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# TOPICAL TIME

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APPRECIATION ISSUE

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WE'RE BREWING UP TOPICALS IN MILWAUKEE!

# Time to Vote: ATA Board of Directors

It's time to vote for our ATA leaders. A list of current board members appears on page 4. Your ballot is on the inside front wrapper of this issue. If you have an email address on file with ATA, you may vote at [www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org). Or, you may mail your vote to the address given at the bottom of the ballot; it must be received by April 30, 2017. Results will be announced on the ATA website and Facebook page, in the BYB newsletter, and in *Topical Time*. The elected officers and directors will be installed at the ATA annual meeting during NTSS on June 23, 2017 in Milwaukee. All open positions are for three-year terms.

## Philatelic biographies of the nominees (\* Incumbent)

### Secretary

\* **Beth Collins** - Cottonwood, Minn., member since 2008, board member since 2012, ambassador, coordinator of NTSS silent auction.

- Topics - Maps, Trees, Scouting, Peace Corps, Cricket
- Member of Carto-Philatelic Society, Biology Uni, and Penguins on Stamps Unit (second vice-president)

### Director

\* **Chris Dahle** – Cedar Rapids, Iowa, member since 2005; board member since 2016

- Topics – Human Rights, Plants (edited *Plants V* handbook)
- Other collections - British Commonwealth, Scandinavia, U.S., Canada
- Exhibits – *Exploring the Evolution of Plants*, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- APS & ATA judge
- Member - Biology Unit, APS, AAPE, Scandinavian Collectors Club, United Nations Philatelists, Greater Southern Africa Philatelic Association, Rhodesia Study Circle

**Igor Grigorian** – Glendale, Calif., member since 2012

- Topics - Armenica, Fencing, Churches, Armenian stamp designers
- Other collections - U.S., Armenia
- Exhibits – *Pre-Christian Armenia and Temple of Garni*, *Armenian Scented Paper*, *Ayvazovski: Symphony to the Blue Seas*
- Member - ArPA (Armenian Philatelic Association - president), Wine on Stamps and Archeology Units.

**Kim Kellermann** – Westmont, Ill., member since 2014

- Topics - Space 1957-64, Trains
- CEO and CIO of Rasdale Stamp Company, an ASDA qualified auction firm
- Participated in two APS panel discussions concerning the “State of the Stamp Hobby”
- Member – APS, ASDA (served as secretary and director), NSDA, Mid-West Stamp Dealers Association (served as president, vice president, treasurer; presently a director), Florida Stamp Dealers Association

\* **Laurie Ryan** - Cincinnati, Ohio, member since 1997; board member since 2008; board secretary

- Topics - Hedgehogs, Iris, Beer, Bagpipes, Endangered Species, J.R.R. Tolkien
- Member - Biology Unit and Wine on Stamps Units
- When not stamping, Laurie likes fishkeeping, genealogy, historic research and her “four-legged kids” (her email address includes “doxiemom”). ☺

**The American Topical Association is APS Affiliate Number 177.**

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# 2016 ATA Officers and Board of Directors

## **President**

Dale E. Smith (to 2019)  
 1212 NE 96th Ter  
 Kansas City MO 64155-2149  
 Telephone: (816) 734-4536  
 Email: [thedale.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:thedale.smith48@gmail.com)

Christopher E (Chris) Dahle (to 2017)  
 1401 Linmar Dr NE  
 Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724  
 (319) 364-4999  
 Email: [cdahle8@gmail.com](mailto:cdahle8@gmail.com)

## **First Vice President**

Dawn Hamman (to 2019)  
 21042 Anclote Ct  
 Venice FL 34293-3051  
 Telephone: (941) 485-1193  
 Email: [dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com](mailto:dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com)

Jack André Denys, Past President (to 2018)  
 3 East Cadillac Dr  
 Somerville NJ 08876-1701  
 Telephone: (908) 725-6010  
 Email: [jdenys@verizon.net](mailto:jdenys@verizon.net)

## **Second Vice President**

Jack Congrove (to 2019)  
 PO Box 33092  
 Fort Lewis WA 98433-0092  
 Telephone: (253) 564-0969  
 Email: [jackcongrove@comcast.net](mailto:jackcongrove@comcast.net)

Amanda Morgenstern (to 2018)  
 3643 Private Road 18  
 Pinckneyville IL 62274-3426  
 Telephone: (618) 357-5497  
 Email: [a.morgenstern@hotmail.com](mailto:a.morgenstern@hotmail.com)

## **Secretary**

Laurie J. Ryan (to 2017)  
 4134 Wenbrook Dr  
 Cincinnati OH 45241-2963  
 Telephone: (513) 706-3095  
 Email: [doxiemom7@gmail.com](mailto:doxiemom7@gmail.com)

Richard (Dick) Roman (to 2018)  
 Saint Louis MO  
 Telephone: (314) 302-1440  
 Email: [dick.roman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dick.roman@sbcglobal.net)

## **Appointed Officials**

### **Executive Director**

Vera Felts: See contact information below

## **Treasurer**

Dennis M. Dengel (to 2018)  
 17 Peckham Rd  
 Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018  
 Telephone: (845) 452-2126  
 Email: [dennisdengel@verizon.net](mailto:dennisdengel@verizon.net)

### **Editor, *Topical Time***

Wayne L. Youngblood  
 705 Forest Glen Cir  
 Prairie du Sac WI 53578-1077  
 Telephone: (608) 370-9098  
 Email: [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Beth C. Collins (to 2017)  
 344 W Main St  
 Cottonwood MN 56229-2122  
 Telephone: (507) 828-9215  
 Email: [bc309167@gmail.com](mailto:bc309167@gmail.com)

## **Directors Emeriti**

Jerome D. Husak (ATA Founder)  
 13810 W Sandridge Dr  
 Sun City West AZ 85375-4473  
 Telephone: (623) 546-8376

Larry E. Davidson (to 2017)  
 30 Front St Apt 307  
 Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada  
 Telephone: (519) 272-2521  
 Email: [lawrencedavidson@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencedavidson@gmail.com)

Catherine Fechner  
 411 Poplar Ave  
 Maywood NJ 07607-1244  
 Telephone: (201) 845-8769

Robert E. Lamb (to 2017) (also Fundraising Chair)  
 1340 Oak Ridge Dr  
 State College PA 16801-6911  
 Telephone: (814) 237-0358  
 Email: [belpa383@msn.com](mailto:belpa383@msn.com)

## **ATA Office, PO Box 8**

**Carterville IL 62918-0008 USA**

**Telephone/FAX: (618) 985-5100**

Jeffrey (Jeff) Hayward (to 2019)  
 PO Box 60180  
 Staten Island NY 10306-1080  
 Telephone: (718) 701-2447  
 Email: [jeffhaywardata@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhaywardata@gmail.com)

**Email: [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com)**  
**[www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)**  
**[www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org)**  
**[www.TopicalsOnLine.org](http://www.TopicalsOnLine.org)**

## **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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Fax: 011 44 1451 861 297      Tel: 011 44 1451 861 111**

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FREE "Stamp Tips of the Trade": Please visit [www.UPAstampauctions.co.uk](http://www.UPAstampauctions.co.uk)**

**Please contribute to the 2017 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...  
Your name will appear in good company  
in next year's listing of donors!**



# DALE'S DIALOGUE

**Dale Smith, ATA President**

## Survey Says...

Hello fellow ATA members. I mentioned in my very first “Dale’s Dialogue” that the ATA survey you completed last spring had an astounding 21% of our members responding. A total of 514 members gave opinions about all things ATA. I told you that there would be more on the survey. And here it is.

