic complex only partially cleared of jungle overgrowth. Massive fig and silk-cotton trees grow from the towers and walls giving some of

Figure 24. Strangling fig trees, such as the one shown here (with the author), have crushed many of Cambodia's historic temples.



One of the carvings on this doorway (shown enlarged at right) depicts an unmistakable figure of a stegosaurus dinosaur. Why?

well as an indistinguishable sail-finned dinosaur were show stoppers. The temple was built between 1150 and 1220 AD.

Some say that these are re-carvings of lotus leaves or some other such thing. However, they are on a reverse corner of an exterior wall with other carvings lined above them. As dense and as hidden as this part of the world has been for eons, is it possible that this might be where the last of the dinosaurs survived? ☐



A stegosaurus is shown on this Cambodian stamp from 2000.

Ray Cartier is a longtime collector and was Executive Director of ATA from 2003-09, and is currently the ATA Representative to the Space Unit. He lives in Texas with his wife, well-known topicalist Karen Cartier.

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the best views of this type of phenomenon in the Angkor area. Ta Prohm was the site of where the film *Lara Croft – Tomb Raider* showed Angelina Jolie entering a jungle tomb. (Only the entry way was shown in the film as the temple itself is very tiny).

In this same area is one of the most unusual carvings found in all of Cambodia. These images of a Stegosaurus, a possible megatherium, as

Study Unit Spotlight

This month: International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

[Editor's Note: This is the 26th installment of a regular feature intended to – indeed – spotlight one of our study units and the fine work done in its journal. This month we feature "Ventures in Printing," a portion of an ongoing series, reprinted with permission from The Circuit, Nov.-Dec. 2014. To be considered for "Study Unit Spotlight," please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal during the past year or so and submit it to the Topical Time editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]

Ventures in Printing

Sandy Stover

The last segment in this series focused on the over-production of Hamilton-Seebeck stamps, the uniqueness of the 1897 multicolored "Seebecks" in the midst of the over-production and the lack of appreciation for that uniqueness in the philatelic community. Now we delve into the quality of Hamilton-Seebeck stamps in general, and then about the quality of the multicolored "Seebecks" of 1897 (next issue).

Philatelic opinion

An 1889 contract between the Republic of El Salvador and the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Company of New York City, signed by the Salvadoran Postmaster-General and the company's secretary, Nicholas F. Seebeck, launched a 10-year production of Salvadoran postage stamps and guaranteed that "*the stamps will be engraved on steel plates in the most artistic manner ...*" (quoted in Leavy, p. 95).

Wording in the contracts with Honduras and Nicaragua was similar: "... engraved by the Company on steel plates, with artistic care ..." (quoted in Green, p. 143) and "... steel engraved of artistic workmanship and best quality" (quoted in Gentle, p. 16).

Steel-engraved stamps most artistic

While eventually there were a few issues printed on lithograph stones, including the multicolored "Seebecks," the opinion of the philatelic community is that Seebeck's promise of steel-engraved stamps printed in a "most artistic manner" was indeed well-fulfilled.

Irving Green noted that "*Seebeck was proud of his work and justly so, for his designing, engraving, coloring and printing compares favorably with the finest work of the present day [1940s] Bank Note Companies.*

"He meticulously followed contract conditions despite the fact that he was in financial difficulty from 1894 through 1898" (Green, p. 155).

Danilo Mueses agreed with Green: "*The productions of the Hamilton Bank Note Co. as far as the quality of the printing is concerned, were of a high standard*" (Mueses, p. 9).

William Welch more recently (1995) chimed in: “*Even Seebeck’s critics acknowledge the beauty of his stamps*” (Welch, p. 151).

And, only six years ago, more than a century after the company’s four contracts had expired, Jack Child summarized Hamilton production in one approving sentence: “*The Seebeck stamps were of uniformly high quality and featured themes such as allegories, national crests and flags, presidents, and the Columbus anniversary*” (Child, p. 46).

Perhaps the most persuasive endorsement, however, came from the dean of early 20th-Century philatelic writers, Fred Melville. Melville, having nothing but disdain for the Seebeck contracts and writing here at a time (the 1930s) much closer to the Seebeck “uproar,” delivered a classic back-handed compliment: “*Seebeck knew well what he was up to. He had baited his hook temptingly with attractive and often interesting designs, most of them finely engraved and in pleasing colors. The exotic suggestions of the tropical lands of adventure, as yet far from the vulgar tack, were conveyed in the designs and in the very names of the countries.*”

Devil of an attraction

“*Add to all this,*” continued Melville, “*the cunning scheme whereby high values were to be made readily available to the schoolboy’s purse and you have the devil of an attraction not only for the young collector but for the indiscriminating adult.*”

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Our hero, of course, had his backers in the wholesale stamp trade. It is not to be supposed that the maker of these elegant stamps sold them piecemeal or in sets to boys small or large (Melville, p. 46).

Note the high praise: “finely engraved,” “elegant,” etc. Does any of this praise — Melville’s or that of the writers quoted earlier — apply as well to the multicolor Seebecks? But more on that in the next installment of this feature.

Note also the exaggeration: “exotic suggestions of the tropical lands of adventure.” True, there are mountains and volcanoes, often on coats of arms. And a lake, a waterfall, some palm trees — but only on three or four stamps out of hundreds. Then the disdain: a “cunning scheme.” And “the vulgar tack?” Whose “vulgar tack?” The contracting countries? The contractors? Seebeck’s?

Printing quality comparison

“Artistic ... high quality ... finely engraved ... elegant.” Perhaps it is time to put such generalizations to the test; in other words, to look carefully at a sample of Hamilton-Seebeck stamps (mainly those of El Salvador) in comparison with stamps (1) of similar type (with regard to subject, color design and printing method), (2) issued during the same turn-of-the-century period (1890-1910) and (3) printed by highly regarded printers of that time. Figures 1–6 represent such a comparison.

Consider here simply the carefulness and skillfulness of the engraving detail, apart from any concern about overall artistic design. Figures

1 and 2 show detail (scanned at 1200 dpi) from Hamilton stamps produced at the beginning, middle, end or perhaps after the end of the El Salvador contract, compared with similar stamps of the same period produced by American BNC,



Figure 1. a) El Salvador Scott 103 (1894), b) U.S. Scott 231 (1893) and c) Boznia & Herzogovina Scott 43 (1906). Detail of monochrome pictorial stamps recess printed by a) Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Co. b) American Bank Note Co and c) Austrian Government Printing Office.



Figure 2. a) El Salvador Scott 38 (1890), b) New Zealand Scott 108 (1902) and c) El Salvador Scott 177 (1898). Detail of monochrome allegory stamps recess printed by (a and c). Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Co. b) Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

Austrian GPO and Waterlow & Sons.

Two of the illustrated Hamilton stamps, the 1890 “Allegory of El Salvador” (2a) and 1894 “Columbus Received by Ferdinand and Isabella” (1a), are not known to have been reprinted (Glickstein, pp.

916-7) and are therefore almost certainly original printings, although they are both probably remainders.

Fine decorations clever

In the case of these two stamps, the comparison certainly does no harm to Hamilton. The fine decorations on Isabella's gown are particularly clever. And, while the 1902 Waterlow allegory (2b, "Zealandia;" Mackay, p. 281) may feature a more varied pattern of engraving than is found in the 1890 Hamilton allegory (2a), both stamps are skillfully engraved and printed.

The 1898 Hamilton "Allegory of Central American Union" (2c) does appear to be less carefully engraved. The shading is simplistic and small details seem cruder than they need to be (especially in the faces).

This is Hamilton's last recess-printed Salvadoran stamp, and it raises the question



Figure 3. El Salvador Scott 160 (or 170B, 1897), "White House," a monochrome pictorial stamp printed during the later years of the Hamilton contract.

the company's (almost as late) 1896-97 recess printing certainly did not.

Very high skill

Indeed, the entire series (Scott 146-170L) mixes instances of very high skill with an overall level of workmanship that is always at least acceptable. And, as for this particular example: scanned at 1,200 dpi and displayed as a full stamp, "White House" (Scott 160/170B) shows multiple instances of superb engraving.

Especially noteworthy is the central tree in the scene, with its multi-directional, multi-intensity branch-lines and leaf-like surfaces. Amid the other carefully rendered landscaping, the tree is set against a partially cloudy sky and a sun-lit building whose walls have been carefully brightness-modulated according to the sun's position.

The word "Salvador" curves above the scene, gently shaded from light to darker, left to right. Can anyone find – on any other tiny stamp – a better example of the varied effects of superior engraving? And, of course, whether this particular scanned "White House" stamp is an original or a reprint really doesn't matter. If Figure 3 is

indeed a reprint, and yet is so skillfully produced, is it very likely that an original print would be any less skillfully produced?

The remaining illustrations are full-stamp images scanned at 600 dpi. Figure 4 demonstrates that Hamilton's "President Carlos Ezeta" series

(1893) compares favorably, in general, with the contemporary portraiture efforts of Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. and Waterlow & Sons, although let it be granted that Queen Victoria's hair is more charmingly engraved than the beards and mustaches of President Ezeta and Christopher Columbus.

Several reprint versions

There are several reprint versions of the Ezeta stamp (Glickstein, p. 917); but here again, whether the scanned stamp is an original or reprint matters little for the purpose of this comparison.

Hamilton did not print any bicolored stamps for El Salvador. The 1895 series, Scott 105-118, is listed as being in two colors, but it is monochrome, with an overprint in a second color. Indeed, the company's four 1890-99 contracts, which produced more than 1,000 issues, resulted in only one bicolor stamp design (featured on three stamps) – a portrait of President Luis Bográn of Honduras. Thus, the four-colored Hamilton "Seebecks" of El Salvador seem all the more singular.

Figure 5 compares the Hamilton bicolor portrait stamp, for which there are no known reprints, with an 1898 De La Rue bicolor Trinidad stamp depicting the



Figure 4. a) El Salvador Scott 83 (1893), b) Falkland Islands Scott 15 (1894) and c) Chile Scott 46 (1901). Monochrome portrait stamps recess printed by a) Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Co. b) Bradbury-Wilkinson & Co. and c) Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

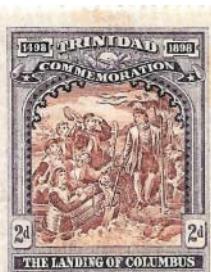


Figure 5. a) Honduras Scott 62 (1891) and b) Trinidad Scott 91 (1898). Bicolor stamps recess printed by a) Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Co. and b) De La Rue & Co.

"Landing of Columbus." Yes, this is a bit of apples and oranges, but it suggests that in this limited bi-color category Hamilton's skill level is at least not embarrassing.

It is also worth noting that of the four companies that attempted to recess-print facial features on allegorical or pictorial stamps (Figures 1a, b; 2a, b, c; 5b) - Hamilton, American BNC, Waterlow and De La Rue - it is clearly De La Rue, on the Trinidad stamp, that performs the most skillful job.

Finally, Figure 6 compares the 1899 El Salvador allegorical “Ceres” stamp, lithographed by Hamilton, with the 1901 Greece allegorical “Hermes” stamp, lithographed in metallic bronze ink by Perkins, Bacon & Co.

According to Hahn and Sousa, “... Seebeck sent a lithographed issue to El Salvador for 1899. This apparently was a change of mind on his part insofar as an engraved die had been prepared and an engraved plate - albeit small - had been laid down.”