Immediate past president Jack Andre’ Denys has done an excellent job of compiling our responses in subsequent issues of *Topical Time* since the July-August 2016 issue. This has been a way for all of us to see what our fellow members’ opinions are regarding a number of issues. Overall most members feel very positive about what ATA offers and is doing for its members. You also indicated areas upon which we can improve. You expressed additional topics and services you would like to see offered, and so much more.

I work in my upstairs office at home and have all things ATA surrounding me. One of these things is the complete copy of your responses to the survey, along with copies of Jack’s “Survey says...” columns. Why? I think these are among the most important documents that we can use to grow ATA and increase services to our members. You will always hear me say that we (the board) want to hear from you. And, with the survey you did so – and in an impressive manner, direct from our members’ pens. I have read it multiple times and I refer to the survey whenever one of the subjects comes up that was discussed.

But a survey is not effective if it is not utilized. As your president, I assure you that we will use this survey to guide the board’s direction over the next few years. Much good information and ideas and directives are included. And, as Jack has indicated, ATA is already doing several of the things you suggested.

What I plan to do is to sort out the appropriate subjects covered in the survey. By that I mean *Topical Time*, Topicals onLine, revenue generation, membership retention and more. Then, I’ll have the committees working on each area review your suggestions. They will then decide which suggestions are doable and set a timeline to make them happen. Other suggestions may need further consideration or additional resources to implement. Hopefully, over a period of time you should see many of your suggestions become a part of ATA services to you. About this time next year, I plan to inform you of our progress on your suggestions.

One comment was to “put articles focusing on the philatelic aspect of topics in general magazines, papers and national news websites.” As a member of the newly established American Philatelic Society Council of Philatelic Organizations, I chair the committee whose responsibility is to do just that. The committee’s members are some of the most influential authors in philately. Though not a new idea, we hope to increase the public’s interest in stamp collecting by exposing more people to the joys of our hobby.

Another comment was "Advertise checklist service in *Linn's* and APS journal – I believe the cost would be more than covered by new members who join." An excellent idea! We will look at the cost to do this.

That brings up another point I want to make. Many of your ideas are great. As I previously mentioned, it will take financial resources to implement some of your suggestions. At ATA we are very careful with your dollars. The board will spend money only if it benefits our members. We want to develop those projects and services that you have told us you need. But they have to be services that the majority of the membership will use. And we will implement those services as financial resources allow.

I want to finish with this. An organization like ATA is dependent upon the support of its members. By that I mean the guidance you have shown. Giving us this information is extremely useful. We, the board, do not take this for granted. Please be assured we will not forget the valued input you have given by completing the survey. We think that we have some of the greatest members in the philatelic world. Thanks for being a member of ATA. ☺

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## *About ATA*

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

### Calling Exhibitors

Exhibit entries are coming in for the National Topical Stamp Show, June 23-25, in Milwaukee, Wis. See the ATA website ([www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)) for the prospectus, entry form and jury list. This is a World Series of Philately show. Entries will be accepted until April 22, 2017, or until the show is fully subscribed.

### Recent Shows and New Members

**Jan. 27-29: Southeastern Stamp Expo (SESE), Norcross, Ga.** Ambassadors: Barbara Asher, Steve Chun, Vera Felts, Joe Sullivan. New Members: 2

**Feb. 3-5: Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, Fla.** Ambassadors: Dawn Hamman, John Hamman, Clem Reiss. New Members: 2

**Feb. 18: West Volusia Stamp Club Show, Deltona, Fla.** Ambassador: Newt Kulp.

**Feb. 19: Sno-King Stamp Show, Everett, Wash.** Ambassadors: Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm

**Feb. 26-28: TexPex, Grapevine, Tex.** Ambassador: Ray Cartier

### 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.

**March 18-19: Nashville Stamp Show, Madison, Tenn.**

[www.nashvillephilatelic.org](http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org) (checklist printing, Saturday only)

**March 31-April 2: St. Louis Stamp Expo, St. Louis, Mo.** [www.stlouisstampexpo.org](http://www.stlouisstampexpo.org)

**April 15-16:** Evergreen Stamp Show, Kent, Wash. (see Keith Edholm)

**April 22:** Stamp Out Cancer Auction, Moline, Ill. (see Dick Perrin)

**April 22-23:** Fire Service in Philately Annual Meeting, Allentown, Penn. (see Newt Kulp)

**April 22-23:** Kazoopex, Kalamazoo, Mich. (see Loraine Stanton)

**April 29-30:** Plymouth Show, Westland, Mich. (see Sandy Strzalkowski or Loraine Stanton)

**May 6-7:** Orapex, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (see Larry Davidson)

**May 12-14:** Pipex, Portland, Ore. (see Jack Congrove or Keith Edholm)

**May 19-20:** Ropex, Canandaigua, N.Y. (see Fred Haynes)

**May 19-21:** Compex, Arlington Heights, Ill. (see Susan Jones)

**May 19-21:** Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, Denver, Colo. (see Tonny Van Loij)

## **Volunteers Needed!**

The ATA needs your help in filling these volunteer positions. If you are interested, we will provide you assistance learning the job and support in fulfilling it. Please contact Dale Smith at (816) 734-4536, or [thedale.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:thedale.smith48@gmail.com).

### **DVD Production**

Do you have experience in producing films or DVDs? We could use your talents at ATA. We have DVDs that need updating: Americana, Fire Service, Maps, Music, National Parks and others. Suggestions for modifications have already been compiled by a volunteer team. We will pull together a committee to help with this project. Give Dale a call to see what it is all about.

### **Proofreaders**

We need volunteers to do various types of proofreading/editing of various articles, books and checklists that ATA publishes.