El Salvador and Nicaragua included

The eventual lithograph plates were evidently “double plates” that included not only the El Salvador “Ceres” design, but also the Nicaraguan “Justice” design (Nicaragua Scott 110-20, 1899; Hahn and Sousa, p. 29). The “Ceres” stamps (Scott 100-209) were officially issued only when overprinted (Scott 210-23, 242-52D).

Hamilton had used lithography, of course, for the 1897 multicolored “commemorative” stamps – a change in printing method that was almost certainly done for understandable artistic and technical reasons. But the 1899 switch to lithography involved monochrome definitive stamps and therefore seems less understandable.

Does this change, in itself, represent a decline in the quality efforts of Hamilton, as well as of Seebeck himself? Perhaps. At the very end of the El Salvador and Nicaragua contracts, was there a bit of “scrambling” going on? Perhaps. But keep in mind that the “Ceres” stamps were produced at the end of 1898, and that Seebeck died one-half year later, in June of 1899.

Also, keep in mind that it may be an unwarranted bias of the stamp-collecting community to believe that recess-printing is generally higher in quality than lithography. Anyway, comparing the lithographic work of Hamilton with that of Perkins, Bacon & Co. (Figure 6), I find no reason, in this admittedly solitary instance, to



Figure 6. a) El Salvador Scott 200 (1899), b) Greece Scott 176 (1901).

Monochrome allegory stamps printed by lithography by a) Hamilton Bank Note Engraving Co. b) Perkins, Bacon & Co.



*Please use stamps on mail
whenever possible...
...We're all collectors!*

prefer the printing quality of Perkins, Bacon & Co.: indeed, just the opposite.

The fairest of them all

Opinions about beauty of design are far more open to disagreement than opinions about skillfulness of engraving and printing. Still, I will dare to share my opinion about the winners of a “beauty contest” represented by Figures 1-6: First place: Figure 1c.

The frame and lettering designs, in Vienna Secession style, put the Austrian-printed stamp at the top. Second place: Figure 3. The Hamilton “White House” stamp’s elaborate Victorian (beaux-arts?) frame would dominate the design if it were not for the vignette’s eye-catching juxtaposition of vibrant trees and angular building.

Third place: Figure 6b. As poorly printed as the Perkins, Bacon & Co. “Hermes” stamp seems to be (is the scanned copy a counterfeit?), the simple yet dramatic design of this stamp places it above the allegory stamps by Hamilton and Waterlow. Fourth place: Figure 2b. The Waterlow allegorical scene (including the figure of “Zealandia”) has more contrast and drama than the Hamilton allegory scenes. Fifth place: Figure 4b. The Bradbury Wilkinson portrait is less frame-dominated than the Hamilton and Waterlow portraits.

These comparative evaluations, admittedly quite subjective, suggest that Hamilton stamp design is more impressive in its pictorial stamps than in its allegory and portrait stamps.

But comparisons of Figures 1-6 also suggest that the company’s overall stamp design is certainly of sufficient artistic merit to have been respected – even admired – during the decade of the 1890s.

Has anyone else attempted to generalize about Hamilton stamp design? William Finlay, in *An Illustrated History of Stamp Design*, made the following assessment:

Spate of portraits

“... This agreement [as reached in the four Hamilton contracts] resulted in a spate of presidential portraits, allegory and a fair number of pictorials (mostly connected with the Columbus celebrations which fell conveniently into this period).

“The stamps were competently engraved and printed by the intaglio method, but their vignettes suffered from the usual American fault of cluttered frames and jumbled lettering.

“The only noteworthy designs to emerge from the Seebeck interlude were the peso values of Salvador’s 1893 series, showing scenes from the life of Columbus. Fortunately the countries concerned terminated their contracts by 1898, but to this day the Seebeck issues remain a drug on the philatelic market (Finlay, p. 85).”

I agree with Finlay that the Hamilton frames tend to be cluttered and vignette-overwhelming, and also that lettering styles should have been less “jumbled,” i.e., more uniform in style. But isn’t this lack of design focus due in part to the necessity of multiple inscriptions, at least as perceived by the postal authorities (probably not chosen by the stamp designers themselves)?

Also, isn't the "clutter," at least in part, an expected elaborateness that was considered desirable in Victorian design? And, finally, it is certainly not true that "the only noteworthy designs" were the peso values of the 1893 series (Figure 1a), as this present article, as well as the next article about the multicolor "Seebecks," will hopefully make clear.

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ISWSC

Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors was founded in 1979 by 78 charter members. Members of the ISWSC are generalists and have taken on the challenge of collecting stamps of the entire world. The group helps generalist stamp collectors with many benefits, including *The Circuit*, which is the club's newsletter, mail-bid sales, stamps circuits, free stamps for youth and non-profit organizations, and the ability to trade stamps with other worldwide collectors. Membership dues for the ISWSC are \$15 worldwide. More information about the ISWSC can be found at the unit's website: www.iswsc.org, or by contacting Joanne Berkowitz, Executive Director, PO Box 19006, Sacramento CA 95819-0006. Email: joannebe@pacbell.net.

Major Milestones in Manned Spaceflight

Jeff Dugdale

If you don't know, can you guess how many people have flown in space since Yuri Gagarin did it first on April 12, 1961? Is it...

A. 200+ B. 400+ C. 600+ D. 800+ or E. 1000+?

The answer may surprise you, but you'll be able to deduce the range as you read the following account of the highlights of manned spaceflight over the last 50+ years.

Gagarin's single orbit attracted great philatelic interest and his achievement has been commemorated by the USSR/Russia on a dozen occasions, as well as by issues from a very large number of countries. His flight allowed the Soviet Union to maintain the lead in the Space Race, begun with a series of *Sputniks* and followed by an extended series of space "firsts," each one a statement of one-upmanship over the United States. The USSR was first to launch twin flights (*Vostok 3* and *Vostok 4* in August 1962), first to put a woman in space (Valentina Tereshkova in *Vostok 6* in June 1963), first to launch a three man crew (*Voskhod 1* in October 1964) and first to have a man "walk in space," a vital procedure for the building of space stations, which is the subject of our second major milestone.



The first Soviet issue showing Gagarin in 1961, Scott 2463.



A 1986 Soviet issue marking the 25th anniversary of Gagarin's flight, Scott 5444.

doing. For example, it was many years after Gagarin's flight that it was revealed he was not in control of it and was, in effect, just a passenger who ejected during his descent and landed via parachute. The shape of *Vostok/Voskhod* was also concealed for five years after the first flight. So it was no surprise to learn that the USSR minisheet of 1965 gave a totally false impression of what Leonov did in the first ever EVA (extra vehicular activity). The naïve style of the minisheet portrays a cylindrical spaceship with a strange collar or skirt at its base and a hatch open, exposing both cosmonauts to outer space.

Pavel Belyayev and Alexei Leonov, the 11th and 12th spacefarers, were launched in *Voskhod 2* in March 1963 in a flight shrouded in mystery, as contemporaneous space stamps demonstrate. Secrecy and legerdemain were a major part of the Soviet space program, so anxious were they to deny the Americans any significant detail of what they were



The latest issue from Russia in 2009 marking Gagarin's 75th birthday.



Because of the secrecy of the Soviet space program, this 1965 souvenir sheet, Scott 3016, shows a fanciful, depiction of the spacecraft (which leaves cosmonauts exposed to outer space), but also a suppression of the first space walk. An accompanying stamp in the set showed Leonov taking more

(footage he forgot to retrieve from the camera).

An accurate illustration of the event is given in the 1980 minisheet designed by cosmonaut Leonov himself, no mean artist, showing an inflatable rubber airlock-cum-egress complete with camera, which sprouted from the *Voskhod* hatch, leaving his commander still inside the pressurized cabin. This detail and the facts that Leonov nearly did not manage to get back into his spacecraft because his spacesuit had ballooned much more than expected after his 12-minute spacewalk (and that he forgot to retrieve the film from the camera) were suppressed for many years.

The Americans were behind for the first six years of the Space Race. The first American in orbit, John Glenn, did not lift off until February 1962, and the first U.S. two-astronaut *Gemini* craft did not orbit until March 1965, five months after the



Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov is shown on this 1980 souvenir sheet from Scott 4817, the 15th anniversary of his space walk. The sheet was



ВТОРОЙ ПЛАН
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ОРАДА - СПУТНИКА
«СОЮЗ-2»
СУЧКИ-КОСМОНАВТ
ВОДОЛЕЗОВИЧ
ИСАЯ АРХИЛОВИЧ
ЛЯНОВ

*...ws a false, but
so a false im-
vies in space*

Soviets had put up three men in one spaceship.

However, the next Soviet first, our third milestone, is a tragic one with the first death of a person in flight, April 23, 1967, when Vladimir Komarov, the first cosmonaut to go into space twice, was killed during re-entry. All the previous Soviet space achievements had been overseen by the mysterious "Chief Designer" Sergei Korolev, sometimes flying missions sooner than he might have liked for propaganda reasons demanded by the Kremlin. But Korolev died suddenly in January 1966 and his successor, Vasily Mishin, was not in position long enough to argue his case forcibly.

As a result, the flight of *Soyuz 1*, which was intended to rendezvous with *Soyuz 2*, to be launched the following day (as the West learned more than 20 years later), was underway before it was ready. Subsequent investigations revealed scores of unresolved technical problems with the *Soyuz* craft, four previous unmanned test flights of which disguised under the "Cosmos" program had failed. In short, Komarov was launched on a "wing and a prayer," but the Soviets' luck ran out and he died a horrible death, probably from intolerable G-forces, as he tried to descend after 18 orbits. The canceled *Soyuz 1-2* rendezvous would have been an important step in the success of the Soviet lunar landing program that would have seen a Soviet manned moon shot via a *Zond* (*Soyuz*) craft. But all this was revealed much later, after the Americans reached the Moon first and the Soviets claimed that they were not planning to go there anyway!

Our fourth major milestone relates to an American success, that of Apollo 8, which circumnavigated the Moon at Christmas 1968, carrying Frank Borman, James Lovell and Bill Anders, the 21st, 22nd and 33rd humans in space. The Americans, too, had their problems, notably



*...om the Soviet Union,
designed by Leonov.*



Kamarov is shown in his Soyuz 1 fatal descent on a Scott non-numbered Equatorial Guinea stamp released in 1972.



United States' Apollo 8 and Apollo 11 Moon landing (...) were commemorated on U.S. Scott 1371 (1969) and Mali Scott C198 (1973).





East Germany Scott 1685 (1975) marked the link-up of Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft.

though they made a safe emergency return to Earth. But life was lost in the *Apollo 1* launchpad fire in January 1967 when appalling negligence and poor spacecraft design killed three astronauts: Virgil Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chafee, some of whom would surely have gone to the Moon.

Recovery from this disaster had to be quick, as the Americans had scant idea of where the Soviets really were in their own Moon project. In a program that was falling behind the schedule of getting to the Moon's surface "by the end of this decade," as NASA had been charged by President Kennedy, *Apollo 8* flew to the Moon long before its Lunar Module (LM) was tried and tested. The launch window meant that the crew would be heading for fame at a time when they particularly wanted to be with their families. Much was made of the spiritual significance of the three astronauts' new perspective on Creation by being the first men ever able to look at "the good Earth" from lunar orbit, as the American commemorative for the event suggests.

Our fifth milestone is, of course, the first Moon Landing by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin of *Apollo 11* in their LM called *Eagle* in July 1969, an event celebrated with stamps from literally scores of countries.