## **BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!**

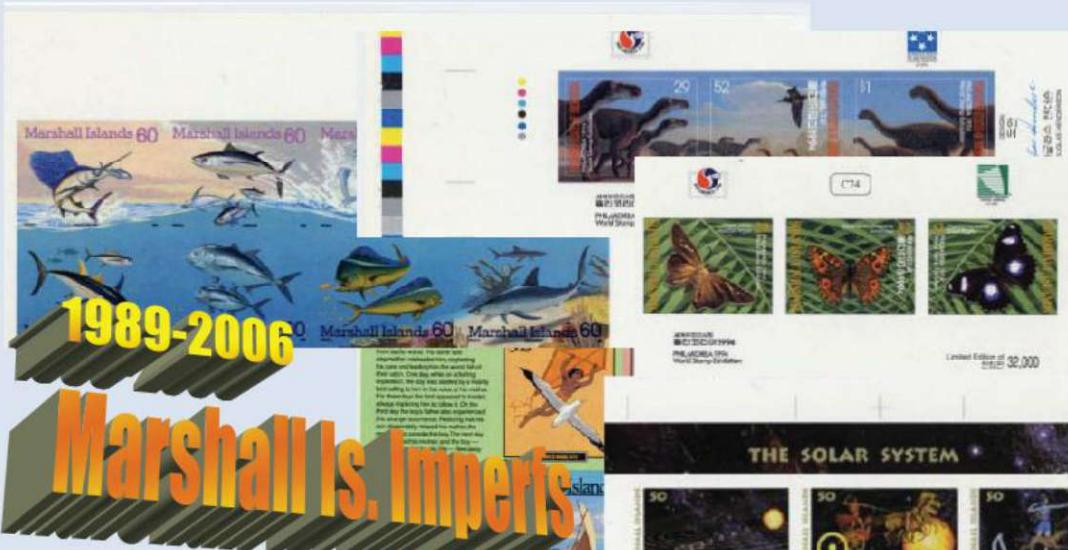


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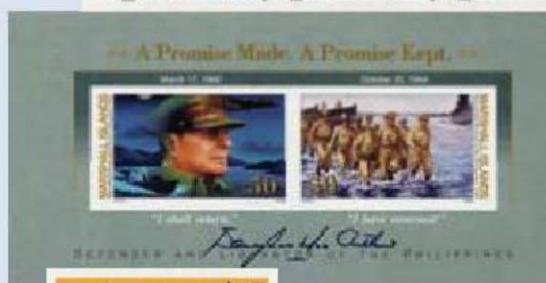
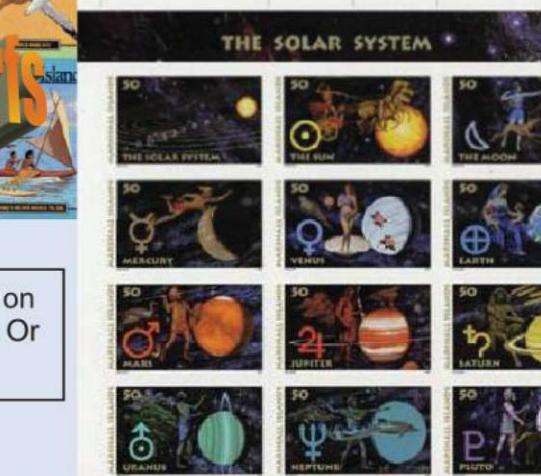
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Everything for the Topical Collector!



**WWII collectors:**  
For the 50th Anniversary of WWII, 100 sets were issued depicting events and battles. The stamps were available as singles or with an attached bottom inscription tab. Available perf & Imperf and gutter pairs!

# Thank you, ATA members!

You have once again helped us meet our goal for the Boldly To The Future fund! And 311 members donated. This is up more than 25% from last year. What a banner year! All who contributed are listed in this donor recognition issue. If your name isn't there, it can be next year!



Here are the final figures for 2016:

<b>2016 BTTF Goal:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Received:</b>	<b>\$40,884</b>

Our efforts to reduce expenses and increase income have succeeded in bringing more financial stability to the ATA. And, services to members have improved as well. The NTSS – our annual show – is well attended and lively. Plus it is profitable! *Topical Time* is more colorful and readable. The check-lists are more complete and more popular. The ATA continues to lead in the promotion of topical collecting.

But, we need your help to maintain this momentum. The ATA will need about \$35,000 in 2017 to maintain the level of services you have come to expect. Please contribute to help the ATA move forward...



Thank you for all you do to support the ATA.

ATA's budget depends on your gifts this year, also. Every dollar you give helps to reach our goal! You can send your 2017 gift in any of these ways:

- Check drawn on U.S. bank in U.S. funds (preferable because it saves us fees) payable to "ATA," PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008 USA.
- PayPal - to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com) - preferable if you pay electronically.
- Debit/credit card – At [PayPal.com](https://www.PayPal.com) – send money safely and securely to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com). One can also donate on the website even without a PayPal account.

If you do not use the internet, you may supply your credit card information to ATA. ATA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Each donation is tax deductible for U.S. taxpay-ers and is acknowledged with a "tax letter" acceptable to the IRS.

Together we can continue to advance...

## BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!



# VERA'S VIEWS

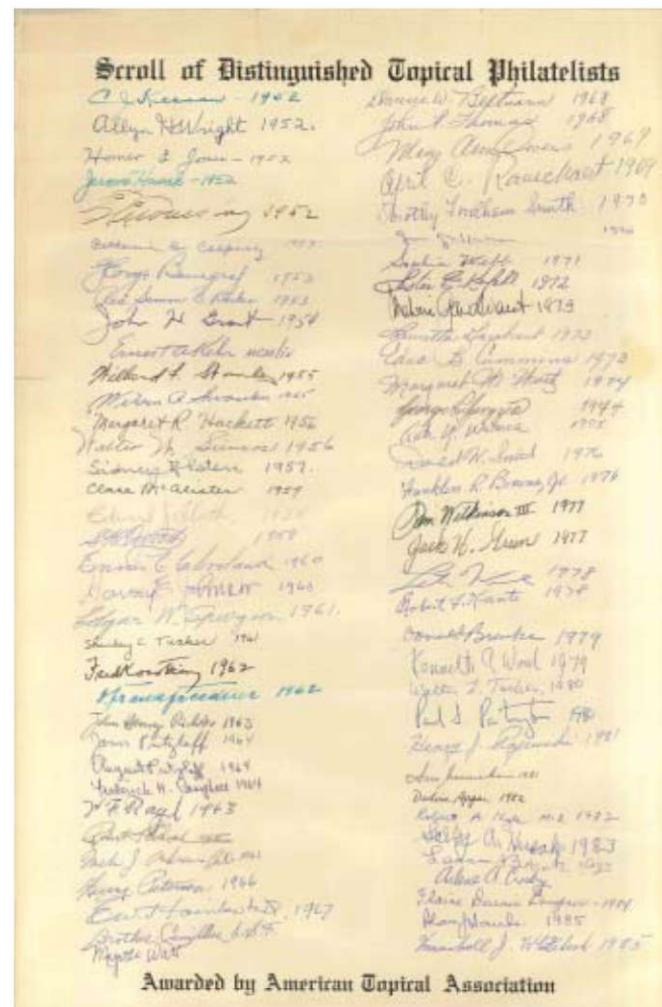
Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

## Distinguished Topical Philatelist Scrolls

The ATA honors its finest with the title of "Distinguished Topical Philatelist." One person each year who has served the field of topical philately is chosen (until the year 2001, two DTPs were chosen annually) as our DTP. The award has been won by noted philatelic journalists such as Herman Herst, Jr. (in 1993) and Kenneth A. Wood, editor of *Western Stamp Collector* (in 1979). And the title has been awarded to individuals such as our founder, Jerome (Jerry) Husak, known mostly for their devotion to ATA. And, most recently, Robert E. Lamb, former executive director of APS and current board member of ATA, was named DTP.

The tradition of signing the DTP Scroll at our annual show or meeting continues. During my years of working for ATA, I have always been bothered by the fact that our DTP scrolls have remained tightly rolled, stored in a dust-proof box in a cabinet. Once a year, when our new DTP and those previously chosen are honored, they see the light of day. There was an obvious solution to the dilemma, and it has now been accomplished. The scrolls have been scanned and are posted on our website. Check out: [www.americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml).

Access the site, and you can now see the signatures of all our DTP honorees. They are on two scrolls, in chronological order. A third scroll is also posted. That one was signed by international awardees who could not travel to the United States for the official scroll signing. If you are a DTP awardee and ATA does not have your email address, you are just learning that your honor is now visible online. I hope you'll ask an internet-savvy friend or relative to access the scrolls for you.



We have heard from some early DTP winners, and I'd like to share their comments:

**From Margaret Morris:** *"Thank you so much for making it easy to locate the DTP list and the scroll which I signed during Pacific 97. I shall never forget the occasion and the honour of being the first European to sign. Now 85, I am still actively involved in thematic philately, giving displays and writing articles. I enjoy reading Topical Time and always look forward to its arrival. Wishing ATA every success for the future."*

**From Fred Skvara:** *"Nice job, Vera! It is great to see the list and the signatures on the scroll."*

**From Giancarlo Morolli:** *"Dear all, Vera has made easy my task to mail a couple of lines to all of you. Being absent from the States since 2006, I want to say "hallo" and greet especially those of you I had the pleasure to work with or correspond with. When I signed the DTP scroll in 1997 I was very proud of being the first non-American to have such an honor, together with Margaret Morris who had her signature just above mine. With my best wishes and kind regards."*

**From Dennis Dengel:** *"Thanks for the email. It was a joyous day in 2008 when I received my award. Thanks ATA!"*

**Ideas from Our Members.** ATA members are the best source of ideas! You never cease to amaze me! So many thoughts are fine ones that are just made to be shared with others. Example: this recent email from our member Sister Elias, of New Jersey:

*"I've just started keeping a virtual philatelic collection/research on Pinterest. I have collected 'The Benedictines in Philately' since I was 18 (although with a few years' lacunae). The website [www.Pinterest.com](http://www.Pinterest.com) doesn't format anything, but it's a phenomenal way to get help from others who have no interest in philately. For example, it was the Benedictine monks who actually created the bloodhound breed of dog, the bouvier and others. They also created one line of what are now called Lipizzaner horses. Wines, ales, beers, champagne, cheeses, sheep breeds, art, medicine and more –the nuns and monks of the Benedictines created new types, styles, breeds, processes, and science and tons more. If you include the creators, the people, the architecture, the new personalized stamps, early illuminated manuscripts and more, so far my collection, both physical and virtual, includes thousands of items. I also have separate collections for 'Monte Cassino--the Abbey that Refused to Die' and for the Orval Abbey issues of Belgium pre- and post-WWII, and their ales as well. Since what I've mentioned covers almost all the arts and sciences in the world, I get lots of help from the other Pinteresters. It also occurs to me that perhaps this method of 'collecting' might make it more interesting and easier to put into a useful format and publish to help other collectors."*

ATA does have a board on Pinterest, with related boards for many of our study groups, but I had never considered the kinds of possibilities that Sister Elias mentions. I hope you will consider such ideas to expand your own collecting interests. If you'd like to add stamps to the ATA Pinterest board or any of the study groups,

please do so! Help others learn what our interesting hobby is all about!



**From a New ATA Member.** Another wonderful part of my work for ATA is experiencing the palpable excitement of new members beginning to discover all of the kinds of fun related to our hobby. I wish you could experience it, too! This just in from **Ron Melzer**:

*"I also appreciated you adding the 1947, 1951, 1961 and other stamps on the envelope. I know there were at least 50 – wow!! The post office tore about half a dozen off and mangled about another half dozen but the rest arrived in fine condition. I can't wait to get them into my collection--thanks!"*

**And now a word from your ATA Office.** This is the time of year when the majority of ATA memberships are due (May 1 expiration). It will help our tiny office staff ever-so-much if you renew your membership now, or at least before the middle of April. See the convenient form on the front outer cover of this journal. Please mail a check (preferred) or pay via PayPal. If, for some reason, you will not be renewing, a short email or note to let us know that would be most helpful.

All the best for a beautiful spring season! ☺

## Award Winners

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibition. A list of available awards and their criteria are available on the ATA webpage. The awards can be obtained by contacting Awards Chair Dalene Thomas. Her contact information appears at the end of this column.

**Remember:** Only those shows submitting a report to the Awards Chair will be acknowledged here. \*Denotes ATA member.

### First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

*Gloucester and the Sea: A Maritime History*, an exhibit by **Paul Goodwin**, received the American Topical Association first award at Florex. \***Dawn Hamman** received the ATA second award for her exhibit, *Backyard Chickens*. The ATA third award went to \***Mike Schumacher** for *Iceland Saga: The 1972 "Match of the Century."* The ATA one-frame award was given to *Flying Boats and Seaplanes*, exhibited by \***James P. Edmunds**.

At Penpex, \***Larry Crain** was awarded the ATA first award for *Easter Island – From Mysterious Little Known Place to Exotic Tourist Destination.* ☺

*Dalene Thomas is a past president of ATA and president of the Lighthouse Stamp Society. She may be contacted at [dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org](mailto:dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org) or 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.*



# WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

**Wayne L. Youngblood, *Topical Time* Editor**

## ***"The report of my death..."***

Everyone gets details wrong from time to time, just ask Mark Twain. So it is

*The report of my illness  
grew out of his illness, the  
report of my death was  
an exaggeration.*

*Mark Twain*

that the report of the death of ATA founder **Jerry Husak** in the March issue of the *American Philatelist* (based on reports from a couple of members) is most definitely in error. Jerry and Sally are both fine and living in Sun City, Ariz. Their address appears on Page 4 if you'd like to drop them a line and say hello!