The Apollo program had originally envisaged a dozen such Moon Landings and effected six before public interest was clearly waning with such "spectaculars."

Government funding dried amid concerns about safety (enhanced by the *Apollo 13* near disaster) and questioning of the purpose of the program, when millions were starving. Funds and hardware for flights after *Apollo 17* in late 1972 were redirected to the *Skylab* project to try to address the Soviets' clear superiority in space station technology. (*Skylab* was first manned in May 1973.)

Milestone 6 is the *Apollo-Soyuz* test project of July 1975, which saw the first American-Soviet cooperation in manned spaceflight. Using a left over *Apollo* command module, the Americans docked with a *Soyuz* craft, using a specially designed mating chamber and visited each others' craft in a flight that was the precursor of future cooperation and highly significant in warming relationships politically. Notably, no other manned flight (not even *Vostok 1* or *Apollo 11*) has been more widely commemorated with philatelic media,



St. Vincent Scott 1167 (1989) celebrates the first non-Soviet Cosmonaut.

with the near disaster of *Gemini 8*'s docking with an Agena rocket in March 1966. Only the skills of Neil Armstrong and David Scott (which NASA did not forget in future crew rotas) saved their lives when the conjoined craft tumbled out of control,

such was its international profile and fascination.

While the Americans had concocted *Skylab* out of unused Apollo hardware, the Soviets, missing out on the Moon, concentrated strategically on developing space stations, which promoted long-stay missions. This was first accomplished with a series of civilian and military *Salyuts* and then with *Mir*, demonstrating that this was their preferred option (as opposed to going to the Moon). These projects allowed them to introduce guest cosmonauts from a dozen Soviet satellite states in the Intercosmos Program.



Palau Scott 482 (1999) marks the 1994 long space station stay of Poliakov.

So, our seventh milestone is the flight of Alexander Remek of Czechoslovakia (the 87th person and first non-Soviet or non-American in space) via *Soyuz 28* in March 1978. Today, citizens of more than 30 countries (including Briton Helen Sharman, the 249th person in May 1991 in *Soyuz TM12*) have flown into space.

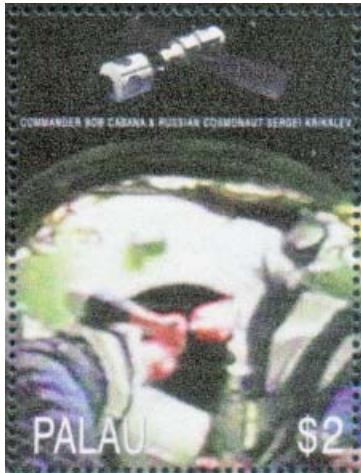
Milestone 9 relates to the long-stay flight of Soviet cosmonaut Valery Poliakov (the 207th person to orbit), who launched in *Soyuz TM* in August 1988



Guinea-Bissau Scott 413 (1981) depicts the U.S. Columbia space shuttle.



A 1995 cover from the United States marks U.S.-Russian cooperation, in which the U.S. shuttle *Discovery* carried a Russian cosmonaut to the *Mir* space station.



This Palau stamp marks the first linking in 1998 of the Russian Zarya and the U.S. Unity.

11, was reached when the first two modules of the ISS, the Russian *Zarya* and the American *Unity*, were mated and the veteran Russian Sergei Krikalev and American Robert Cabana, arriving in December 1998 via STS 88 *Endeavour*, were the first to visit the new station, which in the next 10 years was built incrementally with additional major contributions from Canada, Japan and the European Space Agency.

As well as being crewed by official astronauts from many countries, the ISS has also provided the Russian

via *Soyuz TM6*. He spent 240 days in space on his first spell, establishing the safety of properly trained crew on long-stay flights which are now routine on the International Space Station (ISS). Poliakov made a further long-stay flight, this time 438 days, when he was launched on his second mission to *Mir* in January 1994.

The second-generation Soviet space station *Mir* was to have been replaced by *Mir-2*, but with both NASA and the Soviet equivalent Roskosmos running out of money, the idea of a joint enterprise was born. As a result, the space shuttle *STS-63 Discovery*, in February 1995, visited *Mir* carrying a Soviet cosmonaut, the first of the former rival corps to fly on a shuttle, in Milestone number 10. The purpose of a series of shuttle visits to the Soviet space station was to prepare for full cooperation on the planned ISS.

But a much more important point, as Milestone

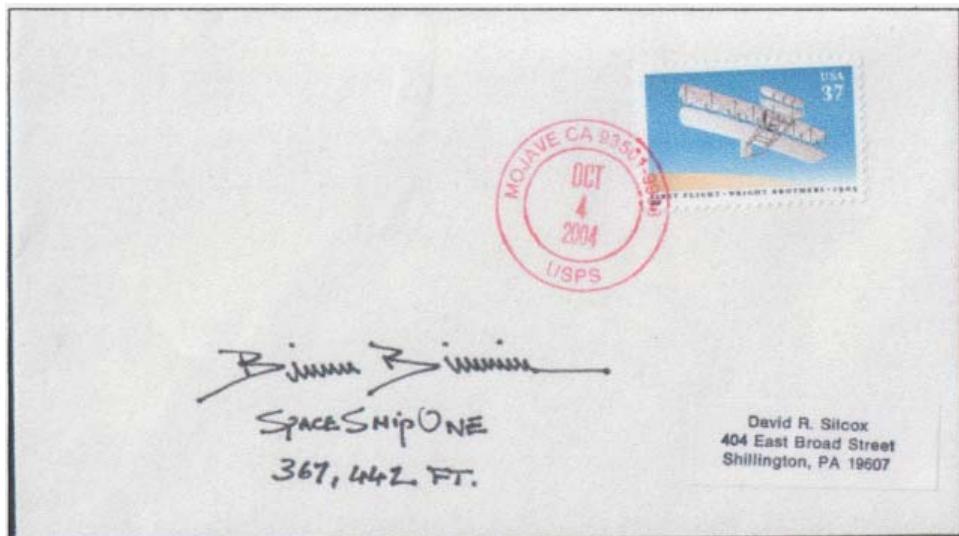


Left: Kazakhstan 2002, shows American space tourist Dennis Tito at left of group.

space agency with finances of around £15M a time by hosting very rich (and fit) guest astronauts for one-week stays in those parts of the ISS under their aegis. The first of these was American businessman Dennis Tito who, as the 403rd person to orbit, flew to it on *Soyuz TM32* in April 2001. Since his flight (Milestone 12), six further "space participants," including American entrepreneur and scientist Professor Greg Olsen who has done it twice, have indulged in this most expensive of adventure holidays!

A new independent player arrived on the scene in October 2003, when Yan Liwei of China, the 431st person to orbit, was launched by his own country in **Shenzhou 5 of China, took taikonaut Yan Liwei, into space, as pictured on this 2004 Chad issue.**





SpaceShipOne cover signed by Pilot Brian Binnie

Shen Zhou 5, as our Milestone 13. Since then, five other Chinese taikonauts have orbited in two additional flights and there are plans for Chinese twin flights and a small independent space station in the coming years.

A further indication of things to come was the winning of the \$10M X prize by *SpaceShipOne*, financed by the American Bert Rutan which was twice piloted to the edge of space (100 km/62 miles) in September and October 2004 (Milestone 14). The significance of this is the commencement of space flight independent of government agencies, which will be a blossoming aspect of spaceflight this decade.

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Published in Australia

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In October 2010 the ISS had been permanently manned for a decade. It was completed with the last two shuttle flights in the first half of 2011.

So the answer to the question posed at the beginning of this article is that the number of people who have been in space is around 520 as of 2011, but because some of these have done it more than once and some six or seven times, the number of instances of human spaceflight is easily 600+ (*), a disappointing figure, given the ambitious plans the Americans had for their shuttle fleet, which was originally intended to average 30 flights a year, but which managed typically five or six.

Before this decade is finished, the following events ought to have occurred and will have been seen as further major

milestones in manned spaceflight history:

- The first private enterprise flight to the edge of space carrying half a dozen celebrities probably on Virgin Galactic's *SpaceShipTwo*.
- The first space participant (tourist) flight around the Moon via a Soyuz craft.
- An independent manned launch by India.
- The American return to space via their new *Orion* capsule, originally intended for a new Moon Landing program.
- A landing on the Moon by Chinese taikonauts.

(*) – see www.spacefacts.de for full details. 

Jeff Dugdale is a retired deputy head and English teacher near Elgin, Scotland, and serves as editor of the Astro Space Society's journal, Orbit. He has authored numerous articles for Topical Time. His mailing address is Glebe Cottage, Speymouth, Moray, Scotland IV32 7LE. His email address is: jefforbited@aol.com.



Checklist Notes

ATA members are enjoying – and supporting – our new ATA checklist dATAbase that premiered last May. More than 1,000 checklists were purchased from the dATABse by the end of 2014. And more than two dozen members have now contributed suggestions, updates and corrections that will be incorporated by our next checklist coordinator. On March 1, Karen Cartier plans to “retire” from her work on the dATABse she created for ATA. We owe her 621,145 “thank yous.” That’s the number of stamp entries she has entered in the dATABse to date – the dATABse that is used to produce the ~1,200 checklists now available. A new Checklist Coordinator has volunteered and will be introduced in the next issue of *Topical Time*.

Checklist Contest. You might remember that the Triangles checklist was the most popular one requested from ATA in 2013. What do you think has been the most-requested list from the new dATABse in 2014? Take a look at the Topical or Alphabetic listings on the ATA website, or see the lists in the last three *Topical Time* issues. Make your best guess and send an email with “Checklist Contest” in the subject line to american topical@msn.com, or a postcard or letter to ATA Checklist Contest, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008 USA. One entry per ATA member; it must be received by March 1, 2015. The winner will receive a copy of the most popular list, plus a checklist of his or her choice up to 1,000 items or a credit of \$10 toward a longer list. 

Award Winners

The ATA provides awards for exhibitions of any size as a way to recognize exhibitors for their efforts and to encourage the creation of thematic exhibits to help spread the joy of topical collecting. Congratulations to the following recent winners of ATA awards. *Denotes ATA member.

First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

Robert Henak received an ATA 1st award at Milcopex for *Hitler Youth – the Generations of Lost Innocence*.

Janice Brooks received an ATA 1st award at Calytapex for *The Evolution of the World Wildlife Fund Logo*.

Donna Trathern received an ATA 2nd award at Calytapex for *The Lipiaan Horses of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna*.

Matthew Gaiser received the ATA Youth award at Calytapex for *The NHL All Stars Series*.

Paul Goodwin received the ATA 1st award at Thamespex for *Where's the Fire*.

Obie Hill received the ATA 2nd award at Thamespex for *Submarines on Stamps*.

Larry Fillion received the ATA One Frame Award at Thamespex for *First Day Covers of the South Vietnam Anti-Malaria Stamps*.

William Weber received the ATA Novice Award at Thamespex for *Development of Urban Mass Transit*.

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. The awards can be obtained by contacting the Awards Chair, Dalene Thomas by email at dalene1@champmail.com or by mail at 8612 W Warren Ln, Lakewood CO 80227. 