## **Articles needed**

Sincere thanks to those who have already responded with features for future issues of *Topical Time*. I have not been able to respond to everyone individually yet, but your submissions are deeply appreciated. Short features, or even "favorite item" pieces are enjoyed by your fellow members. Please let us hear from you about what you would like to see in *Topical Time*, and keep those items coming.

## **Survey Says...**

You've do doubt noticed each of the last several issues has featured a "Survey Says" article, dealing with different aspects of ATA as reflected in our recent membership survey. In this issue President Dale Smith mentions several points. Next issue will feature your feedback on *Topical Time*.

## **More appreciation**

This issue of *Topical Time* is our official "Annual Appreciation Issue," where we recognize those who have contributed financially or materially to the success of our organization. As an organization that must deal with rows and columns in addition to people, it can sometimes appear we care most about financial donations, but this couldn't be further from the truth. While the books must be balanced, we are a volunteer organization through and through and we cannot begin to quantify the hours spent by hundreds of members furthering the organization that meets so many of our collecting needs and desires. These vital – but often intangible – contributions include reworking our database, manning tables at stamp shows, writing articles for *Topical Time*, compiling checklists and simply being wonderful ambassadors for our specialty throughout the hobby and beyond. For all you do, please accept a heartfelt and sincere Thank You from all of us involved with the organizational aspects of ATA. It is truly appreciated! ☺



# BACK TO BASICS

## *Jack André Denys*

## A couple of brief items...

*Your questions, comments and suggestions about topical collecting are most welcome.  
Contact info is on Page 4.*

### Follow-up on storage ideas

Alastair Watson of New Zealand notes that *Linn's Stamp News* of Nov. 14, 2016, pp. 22-23, offered suggestions for storage: "Explore options to store [and display] your collection safely, to best advantage." There may be additional useful tips for readers.

### A tale of two lists

Mary Ann Owens, pioneer of thematic exhibiting in the United States, often said, "A checklist is the lifeline to a good topical-thematic collection." What is a "checklist?" It is a listing of stamps and other philatelic items depicting a particular topic. Our ATA offers more than 1,200 checklists containing more than 400,000 stamps and more than 650,000 topical listings. (Some stamps are listed under more than one topic.) Each list contains the nation, date of issue, denomination, Scott catalog number and a brief description. Members may purchase checklists for a nominal fee. They are invaluable, saving many, many hours of turning pages in a catalog to discover stamps on your topic. New issues and new discoveries are added regularly. And, once you purchase a list, you may request free annual updates. There is much more info about checklists – including lists of the lists (!) – on our website: [www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml). Additionally, some of our study units maintain their own checklists.

Once you have a checklist, you can make your "want list" – your own personal list of items you would like to have. It needs to be organized according to country and catalog number, since that is the way most dealers arrange their stock. You would bring this want list with you to stamp shows and whenever you purchase stamps. It can be as simple or complex as you like and may contain some or all of the items on the checklist. You could even use the checklist as a want list, crossing off items as you purchase them. Or, on the checklist, you can omit columns that you don't need and replace them with other information, such as catalog value (in pencil because it may change) and acquisition columns – recording prices you paid and forms of the item you have (such as mint, used, cover, FDC and other) – as well as a column for notes. Bringing such a list with you can help avoid purchasing unwanted duplicates. You can easily update your list on a computer. ■

*All NTSS information is updated regularly on our website...*



# TOPICAL POSTLINE

## Letters to the Editor

### Wrong whale, no credit!

Hmmmmm...

Whoever created this e-page [*in the ATA Because You Belong newsletter*] is not being topically correct: they used an image of a Humpback whale to draw attention to my article on Blue whales – and the *Topical Time* editor failed to include my requested and fully appropriate acknowledgement that this article was previously published in *ThemeNZ*. This is not good.

Let's take a breath and get the quality back again ... please.

— Alastair Watson

Christchurch, New Zealand, via email

*Alastair, please accept our sincere apologies. You are correct on both counts. The ATA Office used an incorrect image image in the newsletter (as Vera explained in an email to you), and I simply missed your request for a credit line. The article, "Blue Whale on New Zealand Stamps," originally appeared in the September 2016 issue of ThemeNZ, Newsletter of the Thematic Association of New Zealand (Issue 89, pp. 15-16). It was published in Topical Time with permission of the publication's editor, Bob Gibson. Otherwise, I hope you enjoyed the handling of the article itself, and I do hope you will submit more material to Topical Time in the future. This is the type of material most of our members love to read.*

— Wayne

### Inappropriate cover?

There are millions and millions of beautiful topical stamps in the world, but, for a strange and inexplicable reason, you chose a weird and grotesque man with a watermelon head to be featured for the *Topical Time* cover (Jan-Feb 2017), a world leading philatelic publication.

In which way is this weird image related to the topical/philatelic area? Why you don't choose topical stamps to illustrate the cover of a topical philatelic magazine?

Please use topical stamps to illustrate the cover of *Topical Time*.

— Ricardo Lopez  
via email

*Ricardo, thank you for your letter. The image you refer to (also found on Page 68 of this issue) is from a topical-related early 20th-Century postcard (for a featured article), depicting a humanized cantaloupe. We try to provide strong visual images (usually of stamps) for our *Topical Time* covers, and everyone's tastes are different. Read on...*

— Wayne

I think the cover of the January-February 2017 *Topical Time* is absolutely wonderful. I am going to frame it for my office!

— Dawn Hamman  
via email

# ATA Supportive Members, 2016

ATA is dependent upon its members to support our programs – and keep our membership dues low. Thus, we annually pause to thank the hundreds of members who contribute to our efforts. In addition to our Boldly To The Future fund, ATA received major donations for TopicalsOnLine and more.

In 2016, ATA members made the largest number of BTTF donations in recent history. It is wonderful to have our members supporting our organization so enthusiastically!

There was good news on every front when the results of ATA's Boldly To The Future (BTTF) initiative were tallied at the end of 2016. Working together, we met and exceeded our goal of \$35,000. A total of \$40,884 was donated by our loyal members who recognize that topical philately is leading the way to the future of our hobby. ATA continues to use your donations wisely, in the best ways we know how, to serve our members and to promote topical collecting.

ATA is dependent on the generosity of its members, who very often include an overage when they pay dues or order checklists or other items. The number of members who included overages or otherwise donated specifically to BTTF was up 25% over the previous year. We are most grateful for your continuing support.

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The following individuals donated mixed mint U.S. postage to ATA in 2016:

Richard Beecher, Bob Bialo, Jack André Denys, Lucy Eyster, Samantha Fuller, David Giles, Dawn and John Hamman, Frank Kos, David Kulbago, Don and Sarah Noble, Bob Sazama, Paul and Julie Shafer, Don Smith, Jean Stout, Ronnell Townsend and Leonard Zehr. In-kind donations like these are always appreciated and helpful.

John Colasanti and other members of the International Cover Collectors Association were most generous in donating fantastic cacheted covers. Allan Fisk continued his annual contribution of cacheted covers.

These ATA members donated most generously for various special projects: Richard Beecher, Dennis Dengel, Dawn and John Hamman, Robert Lamb, Dale and Andrea Smith, and Don Smith. Many ATA members and others donated youth and other philatelic materials in 2016. They include: Barbara Asher, Tony Curiale, Jack André Denys, Carl Dischner, Claude Erbsen, Samantha Fuller, Ronald Gollhart, Matthew Leone, Roseanne Locke, John Malack, Karen McKee, Melvin Morris, Margaret Murphy, Catherine O'Connor, Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (Pa.), Henrik Rossell, St. Marks Episcopal Church (Mystic, Conn.), Chuck Stutter, Ron Tabbert, John van Emden, Roger van Laere, Tonny Van Loij, Elizabeth Verbsky, Lulu Ware, Juliana Wells and Sam Wesely. Sam is one of ATA's Youth Members. Kudos to all the these individuals and groups who made donations to ATA last year – and especially to Sam! ☺



**Official Call**  
**AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Friday, June 23, 2017, 1 P.M.**  
**National Topical Stamp Show**  
**Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport**

# Brewing up Topicals!

Brewing Up Topicals, the theme of this year's National Topical Stamp Show, will feature a wide variety of activities designed to make your visit to Milwaukee, Wis., educational and fun. Let's take a quick look.

We'll be gathering June 23-25 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, a spacious facility with free parking and free shuttle to the nearby airport. The show rate is \$99 (plus 15.1% tax); give the group code NTS when registering. There is a link to the hotel on the ATA website, or call the hotel at (414) 764-5300.



*The Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport hotel.*

Each day will have a theme, which reflects the categories of ATA checklists: nature, culture and technology. Show cachets will illustrate each of the themes.

The bourse will feature dealers who carry topical stamps, as well as stamps and other philatelic items and ephemera for all collectors. You'll find variety for collectors of topics, countries and other specialized areas.

NTSS is the only all-thematic philatelic exhibition in the country. The prospectus, entry form and jury list are posted on the ATA website.

The ATA annual meeting on Friday will be followed by a tribute to thematic exhibiting pioneer Mary Ann Owens. See the article by Jack Denys on Page 26.



*Historic Cedarburg, site of the Thursday half-day tour.*



**Part of the Milwaukee skyline, with the art museum in the foreground.**

The President's Reception on Friday, June 23, will be at the historic Karl Ratzsch Restaurant, which offers hearty German fare. The Saturday awards banquet will be at the hotel.

## Tours

ATA member Susan Jones has planned two great tours: a half-day visit to Cedarburg on Thursday, June 22, and a full day to New Glarus (Little Switzerland) on Monday, June 26.

The trip to Cedarburg, a historic mill town with museums, restaurants and artisan shops, includes these stops: The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, Cedarburg Cultural Center and the Cedarburg Art Museum, as well as time for shopping.

Monday's full-day trip to New Glarus (home of the famous New Glarus Brewing Co.) includes a visit to the Swiss Historical Village & Museum, a detailed replica of an 1850 Swiss settlement. Lunch will be at the New Glarus Hotel Restaurant, which has rich history dating back to 1853. After lunch, the group will visit the Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum, a charming Swiss Alps chalet-style home. For more information about the tours, see the ATA website: [www.americantopicalassn.com](http://www.americantopicalassn.com). □



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# Featured Speakers at NTSS 2017

The National Topical Stamp Show will feature programs by three accomplished topical philatelists.

Barry Stagg, chair of the British Thematic Association, will show highlights of thematic/topical collections of society members, as well as his gold-medal exhibit, *Parachuting Through the Ages – The History and Development of the Parachute and Parachuting Techniques*. He exhibits nationally in Great Britain and also internationally. His presentation will center around thematic collecting in Great Britain.

Edwin Andrews will speak on “How to Build a Topical Exhibit.” This new exhibit category is sure to be of interest to topical collectors. Andrews is an accredited APS chief judge, an accomplished exhibitor who specializes in

thematic,  
topical and  
display exhibits

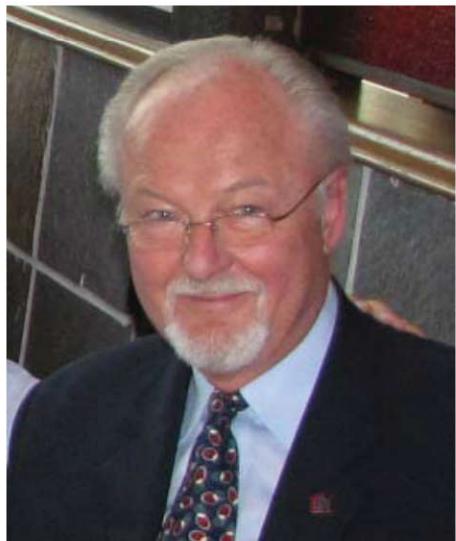
and is active in many philatelic organizations. His topical exhibit, *Hats – Protection, Identity, Fashion*, will be shown non-competitively at the show.

You asked for it, and here it is: “Make Your Own Album Pages by Computer.” Taught by Jack Congrove, this seminar will show you how to use Microsoft Word to create your own tailor-made album and exhibit pages. Jack will demonstrate the procedures and provide easy-to-use tips on formatting, importing and

**Edwin Andrews.**

adjusting images, creating standard templates and selecting fonts. Handouts will be provided. Bring your flash drive along for files to use as templates. Jack, a 30-year ATA member, is ATA second vice president. He edits numerous philatelic newsletters and is president of the Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (Seapex).