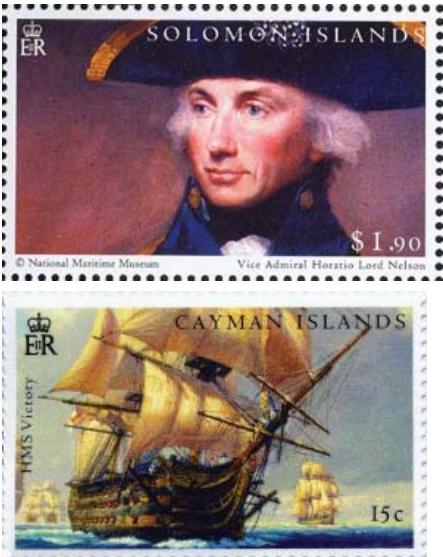
Dalene Thomas is a past president of ATA and president of the Lighthouse Stamp Society. She may be contacted at dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org or 8612 W Warren Ln, Lakewood CO 80227.

A Collection That Needs Wide-ranging Study — Admiral Nelson

By Fraser McKee

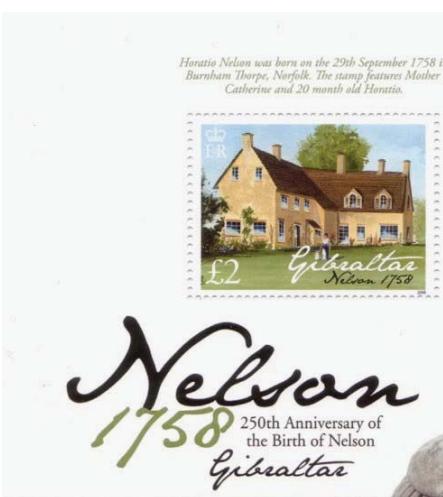
Until a few years ago my very general topic for collecting, which, in fact, I

didn't really work at, was "Maritime" stamps. Anything maritime – ships, explorers, sea battles, fish, sea birds, shells, canoes, water sports and so forth. Then I appreciated this wasn't going anywhere; I'd never approach a "collection." So, although I retained the five Gibbons albums I'd been using, I started only keeping an eye open for six "specialties."



Two of the many different stamps released to mark the bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar, featuring a portrait of Nelson (top) and the HMS Victory (above).

Two were easy – large websites were available, other collectors, topics listed at shows and such. These include lighthouses and submarines; lighthouses, because I had quite a few stamps already. There's a wonderful German site (www.leuchtturm-welt.net/HTML/LTPHILA/PHILA.HTM), as well as an American site (that seems closed as I write this) and lots of collectors.



An impressive Trafalgar battle scene is shown on this 2005 issue from Montserrat.

I included submarines because I'd served in a couple. Another one was personal: places in Europe and the United States

Despite the mature Nelson who appears in the selvage of this souvenir sheet, the stamp itself shows him as a 20-month-old child, with his mother.



An impressive and attractive sheetlet released by Great Britain for the bicentennial.

where my late wife and I had stayed, visited or had a meal. A fourth requires careful searching and background knowledge; naval (only) aircraft, any nation or

The label attached to the British stamp below features a life mask of Nelson, made in 1800, five years before the Battle of Trafalgar. The design of the Montserrat stamp at right appears to have based Nelson's facial features on the life mask.



time. Lots of aircraft topical boxes are available at shows, you just have to know what you're looking for.

But the specialty I get the most fun from and, yet, is a

topic unto itself with no support (and requires much background research) is on Lord Nelson, the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the three opponents – Britain's Royal Navy, France and Spain. It helps that I have a large naval library that contains books on Nelson and Trafalgar, I already knew the subject reasonably well and, when looking through lists,



This Lesotho sheetlet shows the HMS Victory, Nelson, the battle and the fatal wounding of Nelson.



Shown above is a complete set of imperforate progressive color proofs for the St. Lucia Leaders of the World issue depicting the locomotive Admiral Nelson, showing how the colors were laid down during production. At left is an enlarged imperforate final proof of the issue.

a name would often trigger at least a possibility: "Isn't he one of the French ship captains? For 10¢ I'll take it and check." To even begin you need the names of the 72 ships involved, plus their captains, and the six Admirals.

And it isn't helped by the fact that some of the ships' names appear in both fleets: *Neptune*, in the British and the French fleets, and *Neptuno* in the Spanish. And, French names also appear in the British fleet - *Belleisle* and *Tonnant* for instance, for they'd formerly been captured – and for the same reason *Swiftsure* is in the French battle line. For Americans, a copy of Alfred

Thayer Mahan's several books on Nelson and his times would be a good start.

I've expanded this topic to include references to the battle, Nelson's naval associates, his wife, Frances Nisbet, and his better-known girlfriend, Emma Lady Hamilton. Also, any stamp directly picturing Nelson's earlier history, including his youth, ships he served on and commanded, the Battle of the Nile, his funeral, statues to him and even a locomotive of the 1930s, the *Lord Nelson*. There's even a ship named the



A number of different countries, such as Jamaica, released stamp issues for the bicentennial that were very similar, if not identical to each other.



Nelson's wife, Frances Nisbet, is shown on this issue from Gibraltar.

Lady Nelson. I try not to expand too far into these other, vaguer, potential connections!

My interest was much helped by the year 2005 being the 200th anniversary of the battle. About 44 countries released commemorative stamps – roughly 260 of them, and from such great seafaring nations as Lesotho and Mali! Here the problem is with dealers rarely carrying such recent issues, although they are to be found. Interestingly, there were few stamps issued for the battle's 100th anniversary in 1905. I have not tried to locate costly misprints or errors, or even – in most cases – different color varieties of the same stamp. The costs are modest and, as the saying goes, "It keeps me out of the pool halls!" So far it runs to about 262 stamps, quite a few on sheets, small and large. These topics make for interesting visits to shows and club sales, and a chance to sit sifting through boxes and sales books. ☐

Fraser McKee lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, spent 32 years in Canada's Naval Reserves, and is both a member of the ATA and of the Watercraft Philately Study Unit. He can be reached at fmmck22@rogers.com.

News Nuggets

Chinese Poetry Masters

Wen Hsiao

Poetry occupies an important role in Chinese literature. Some famous poets are well known to the public, and their poems are easy for everyone to recite.



Republic of China Scott 1515, Qu Yuan.

poetic world, was said to be able to compose at an astounding speed, without correction. His works have a catchy sound with simple and repetitious rhymes and are known by almost every Chinese. Following is a brief excerpt from *The River Journey from White King City*: “The screams of monkeys on either bank, Had scarcely ceased echoing in my ear. When my skiff had left behind it, Ten thousand ranges of hills.” From *An Exhortation*: “Do you not see the waters of the Yellow River, Come flowing from the sky? The swift stream pours into the sea and returns nevermore. Do you not

Poetry developed to its pinnacle during the Tang Dynasty. This article introduces four famous poets, three of them from the Tang Dynasty.

Qu Yuan (340 BC - 278 BC, Republic of China Scott 1515), was a Chinese poet and minister to the King from the southern Chu during the Warring States Period. His works are mostly found in an anthology of poetry known as *Chu Ci*. Li Sao is a representative work of the *Chu Ci* (Republic of China Scott 2686). His death is traditionally commemorated by the Dragon Boat Festival (Republic of China Scott 1483).

Li Bai (701-762, Republic of China Scott 1516), a renowned poet in the Chinese

“see high on yonder tower, A white-haired one sorrowing before his bright mirror? In the morning those locks were like black silk, In the evening they are all snow. Let us, while we may, taste the old delights. And leave not the gold cask of wine, To stand alone in the moonlight! Gods have bestowed our genius on us, They will also find its use some day. Be not loath, therefore, to spend, Even a thousand gold pieces! Your money will come back.” And, from *Night Thoughts*: “Lifting my head, I gaze on the moon, dropping my head, I think of home.”



Republic of China Scott 1483, Dragon Boat Festival.



Republic of China Scott 1516, Li Bai.

Tu Fu (712–770, Republic of China Scott 1517, People's Republic of China Scott 610 & 611) is a prominent Chinese poet of the Tang Dynasty. In 759 Tu Fu moved to Chengdu, built a thatched hut near the Flower Rinsing Creek (PRC Scott 610) and lived there for



People's Republic China Scott 610 (top), 611 (above)
Tu Fu, 1,250th anniversary of his birth.

secretly in the quiet midnight world, That we wished to fly in heaven, two birds with the wings of one, And to grow together on the earth, two branches of one tree. Earth endures, Heaven endures; Some time both shall end, While this unending sorrow goes on and on for ever." From *The Song of a Guitar*: "We are both unhappy – to the sky's end. We meet, we understand. What does acquaintance matter?" □

Republic of China Scott 1518, Bai Juyi, poet of the Tang Dynasty.

four years. The "thatched hut" period was the peak of Tu Fu's creativity. He wrote 240 poems. He left some poems that are popular to Chinese, such as, *Thousands of knowledge accumulation breeds a godlike mind*. Here's a brief excerpt from *Remembering My Brothers on a Moonlight Night*: "How much brighter the moonlight is at home!"

Bai Juyi (772–846, Republic of China Scott 1518) is another prominent Chinese poet of the Tang Dynasty. Some of his poetry and quotes have become representative of Tang poetry, well-known by Chinese, such as, "Prairie fire burn not destroy, Spring wind blow again life." Here's a brief excerpt from *A Song of Unending Sorrow*:

"We told each other



Republic of China Scott 1517, Tu Fu.



The poet Tu Fu appears on this Sept 9, 2009 pictorial cancel.



Wen Hsiao collects stamps related to composers and opera. His mail address: No. 27, Lane 218, Section 1, Fu-Nung St., Tainan, 701, Taiwan, ROC. His email address is: wen0614n@yahoo.com.tw.

New O Years

Barry Floyd

The Stue and thus to enhance their own collections. ■

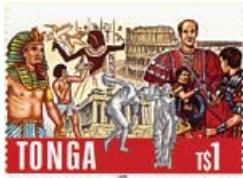
Units in Action

Jeffrey Hayward, ATA Study Unit Coordinator (stamps@jeffhayward.com)

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

The main article in the October



2014 *Old World Archaeologist* covers three major sites in "Old City Jerusalem." These three sites are the Church

of the Holy Sepulchre, the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall. Nineteen new issues are illustrated in color and most have short write ups about the new issue's subject in the New Digs section.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$23 elsewhere. Contact Caroline Scannell, 14 Dawn Dr, Smithtown NY 11787-1761.

Email: editor@owasu.org

Website: www.owasu.org

Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)

ArPA Quarterly

Igor Grigorian gives a short history of incense and how it evolved into "Armenian Scented Paper" in the September 2014 *ArPA Quarterly*



Journal. Khunk was incense used in Armenia made from the Elemi gum tree to remove odors from temples and also was used as a disinfectant by the medical profession. August Ponsot saw the use of this and styrax while visiting Ottoman homes and was impressed by its ability to remove odors. After returning to France he discovered a way to make the fragrance last longer and used blotting paper as the medium to help deliver the scent.

Dues are \$35 in the United States, \$45 elsewhere. Contact Igor Grigorian, 526 Glenwood Rd, Glendale CA 91202-1592.

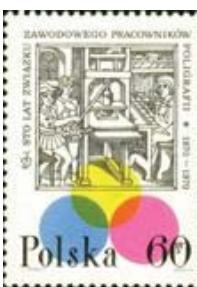
Email: igorgrig@pacbell.net

Website: www.armenianphilatelic.org

Books and Printing (Graphics Philately Association)

Philateli-Graphics

Nineteen new issues are illustrated



in color, accompanied by descriptions of their relation to graphics philately in *Philateli-Graphics* October 2014. Czechoslovakia engraver Martin Cinovsky and the stamp issues engraved by him also appear in this issue.

Dues are \$15 in North America (Patron \$25) and \$25 elsewhere (Patron \$35). Contact Larry Rosenblum, GPA Secretary/Treasurer; 1030 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale CA 94087-3759.

Email: lr@gbstamps.com

Website: www.graphics-stamps.org

Canadiana Study Unit

The Canadian Connection

John Peebles shows 12 "United

States Souvenir Cards with Canadian Tie-ins" in the December 2014 *The Canadian Connection*. One of the souvenir cards was issued for the International Youth Exhibition,



Canada 92, and has Canada Scott No.15 and U.S. Scott No. 116 printed on the card.

Sadly I must report that the Candiana Study Unit has decided to disband at the end of 2014. The study unit did not receive volunteers for leadership positions including that of a new editor.

Cats on Stamps Study Unit

Cat Mews

Hello Kitty celebrates her 40th



anniversary this year, and Marci Jarvis provides the artist's inspiration for the cat design.

Hello Kitty has appeared on dozens of stamps and the COSSU is currently putting together a checklist of all Hello Kitty stamp issues. More than 20 new cat stamps appear in the What's Mew new issues section of the winter 2014 *Cat Mews*.

Dues are \$14 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Mary Ann Brown, 3006 Wade Rd, Durham NC 27705-5627.

Email: mabrown@nc.rr.com

Website: www.catsonstamps.org

Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Chesstamp Review

Norway issued its first chess stamps to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Norwegian Chess Federation in August of 2014. The study unit's latest auction was also in the July-September 2014 issue of the *Chesstamp Review*.

Dues are \$17 in North America,



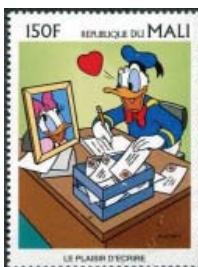
and \$24 elsewhere. Contact James E. McDevitt, 3561 Country Ct N, Mobile AL 36619-5335.

Email: cwouscg@aol.com
Website: www.chessonstamps.org

Disneyana on Stamps Society

Disnemation

Disnemation No. 68 celebrates the



35th anniversary of the issuance of Disney stamps by six postal administrations to commemorate the International Year of the Child in 1979. "Disney Films on Stamps" continues with films from 1949. One of the films, *The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad*, was the last compilation movie made by Disney, who was in need of fast revenue.

Membership is free. Members receive *Disnemation* online six times a year; site access is password controlled.

Email: disnemation@yahoo.ca

Web: www.disnemation.8m.com/home.htm

Europa Study Unit

Europa News

Part two of "EuroAfrique" continues



in the Sept.-Oct. 2014 *Europa News*, with illustration of stamps and covers from the second period (1964-70) and omnibus

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stamp issues that were released during that period.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Tonny Van Loij, 3002 S Xanthia St, Denver CO 80231-4237.

Email: tvanloij@gmail.com

Website: www.europastudyunit.org

Fire Service in Philately

Fire Stamp News

Ed Flory writes about "Foreign



Made Fire Apparatus on Stamps" in the October 2014 issue of *Fire Stamp News*. One of the companies shown, Charmichael

of the United

Kingdom, builds fire vehicles on chassis made by Dodge, Ford, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo. Several of Charmichael's fire vehicles have appeared on stamps issued by Alderney, the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar.

Dues are \$15 in the United States. Contact Ed Flory, 149 Sopher St, East Stroudsburg PA 18301-2209.

Email: etflory@ptd.net

Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Study Unit

Philagems International

In the October-December



2014 *Philagems International*, Joseph Charrach explores the cultural significance of jewelry and its many uses for different cultures in "The Beauty of Jewelry."

Dues are \$15 in North America and \$20 elsewhere. Contact Gilberte Proteau, 138 Rue Lafontaine, Beloeil, Quebec, J3G 2G7, Canada.

Email: gilberte.ferland@sympatico.ca

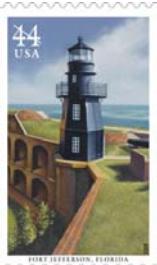
or, Josef Charrach, POBox 14, Metar, 85025, Israel.

Email: jcharrach@gmail.com

Lighthouse Stamp Society

The Philatelic Beacon

Joao Tiago Cavalcante Lima



discusses the first lighthouses of the Americas in Brazil in the November – December 2014 issue of *The Philatelic Beacon*. After the sinking of the Portuguese galleon *Sacramento* in May 1688, the Forte de

Santo Antonio da Barra was rebuilt and a lighthouse was added.

Dues are \$12 in the United States, \$15 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact

Dalene Thomas, 8612 W Warren Ln, Lakewood CO 80227-2352.

Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org
Web: www.lighthousestampsociety.org

Medical Subjects Unit

Scalpel & Tongue

Jayant Pai-Dhungat, in



"Tuberculosis and Prominent People: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," writes about the link between the disease and Doyle. Prior to becoming a famous detective writer, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle studied medicine and began his own practice after graduating Edinburgh University in 1881. Doyle's first wife, Louise Hawkins, contracted tuberculosis in 1890. While Doyle was a well-known author, he also continued to practice

medicine. Doyle spoke out against the use of tuberculin therapy in treating tuberculosis although he did feel it would be useful in the diagnosis of the disease.

Dues are \$15 in the United States and \$18 elsewhere. Contact Frederick C. Skvara, PO Box 6228, Bridgewater NJ 08807-6228.

Email: fcskvara@optonline.net

Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group)

Der Musikus

Althea Gibson was not just a famous tennis player but was also a singer and musician. Gibson played the saxophone, appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and also gave concert performances. In addition to 12 pages of music-related new issues on the September 2014 *Der Musikus*, Motivgruppe Musik has also issued a 64-page Supplement of 2013 Music Postmarks.



Dues are €25 (\$12.50 for collectors 25 years old or younger); €5 additional for air mail delivery of *Der Musikus*. Contact Peter Lang, Rotkamp 14, 13053 Berlin, Germany.

Email: motivgruppe.musik@gmx.de
Website: www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html

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Napoléonic Age Philatelists

Campaign

On May 26, 1803, the town of

L'Aigle in Normandy, France, experienced a meteor shower.

Napoleon dispatched French astronomer and physicist Jean-Baptist Biot to investigate reports



from people that there were stones that fell from the sky and that some were hit by fragments of these stones. Biot concluded that these stones were of extraterrestrial origin, which at the time, was a shock to the scientific community. France used a pictorial cancellation in 2003 to commemorate the bicentennial of this meteorite shower.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$20 elsewhere. Contact Ken Berry, 7513 Clayton Dr, Oklahoma City OK 73132-5636

Email: krb2@earthlink.net

or, Donald W. Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907-0576.

Email: donsmith32@atlanticbb.net

Website: www.nap-stamps.org

Railroad Unit, Casey Jones

The Dispatcher

Part one of "A Photographer's Guide



to Japanese Steam Engines and their Stamps" is the feature article in *The Dispatcher* December 2014. This article shows pictures taken by the author of the then-working Japanese steam engines and related stamp issues.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$17 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere. Junior (21 years old or younger, United States only) memberships are \$10. Contact Roy W.



Menninger, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, CJRRU-ATA, PO Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511.

Email: roymenn@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.uqp.de/cjr

Religion on Stamps, Collectors of (COROS)

The COROS Chronicle

"Altarpiece of the Adoration of the



Mystic Lamb – The Ghent Altarpiece" and the history of this Flemish polyptych 12-panel altar appears in the August 2014 issue of *The COROS Chronicle*. Painted by the Van Eyck

brothers, this is the first known use of oil paints on such a large scale. The panels were dismantled and hidden over time to try to protect them, although some of the panels were stolen and sold over time. One panel is still missing.

In addition to new issues there is also an article for "1150th Anniversary of the Evangelization of Great Moravia by Saints Cyril & Methodius."

Dues are \$22 in the United States, \$27 in Canada and Mexico and \$32 elsewhere. Contact James F. Bailey, PO Box 937, Brownwood TX 76804-0937.
Email: corosec@wildblue.net
Website: www.coros-society.org

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Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

ROS Bulletin

Rotary on Stamps member Ivan



Solomon Islands

Kaldor has been inducted into the Rotary on Stamps Hall of Fame for his service to philately over the past 30 years. In addition to several administrative

announcements, there are also several new issues and discoveries of rotary-themed stamps in the October 2014 *ROS Bulletin*.

Dues are \$20. Contact Gerald FitzSimmons, 105 Calle Ricardo, Victoria TX 77904-1203.

Email: gfitz@suddenlink.net
Website: www.rotaryonstamps.org

Scouts on Stamps Society International

SOSSI Journal

Lawrence Clay discusses some of



his scout-related FDCs from 23 different countries in the November-December 2014 *SOSSI Journal*. One cover for the Boston Sea

Scouts that had a July 1941 navy cancel was found at a recent show. The cover was created by a SOSSI member before SOSSI had been founded.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, Canada and Mexico, \$18 elsewhere.

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

To promote the study of philatelic material pertaining to *Spheniscidae* (penguins); quarterly *The Rookery Report*; US \$15, elsewhere \$20, electronic \$10.

Website: <http://http.penguinstamps.org>



Sandra L. Lingler

239 Whitman Blvd
Elyria OH 44035-1750

Email: possumember@yahoo.com

Contact Lawrence E. Clay, PO Box 6228, Kennewick WA 99336-6228.
Email: lclay3731@charter.net
Website: www.sossi.org

Wine on Stamps Study Unit

Enophilatelica

In *Enophilatelica* November 2014, Bruce L. Johnson and David Wolfersberger report 15 new issues and also 17 new additions to the wine on stamps checklist. One of the newly added sets of stamps to the checklist



was issued as part of the Europa 2005 gastronomy theme. The set was issued by Transnistria which is also known as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic. The Wine on Stamps Study Unit is seeking an editor, as Bruce L. Johnson has decided to step down from the position. Thanks to Bruce for reviving the journal in 2006 and continuing on as editor. Please consider volunteering for this position.

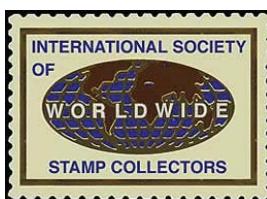
Dues are \$17 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$14 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Paul J. Parham, 1768 Aurora Avenue N, #303, Seattle WA 98109-2758.

Email: pauljparham@msn.com
Website: www.wine-on-stamps.org

Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of

The Circuit

The "Dead Country" series



continues with Afars and Issas in the November-December 2014 issue of *The Circuit*.

Now known as Djibouti, Afars and Issas was a French territory from 1967-77. Also in this issue was the ISWSC's latest mail-bid auction with 355 lots available.

Dues are \$15 worldwide. Contact Joanne Berkowitz, Executive Director, PO Box 19006, Sacramento CA 95819-0006.

Email: joannebe@pacbell.net
Website: www.iswsc.org

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Chapter Chatter

By James Hogbin

[Editor's Note: I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Jim Hogbin – a life member of ATA since 1963 – as our new Chapter Coordinator of the ATA. This issue marks the debut of his column.]

Welcome to Chapter Chatter! I would encourage all ATA chapters to add me to their mailing lists. Please send me your ATA publications so we can publicize your efforts here. Please keep in mind we can only mention topical-related articles, not chapter-related activities or other philatelic subjects. If you're fortunate to live near an ATA chapter, request more info about the next meeting and plan to attend. I live in a rural area of Arkansas, so no ATA chapter is nearby. One of my fondest memories is attending the old Potomac Chapter in Washington, D.C. **Join a chapter!**

Ann Arbor Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 98) in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Newsletter edited by Harry Winter, PO Box 2012, Ann Arbor MI 48106.