Finally, Jack André Denys, ATA past president and thematic exhibitor, will present “Mary Ann Owens Lives,” a review of the written legacy of a famous thematic collector and exhibitor (please see page 26). ☐



**Barry Stagg.**



**Jack Congrove.**

# My Topic

## Wendy Buckle

Dawn Hamman

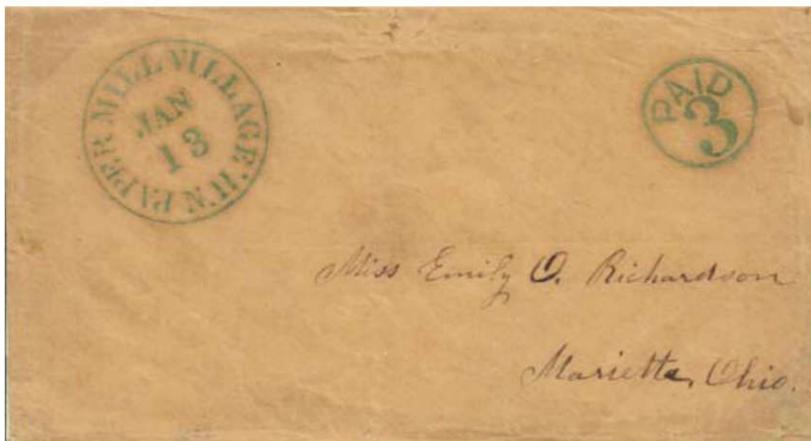


**Right:** Paper Mill Village, a designated post office 1825-66, location of New Hampshire's first paper mill in 1793.

**Below:** Fancy cancel from Kimberly, Wis., featuring a roll of paper, 1930. The "K.C." Stands for Kimberly-Clark, the paper company.

In the picturesque seaside resort of Bournemouth, England, Wendy Buckle is busy fine-tuning her thematic exhibit, *Paper Past and Present* for the European Championship of Thematic Philately in Germany in May. She also exhibited at the World Stamp Show in New York City last year.

How did she choose her topic? "The history of paper making and the history of printing both play an important part in our history," explained Wendy. "As a librarian, my interests in book history lead me to collect





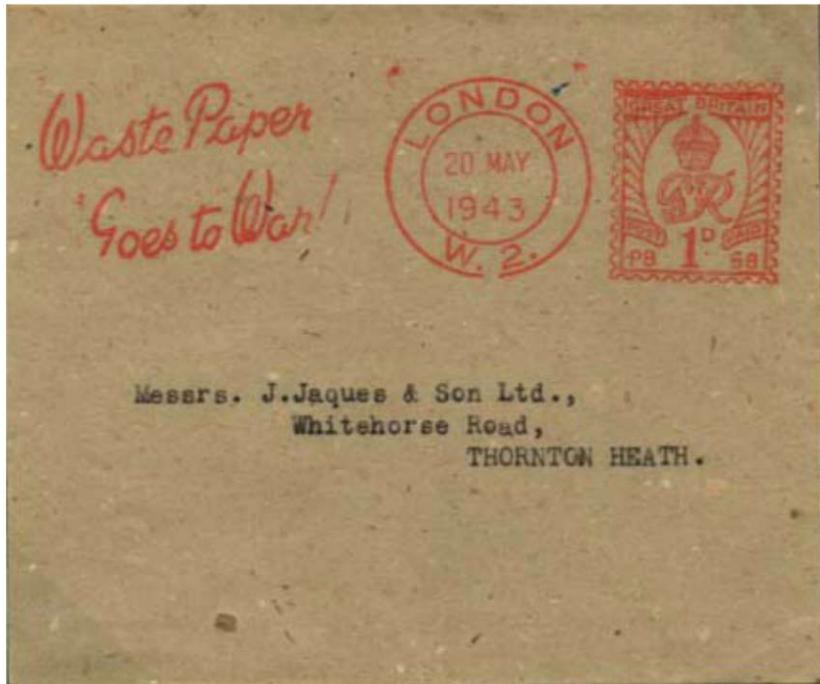
**Austria, 1977, Guild of Paper Makers coat of arms.**

everything to do with written communication: the history of writing, writing materials, illuminated manuscripts, printing and libraries."

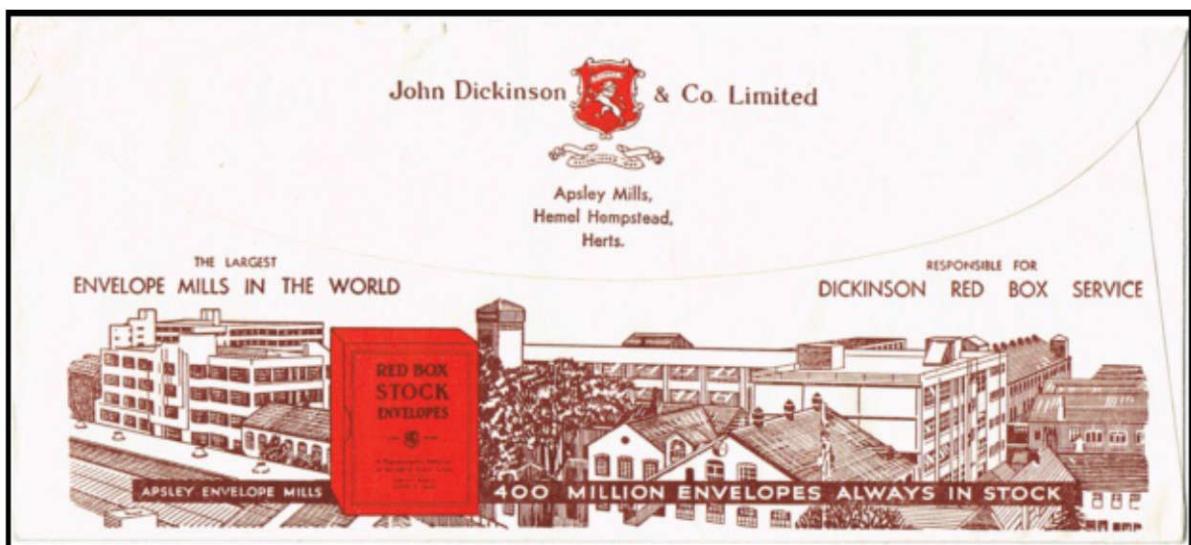
Over the years, she has had a lot of pleasure working on her collections. "There is the original reading and research to be done to know what the story is that you want to tell," she said, "then the sometimes frustrating search to find a philatelic item to illustrate the point you want to make and time writing it up in an attractive way." There are also rewards: "The chance to share my enthusiasm with others giving displays at local societies."

In addition to her ATA membership, Wendy is a past president of the British Thematic Association, and is editor of its newsletter, *Themescene*. She also belongs to the ATA study unit, Graphics Philately Association.

She aptly summarizes her enthusiasm for our hobby, "I enjoy it all!" ☐



**World War II meter stamp slogan.**



**Papermaker John Dickinson envelope (reverse), 1937.**



# Encouraging Exhibiting (but not for exhibitors only!)

*Jack André Denys*

## Mary Ann in Milwaukee

Jack André Denys is past president of the ATA. His exhibit, The Bayeux Tapestry, received an international vermeil award at the NY2016 World Stamp Show.