Email: harwin@umich.edu; **Website:** www.annarborstampclub.org.

Newsletter topics: chapter news, AASC, (Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2014).

ATA Chapter 5 in Wisconsin.

Newsletter edited by Robert Mather. **Email:** rmulatt@att.net

Newsletter topics: Story Of Christmas Seals, Francis Scott Key (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Battle Creek Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 117) in Battle Creek, Mich.

Newsletter: *BCSC News*, edited by Steve Sherman, 200 Michigan Ave W, Battle Creek MI 49017-3607. **Email:** stevenlsberman@eaton.com.

Newsletter topics: Bowling On Stamps, Clouds, Lighthouse Keepers (Sept.-Oct. 2014).

Greater Mound City Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 115) in St Louis, Mo.

Newsletter: *Perf-Dispatch*, edited by Alan Barasch, PO Box 411571, St Louis MO 63141. **Email:** alan@mophil.org; **Website:** www.greatermoundcity.org.

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept. and Nov. 2014).

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 127) in Mercerville, N.J.

Newsletter, *The Hamilton Hinge*, edited by Tony Zingale, PO Box 3443, Mercerville NJ 08619. **Email:** hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org; **Website:** www.hamiltonphilatelic.org.

[A warm welcome to our newest chapter. Jack André Denys was the club's November guest speaker, presenting the new ATA Chapter certificate to the club.]

Newsletter topics: chapter news, What is Phillumeny? (Nov. 2014).

*Please use stamps on mail whenever possible...
...We're all collectors!*

Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 4) in Johnstown, Pa.

Newsletter edited by Don Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907.

Email: donsmith32@atlanticbb.net

Newsletter topics: Philatelic Chatter, chapter news, Graf Zeppelins (Sept.-Oct., Nov.-Dec. 2014).

Kalamazoo Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 116) in Battle Creek, Mich.

Newsletter edited by Steve Sherman, 200 Michigan Ave W, Battle Creek MI 49017-3607. **Email:** stevenlsherman@eaton.com

Newsletter topics: chapter news (July-Sept. 2014).

Knoxville Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 121) in Knoxville, Tenn.

Newsletter, *Knoxville Philatelic Society News*, edited by Tom Broadhead, PO Box 50422, Knoxville TN 37950-0422.

Email: jbpettway@comcast.net; **Website:** www.knoxstamps.com.

Newsletter topics: Beauty From Behind Bars: World Of Prison Cachet Design, Farmers Markets Celebrated on US Postage Stamps, chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 90) in Plano, Texas.

Newsletter, *Stamping Around*, edited by Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano TX

75094-0427. **Email:** peter@pcelias.com; **Website:** www.mid-citiesstampclub.com.

Newsletter topics: Cachets and Postmarks, chapter news (Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2014).

Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc. (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Wisconsin.

Newsletter, *Milwaukee Philatelist*, edited by Carol Schutta, 6814 Southview Cir, West Bend WI 53090-9506. **Email:** barryncarolschutta@gmail.com.

Newsletter topics: Siege Of Petersburg, Farmers Markets, chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Motor City Stamp & Cover Club (ATA Chapter No. 95) in Detroit, Mich.

Newsletter, *On Cover*, edited by Bob Quintero. **Email:** gover@comcast.net.

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2014).

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (ATA Chapter No. 118) in Lancaster, Pa.

Newsletter edited by Paul Petersen. **Email:** pepetersen@comcast.net.

Newsletter topics: Stamps Of The Spanish Civil War, Sub Topical Collecting, Great Britain Inland Airmail: 1935-1937, Panama Canal, Collecting Event Covers (Sept., Oct., and Nov. 2014).

Rochester Philatelic Association (ATA Chapter No. 84) in Rochester, N.Y.

Newsletter, *Hinges & Tongs*, edited by Fred Haynes.

Email: fredmhaynes55@gmail.com; **Website:** www.rpastamps.org.

Newsletter topics: Maps On Stamps-Coincidence?, chapter news (Aug.-Oct. 2014 and Nov.-Jan. 2015).

St. Petersburg Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 119) in Florida.

Newsletter edited by Ray Murphy, PO Box 546, St Petersburg FL 33731-0546.

Email: spstamps@gmail.com.

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Salem Stamp Society (ATA Chapter No. 114) in Oregon.

Newsletter, *Willamette Stamp & Tongs*, edited by Lucien Klein, PO Box 202, Salem OR 97308-0202.

Email: frans@geerlingsdesign.com; **Website:** www.salemstampsociety.org.

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Stamp Collectors Club Of Toledo (ATA Chapter No. 66) in Ohio.

Newsletter, *Frogtown Philatelist*, edited by John Mann, PO Box 2, Maumee OH 43537-0002.

Email: john6125@earthlink.net; **Website:** www.toledostampclub.org

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Topical Philatelists in Colorado (ATA Chapter No. 78) in Colorado.

Newsletter, *Topic*, edited by Dalene Thomas, 2038 S Pontiac Way, Denver CO 80224-2412. **Email:** darlene@lighthousestampsociety.org.

Newsletter topics: Jules Verne, Topics Collected By Members, chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122) in Florida.

Newsletter edited by Dawn Hamman, 334 Rio Terra, Venice FL 34285-2951.

Email: venicestampclub@gmail.com

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Nov. 2014).

West Surburban Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 44) in Plymouth, Mich.

Newsletter, *Mayflower Minutes*, edited by Sandy Strzalkowski, PO Box 700049, Plymouth MI 48170-0941.

Email: mywssc@msn.com; **Website:** www.thewssc.com.

Newsletter topics: chapter news (Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2014).

Westfield Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 113) in New Jersey.

Newsletter, *The Westfield Philatelist*, edited by Frederick C. Skvara, PO Box 6228, Bridgewater NJ 08807-6228. **Email:** fcskvara@optonline.net.

Newsletter topics: Philately & Mail Order Fraud; Nojex 2014 Show Cover with Nobel Prize Winning Scientists from Bell Labs; John McCrae, Soldier, Physician, Poet (Sept.-Nov. 2014).

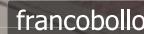

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Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (ATA Chapter No. 107) in Wisconsin.

Newsletter, *Across The Fence Post*, edited by Aimee Devine, 2111 E Luther Rd, Janesville WI 53545-2042.

Email: spanishmoss72@sbcglobal.net; **Website:** www.wfscstamps.org.

Newsletter topics: Milwaukee City Hall Postcard Collection, chapter news (Sept. and Oct. 2014).

Australia

Thematics Queensland (ATA Chapter No. 86) in Wynnum West, Queensland.

Newsletter, *Thematically Speaking*, edited by John Crowsley, PO Box 9471, Wynnum Plaza PO, Wynnum West, Queensland 4178, Australia.

Email: jcrowsley@iprimus.com.au; **Website:** www.qpc.asn.au.

Newsletter topics: The Weather Part 2; PHQ Cards Of Great Britain; Inappropriate Items For Exhibit, Volcanoes And Their Effect On Local People (Nov. 2014).

Canada

Calgary Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 91) in Calgary, Alberta.

Newsletter, *Calgary Philatelist*, edited by Dale Speirs, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 216 Canada

Website: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Newsletter topics: Current Postmarks of Calgary, chapter news (Dec. 2014).

Greater Toronto Philatelic Alliance (ATA Chapter No. 109) in Ontario.

Newsletter, *PhilaJournal*, edited by Susan Butler. **Email:** sbutler@ilap.com.

Newsletter topics: Scouts On Stamps, Coveted Covers, Cinderella Philately, Postcard From Hell, chapter news (Fall 2014).

Great Britain

British Thematic Association (ATA Chapter No. 100) in England.

Newsletter, *Themescene*, edited by Wendy Buckle, 87 Victoria Rd, Bournemouth, BH1 4RS, England. **Email:** richard.wheeler@telepuppets.com;

Website: www.brit-thematic-assoc.com.

Newsletter topics: The Prodigality Of Species, Symbols Of Peace, ATA Checklists, World War 1 Centennial Approaching, chapter news (Sept. 2014).

South Africa

Thematics Southern Africa (ATA Chapter No. 103)

Newsletter, *ThemNews*, edited by Wobbe Vegter. **Email:** wvegter@xsinet.co.za; **Website:** www.thematics.co.za.

Newsletter topics: Lepidopterous Philately, Raphael-The Italian Painter Through Philately, chapter news (Aug. 2014). 

Jim Hogbin, ATA Life Member since 1963, is retired from the USPS and can be emailed at jimbogbin@gmail.com, Chapter Newsletters should be posted or emailed to: Jim Hogbin, 8 Aqua Dr, Cherokee Village AR 72529-1815.



YOUTH IN TOPICS

Mary Ann Bowman

Happy New Year! The cold winter weather has settled in for a few months, and there are many areas of the country hoping that this winter will not be as severe and cold as last year. To get your mind off these long, cold days, use those extra hours of darkness and night to work on your stamps.

Tapping Home/Virtual School Students for Stamp Shows

In a previous issue, I bemoaned the fact that so few youth attend stamp shows



Young person viewing Iditerod exhibit at Milcoplex.

and about the difficulty of getting school classes to attend. It was with this thought in mind that I decided to try something different for Milcoplex, Wisconsin's largest stamp show.

Several thoughts were running through my head. Having been a teacher by profession, I was well aware of the possible obstacles faced. So my thoughts turned to other groups of youth that might not be faced with the same

problems and might have more flexibility. I felt that one such group might be those who are home-schooled.

Then my thoughts turned to making sure that the invited home-school groups had a compelling reason to attend. Sorry to say, but the image of stamp collecting, although recognized as being educational, is not usually associated as something that is going to "turn kids on" in and of itself. I needed a "hook."

It also dawned on me that home-school groups, unlike students in the public schools, miss out on the assemblies and other educational programming that are offered and brought into the schools. So, why not offer an assembly-type program that could accommodate youth of varying ages? Bring the kids to the assembly!

Milcoplex was having several visiting societies in 2014 and I wanted to create a theme related to one of the groups. I finally settled on the American Society of Polar Philatelists as the focus group. There seemed to be many things one could do using Polar Regions as a theme, although admittedly finding give-away common stamps

related to Polar Regions is not that easy.

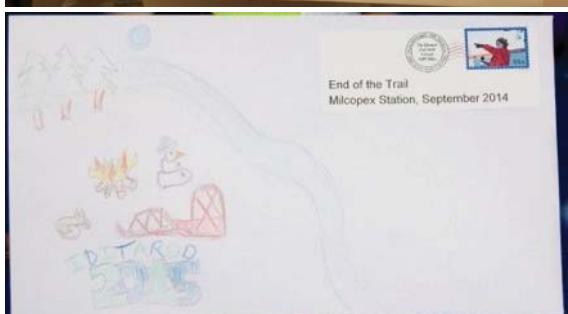
I was also fortunate enough to know a local couple, Sharon and Al Durtka, who volunteer their time at the Iditarod each year. I asked if they would be willing to put on a couple of programs on Friday to home-school groups. What resulted was beyond my wildest dreams! They not only offered to give the program on Friday but also offered to give it several times each day of the show. Although Friday was specifically geared to youth, both the young and young at heart enjoyed the programming.

So the Iditarod program became my “hook,” my reason for contacting the home-school groups and asking them to consider coming to the presentation. While they were there, they would also have the opportunity to learn about stamps and stamp collecting.

For those unfamiliar with the Iditarod, it has been called “the last great race.” Teams of sled dogs and their mushers compete on a course of approximately 1,000 miles across Alaska. The Iditarod is a salute to the past when sled dogs were the means to deliver mail and supplies from coastal towns to interior mining camps and communities.

The Durtkas’ presentation consisted of a PowerPoint program, displays and a “trail” game, with each participant creating and carrying his or her own cacheted envelope for cancellation. Emphasis was placed on learning and using the correct musher vocabulary with posters placed around the room to reinforce the concept. Other posters included charts to show the distance between stops, information on food and more.

The first activity for attendees was to create their own cachet. After watching a PowerPoint presentation, youth were taken onto the exhibit floor to view an exhibit of Iditarod cachets from



The creation of a Milcopen Iditerod cachet.

1974-2014, as inspiration.

A single page of paper was folded vertically to form an open-sided large envelope to carry the completed cachet design along “the trail” (a paper sled). One half showed a musher with his sled and dogs, and the other half was used as the Iditarod Trail Check-in Sheet for students to keep track of their progress along the trail, marking each stop they made.

The next project was creation of individual bibs.



Youth participating in the Milcopenx “Iditerod” event.

Mushers have sponsors and the bib-making was easily accomplished by asking a retail store for plastic bags. The bottom of the bag was cut open. The opening at the top became the area that the head went through and the handles were the shoulders. Each musher signed in to get their racing number. Number One is always reserved for the guest starter.

Around the room was the trail. This was created by setting chairs around the room connected by a clothesline rope. Along the way, there were 25 “stops.” These were paper signs that had information to read and, in some cases, challenges to complete. Depending upon the age of the child and time constraints, each musher had to complete a minimum of five required stops.

Following are examples of what a few of the trail stop signs said. There were additional activities designed to go with the stops but our room was too small.

Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip

The ceremonial start line is in downtown Anchorage; the trail runs down the middle of 4th Avenue on a lane of snow about 10 to 20 feet wide brought in by the city street department. The biggest problem here is the crowds, which can unnerve inexperienced dogs.

Safety - This is the home stretch. The lone warehouse-looking building ahead on the far side of the bridge is Safety Roadhouse, the last checkpoint on the trail before Nome.

Most drivers don't stop very long at Safety, just long enough to pick up their bibs for the last 22 miles to Front Street. The dogs would probably appreciate a snack. If you're not in a major hurry, you can step inside the roadhouse for a bowl of soup or a beverage (and to use the facilities). Note: If there is a storm in progress, you might consider waiting here for a while because you have almost no shelter between here and Nome.

The trail is completely exposed to the elements. There are no trees anywhere close to Nome. The road will be just above you on the embankment the rest of the way to Front Street. Finally you will swing sharply up the bank and find yourself at the east end of Front Street. The arch is at the far end of the street, half a mile away. You will usually have a police escort.

Nome - There may be enough snow to run down the middle of the street, otherwise you'll have to pick your way along the sidewalk or else just scrape up the asphalt as best you can. Finally, you'll pull into the fenced-in chute for the last couple of hundred feet. Stop your team when your leaders pass under the arch.

Amid congratulations from everyone, the checker will inventory your sled; the checker will collect your mail. Once the checker is done and the Checker Report is signed, you are off the Trail; you're no longer a rookie and you can tell tales from the trail to next year's crop of newbies.

Your team is a winner! You have completed the Iditarod Sled Dog Race!

After you finish, you get one last run with your team - one block from the Arch to the big dog lot at the west end of Front Street, where your dogs will be bedded down and cared for by the volunteer staff until you're ready to take them home.

Have your mail canceled at the Milcopen Post Office!

It should be noted that although I invited only home-school groups, the virtual education classes are another group to consider tapping for your shows.

If the Iditarod experience mentioned here is appealing to you, consider having your young collecting friends follow a musher during the next race. Races start on the first Saturday of March each year. Google Iditarod to learn more about the race, educational opportunities and how you can participate in the Trail Mail Project.

Wishing you the best that philately has to offer in 2015! ☺

MaryAnn Bowman is a youth activist, director of ATA Youth Activities, was named as the 2005 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist and currently serves on the Smithsonian's Council of Philatelists. Her mailing address is PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187 USA.

Brabantphil 2014, Exfil 2014, SPM Expo 2014

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Brabantphil 2014, Exfil 2014 and SPM Expo 2014. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed.

Legend: **LG** – large gold, **G** – gold, **LV** – large vermeil, **V** – vermeil, **LS** – large silver, **S** – silver. * denotes ATA member.

Brabantphil 2014

This national exhibition was held in Aarschot, Belgium, Oct. 3-5, 2014, in cooperation with ProPost (an association of the Belgian post responsible for the promotion of philately), the Royal Federation of Belgian Stamp Circles, the town of Aarschot, the Belgian Chamber of Stamp Dealers and other participating organizations. Most exhibitors are from Belgium.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Renaat Nuysts	<i>The White Cloud</i>	95
Guy Vanhaelewijn	<i>Twiga & Co.</i>	90
Francis Dochez	<i>A Heart for Europe</i>	88

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Peter Stobbelaar	<i>Talking about School</i>	88
Haï Webers	<i>Divided, Europe in the Twentieth Century</i>	88
Noël Pattyn	<i>Raptors – Elegant Hunters from the Air</i>	87
Paul Renversez	<i>The Republican Calendar</i>	86
Andrea Heirweg	<i>The Discovery of White Gold</i>	85
Guido Van Briel	<i>The Story of an Idea, in the Footsteps of Henri Dunant</i>	83
Roland Cauwels	<i>Electricity: Natural Phenomenon to Vital Energy</i>	81
Yves Pauwels	<i>The Devil's Herb: The History of Tobacco</i>	80
Louis Op 't Eynde	<i>Music and Society</i>	80
Roger Gaspercic	<i>The ABCs of Gastronomy</i>	80
*Roger Van Laere	<i>Atlantic Puffin: The Clown of the Ocean</i>	80
Alphonse Meurisse	<i>From Prehistory to History... So Many Years until the First Man</i>	78
Ida Van Rillaer	<i>The Fascinating Horse</i>	78
Niko Van Wassenhove	<i>The Life of the Feline Family</i>	78
Jozef De Bont	<i>World Football's Most Coveted Trophy</i>	78
José Gullentops	<i>Civil Aviation: How Does it Work?</i>	75
Louis Vervloet	<i>Our Four-legged Friend – the Dog</i>	72

One-frame Exhibits

Niko Van Wassenhove	<i>Flamingos</i>	83
Luc Van Roy	<i>Diamonds – from Crater to Exchange</i>	78
Jos Baeten	<i>Postal Censor Labels in Ireland during WWII</i>	76
Jean-Claude Guyaux	<i>1910-1911: When the flag "is on Fire"</i>	76

Open/Display Exhibits

Roland De Swaef	<i>After my Birth I received a Big Family, Afterwards used by whom and why? (about cars)</i>	95
Francis Kinard	<i>Germany: The Creation of a Great Country to the Collapse of the Mark</i>	93
Stephane Hecq	<i>You Cannot Imagine what Citroën has Done for You</i>	90
Ida Van Rillaer	<i>Under the Spell of the Horse</i>	90
Ida Van Rillaer	<i>Diligent Buzzers (about bees)</i>	88
Guido Van Briel	<i>Namo Buddhabaya: Glory to Buddha</i>	86
Robert Rom	<i>Europe and the Euro</i>	83
Dominique Dumont	<i>International sand Universal Exhibitions in Belgium between 1880 and 1920</i>	83
Jacques Leduc	<i>One Look, one Click</i>	82
Lut Lommelen	<i>Dessel (municipality in Belgium), Naturally Versatile</i>	81
José Gullentops	<i>Rotating Wheels and Revolving Blades</i>	80
Roger Joppart	<i>Beethoven, the Lone Rebel</i>	73

Exfil 125

This exhibition was held in Santiago, Chile, Oct. 20-24, 2014, under the auspices of FIAF (Interamerican Federation of Philately).

Multi-frame Exhibits

Antonio Liadó (Uruguay)	<i>The Hat – The Language of the Head</i>	G, 90
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Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares (Brazil)	<i>Lenin: the Man, the Myth and his Time</i>	LV, 85
Adilson Castelo Branco (Brazil)	<i>Origin of the Postage Stamp, World Acceptance and the Consequences of its Creation</i>	LS, 76
Jorge Mavila Masias (Bolivia)	<i>American and European Hegemony in World Soccer</i>	LS, 75
Vilmar Brito (Brazil)	<i>Rails of the Past, Railways of the Future</i>	S, 73
*Ricardo Boizard (Chile)	<i>Vehicular Traffic</i>	S, 73

One-frame Exhibits

Carlos Eduardo Canadell (Argentina)	<i>Other Humans — Neanderthals</i>	S, 76
Glauber Motta (Brazil)	<i>Desertification: The World on Alert</i>	S, 74
Enzo Bellini (Uruguay)	<i>A Unique Evolutionary Success: Turtles</i>	S, 74
Julio César Gerard (Uruguay)	<i>Pushing, Dragging and Floating</i>	S, 72
Cristián García V (Chile)	<i>Endurance</i>	S, 70

SPM Expo 2014

This international level exhibition was held in Saint Pierre and Michelon, October 20-24, 2014. The SPM Philatelic Society, in collaboration with DCSTEP (Directorate of Social Cohesion, Labor, Employment and Population), the township of St. Pierre and the local government organized the exhibition, which was recognized by the FIAF (Interamerican Federation of Philately).

Multi-frame Exhibits

Felix Albe (France)	<i>Sunday</i>	G, 91
George Constantourakis (Canada)	<i>Greco-Roman Sculpture: Historical Development</i>	V, 80
Conrad Klinkner (USA)	<i>Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, 1932</i>	LS, 78
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I wish to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for providing several translations of exhibit titles and for providing the results of Brabantfil 2014. ☺

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for more than 55 years and exhibiting for 30+ years. His display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, has won several vermeil, gold and "most popular exhibit" awards. His mailing address is PO Box 154, 86 Big Tub Road, Tobermory, Ontario N0H 2R0, Canada. His email address is lawrencecdavidson@gmail.com.

*Chances are good your topic has a checklist!
What do you collect?*

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Compiled by Dorothy E. Smith

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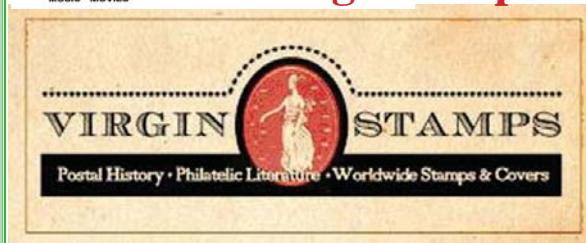
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New Members and Reinstatements

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57151	SUHADOLC, Peter	Mountaineering, Earthquakes, Sailing, Mountains
57163	TOMPKINS, Herta	
57147	TWOMBLY, Lauren, <i>ltwomblly@comcast.net</i>	Dogs, Cats, Disney, Wild Animals, Flowers
57154	WORKMAN, William (Bill), <i>billw47ie@hotmail.com</i>	Explorers, Maps
57146	YUCHT, Jerry, <i>ishmayer12@gmail.com</i>	Captain Cook, Explorers

Deceased Members

57090	APPLEGATE, Henry (NJ)
43417	CLARK, Dennis (VA)
1320	HORWITZ, Julius (IL)
47210	LICHTIN, J. Leon (OH)
39144	WALSH, Sharon (PA)

ATA Membership Recruiters 2014

The following ATA members have recruited a total of 84 new members during this year (January-December). Individual members have received \$5 in ATA Bucks credit for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.

ATA Dealer Members shown in red.

New Members			
Dawn Hamman (Fla.)	19	Ed Dimmick (Calif.)	1
Frederick Skvara (N.J.)	7	Keith Edholm (Wash.)	1
Allan Fisk (N.Y.)	5	Lucy Eyster (Penn.)	1
Robert Sazama (Fl.)	3	Roger Grider (Mo.)	1
Jean Stout (Miss.)	3	Mike Homel (Mich.)	1
Don Bailey-Francois (Conn.)	2	Robert E Juceam (N.Y.)	1
Stephen Chun (Ala.)	2	Frank Kos (Wis.)	1
Jack Congrove (Wash.)	2	Jack Ott (Md.)	1
Janice and David Erbach (Ky.)	2	Jim Pettway (Tenn.)	1
Jeff Hayward (N.Y.)	2	Patricia Prevey (Alberta, Canada)	1
Bruce Johnson (Calif.)	2	Caroline Scannell (N.Y.)	1
Robert Mather (Wis.)	2	Jack Swafford (Kan.)	1
Marion Rollings (N.J.)	2	Bill Vance (Tenn.)	1
Joe Sullivan (Md.)	2	Lynn Vernon (Ind.)	1
Barbara Asher (Ga.)	1	Mark Winnegrad (N.Y.)	1
Gertrude Bernstein (Fla.)	1	Wayne Youngblood (Mo.)	1
Charles Brown (Mo.)	1		
Louise Chouinard (Ga.)	1		
LeA Coe (Ga.)	1		
Tony Curiale (N.J.)	1		
Leonard de Groot (N.J.)	1		
Jack Denys (N.J.)	1		

Also:

Collectors of Religion on Stamps (COROS)	1
Hamilton Twp. Philatelic Society	3
Topical Philatelists in Colorado (TOPIC)	1

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at least one new member
this next year... This is a great time to start!
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(28/388)

WANTED: Features and articles that highlight the philatelic side of topicals and thematics. This includes archival, production and postal history aspects in particular. Wayne Youngblood, *wystamps@gmail.com*.

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

George B. Griffenhagen

Once again, due to lack of material, Publication Reviews will not appear in this issue. Please look for it in a future issue of *Topical Time*. ☐

Readers of Topical Time who know of other topical articles published in less

well-known periodicals are urged to send photocopies or tear sheets of the article to George Griffenhagen, 12226 Cathedral Dr, Woodbridge VA 22192-2232, or via email: gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com, for mention in future "Publication Reviews" columns.

George Griffenhagen was longtime ATA board member and former editor of Topical Time. You may reach him at the previously given address.

Editorial Content

For editorial content of *Topical Time*, write to Wayne L. Youngblood, editor. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ATA, its officers or staff. Neither the ATA nor its officers assume responsibility for individual dealings with or between members.

Letters to the editor, features and short pieces are always welcomed, as long as they are strongly related to topical and thematic stamp collecting and add to the knowledge base of the hobby.

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Membership Information

For ATA membership information, change of address, ATA publication orders, back issues of *Topical Time* or ATA handbooks, contact the ATA Office. All copies of the *2011-13 ATA Membership Directory* have been sold; the *2014-16 ATA Membership Directory* should be published later this year and available from the ATA Office.

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ATA website: www.americantopicalassn.org.

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(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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www.yvert-et-tellier.fr/

Canadian Stamp News: Bret Evans, editor, P.O. Box 28103, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7P8, Canada

bret@trajan.ca; www.canadianstampnews.ca

Filacap: José Maurício do Prado, editor, Caixa Postal 06, Cachoeira Paulista SP, 12630-970, Brazil

ac.filacap@uol.com.br; www.filacap.com.br

Gibbons Stamp Monthly: Hugh Jeffries, editor, 5 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SH, United Kingdom
www.stanleygibbons.com

Israel Philatelist: Donald A. Chafetz, editor, 1943 Altonzano Dr, El Cajon CA 92020-1002 USA

sipeditor@gmail.com; www.israelstamps.com

L'Echo de la Timbrologie: editor, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036, Amiens, Cedex 1, France
www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com

Linn's Stamp News: Michael Baadke, editor, P.O. Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
mbaadke@amospress.com; www.linns.com

Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine: John F. Dunn, editor, 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack NH 03054-4429 USA

www.stampnewsnow.com

Philatelic Exporter: Graham Phillips, editor, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom
www.stanleygibbons.com

Philatelic Exhibitor: Randy L. Neil, editor, P.O. Box 8512, Shawnee Mission KS 66208-8512 USA

randyneil1941@gmail.com

philatelica.ro: Dan Dobrescu, editor, Sos. Stefan CelMare Nr 4, B114 Sc B, Ap47, Bucuresti 63, 011737

Romania. computerstamps@yahoo.ro.

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Philatelie Quebec: Guy Desrosiers, editor, 275 Rue Bryant, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1J 3E6, Canada.

editions_ddr@videotron.ca

www.philateliequebec.com

Setempe: Suzie Khumalo, editor, Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa.

South African Philatelist: Chris Mobsby, editor, P.O. Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504, South Africa

saphilatelist@iafrica.com.

www.philatelysa.co.za

Stamp Insider: Albert W. Starkweather, editor, 5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa FL 33624-2847 USA.

astarkweather@nystampclubs.org

www.stampinsider.org

Stamp Lover: Michael M. Goodman, editor, The National Philatelic Society, c/o The British Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, United Kingdom

stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk.

www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm

Stamp Magazine: Guy Thomas and Julia Lee, editors, Hadlow House, 9 High Street, Green Street Green, Kent BR6 6BG, United Kingdom.

julia.lee@mytimemedia.com

www.stampmagazine.co.uk

Stamp News Australasia: Kevin Morgan, editor, P.O. Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia

kevinmorgan2@live.com

www.stampnews.com.au/

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Show Calendar

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2015, Georgia. Southeastern Stamp Expo 2015, sponsored by the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, Atlanta Hilton Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross GA, 30092. APS World Series of Philately show, theme - College Football Hall of Fame.

Contact: Scott Mark (770) 335-5606.

Email: sestampexpo@gmail.com

Website: www.sefsc.org

Feb. 28-March 1, 2015, Ohio. Toledo Stamp Expo 2015. 91st show and bourse. Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd. Holland, Ohio, 20 dealers, exhibits, youth table. Free parking and Free admission.

Contact: Clifford Campbell (419) 874-6241.

Website: www.toledostampclub.org

March 7-8, 2015, Ohio. The 84th annual McKinley Stamp Club Show, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton Ohio 44720. Twenty-dealer bourse, exhibits, cachet/cancellation. Hours 10-5

To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, 4615 Lindell Blvd Apt 1102, Saint Louis MO 63108-3720, or by email to: wystamps@gmail.com. Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show.

Sat., 10-4, Sun. Free Admission.
Contact: Dave Pool (330) 832-5992.

Email: lincolnway@sssnet.com

Website: mksc.webs.com

March 14-15 2015, California. Frespex 2015, Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Ave., Clovis, Calif. Exhibits and bourse. For more information contact Dick Richardson 695 E. Dovewood Lane, Fresno CA 93710.

Email: starstamps@thegrid.net

March 28-29, 2015, Canada. Spring Stamp Show, sponsored by the Edmonton Stamp Club, new location, Central Lion's Center, 113 Street & 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Hours Sat.10-5, Sun. 10-4. Dealers, junior table, exhibits, WSP-accredited, wine & cheese reception, BNAPS Breakfast, more. Free Admission. Contact: Ed Dykstra (780)421-0930.

Website: www.Edmontonstampclub.com



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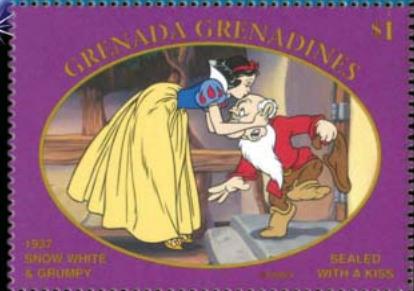
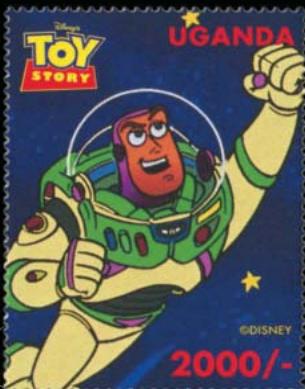
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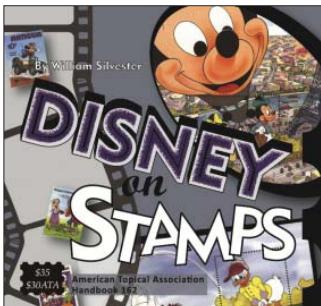
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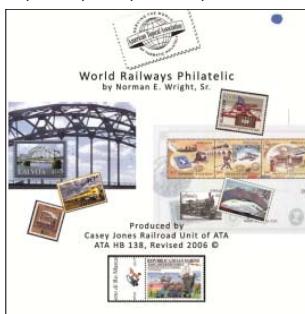
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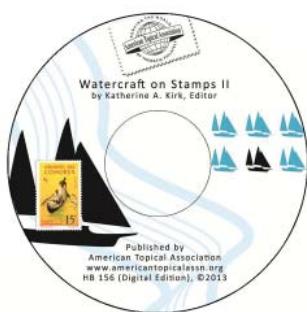


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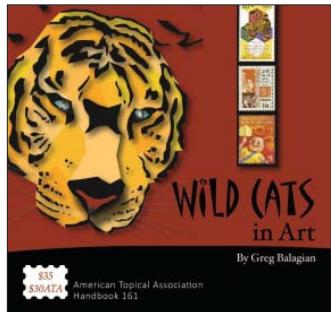


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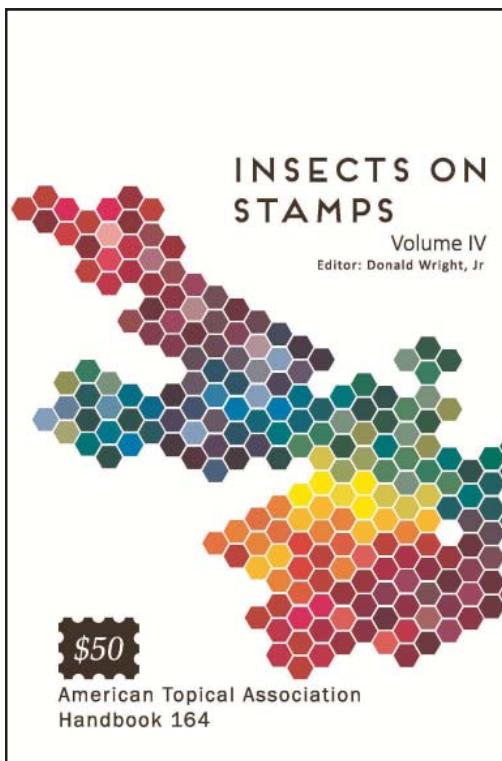
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#540, 90c. Same, ♀

#541, \$1.15. Same, ♂ underside

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Sample of stamp issue by taxonomy:

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Hong Kong, 1542, 2012, \$2.40. In sheet and in s/t of 6

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