The focus of this column is thematic exhibiting. It does not seek to replace excellent general resources on exhibiting, including Steven Zwillinger's new book, *Path to Gold*, the three editions of *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook* or *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, published quarterly by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE).

This feature includes tips, resources and information. Even if you don't exhibit, you will probably find some of it helpful. Please help make this column your column by sending your comments, questions and suggestions. Contact info is on Page 4.

Mary Ann Owens and her contributions to thematic philately will be celebrated at this year's National Topical Stamp Show



(NTSS) in Milwaukee, June 23-25. When Mary Ann was inducted into the American Philatelic Society (APS) Hall of Fame, it was noted that she "pioneered the establishment of thematic philately as an important exhibiting class at national and international exhibitions." Mary Ann, who died in 2005, would have been 89 on June 24. She will be remembered with her exhibits, a birthday celebration, a seminar and with the annual presentation of the Mary Ann Owens One Frame Grand Award.

With her *Elephant* exhibit, Mary Ann was the first American to earn both Gold and Large Gold in international thematic competition. She went on to earn three international Golds with *The Beautiful Blue Danube*. Three of her exhibits will be on display at NTSS:

- *The Aspinwall Connection*, in which she merged her passion for philately with her growing interest in family genealogy.
- Her fun exhibit about her birthday, *Today is June 24th*.

- *Badgers*, about Wisconsin's state animal (Mary Ann lived most of her life in that state.)

The birthday celebration will be on Friday, June 23, at 2:30, immediately following the ATA Annual Meeting. It will include tributes and a birthday cake. The seminar, "Mary Ann Owens Lives," will be an informal look at her written legacy. Presentations will be made about *The Colombo Chronicle* - a series of newsletters for international exhibitors - "The Philosophy of Thematic Exhibiting" chapter from the new *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* and Mary Ann's handouts from the APS Summer Seminar class on thematic, including her "Topics and Themes" columns from *Linn's Stamp News*. Requests for photocopies of Mary Ann's writings will be taken.

**News:** An "International Academy of Thematic Philately" (IATP) was formed by 22 thematic philatelists at the ATA's informal gathering of thematic collectors during World Stamp Show NY2016. Led by Belgium's Mark Bottu, the group was composed of members, most have of whom have earned Large Gold or Gold international medals. But the group is open to all thematic collectors. At least one charter member is not an exhibitor.

IATP would like to:

- Organize meetings of high-level thematic collectors and exhibitors.
- Promote the participation of thematic exhibits and exhibitors in courts of honor in (inter)national exhibitions.
- Promote participation of thematic philatelists in high-level organizations (Academies and others).
- Promote thematic presentations at (inter)national meetings and congresses.
- Promote the publication of thematic collections as a book or on websites.

A six-member provisional committee was formed, including Bottu and ATA President Dale Smith.

The first meeting of ITAP will take place during Finlandia in May 2017. For information, contact Mark Bottu [mark.bottu@telenet.be](mailto:mark.bottu@telenet.be).

**Topical Time *is an international specialty journal serving the topical and thematic communities of philately. It publishes articles for beginning through advanced collectors that are stimulating to read and helpful to readers in their collecting activities. As the journal of the American Topical Association, Topical Time strives to publish accurate and up-to-date information about its membership and its study units and chapters. It also serves as a forum for communication among members of the ATA.***

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# TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

## Wayne L. Youngblood

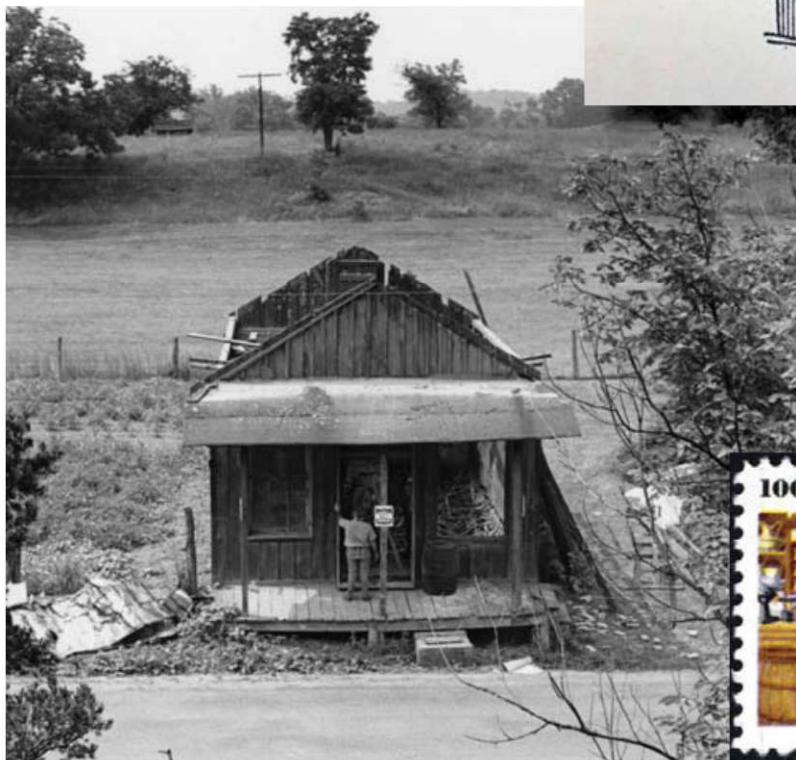
## The Evolution of Pictorial Postmarks

*Due to a serious illness, George DeKornfeld was unable to produce his regular column this issue. As he recuperates, I hope you'll enjoy a slightly different approach.*

As collectors, we're fortunate enough to be able to find pictorial postmarks for virtually any topic or theme we wish, with representations and different interpretations from all over the world. Due to countless festivals, celebrations and philatelic events there's a constant influx of new material from which to choose. But that hasn't always been the case – or at least not in the United States.

Although the story of the development of pictorial cancels is different for each country, we're lucky to have that story fairly well documented for the United States.

U.S. pictorial cancels – as we now know them – are a relatively new development. They were not permitted prior to late 1971, with the appearance of the Figure 1 example, a few months after the United States Post Office Department became the U.S. Postal Service. The first-day date of this item, originally created for the opening



**Figure 1.** The Headsville, W.V., post office (left) was depicted on our country's first modern pictorial postmark (above). The interior was shown on the 1972 8¢ Mail Order Centennial stamp shown below (Scott 1468).





**Figure 2.** To celebrate space achievement a space capsule was substituted for the Heads-vile post office for this 1972 cancel.

U.S. Mail Order Centennial issue, released Sept 27, 1972, a year after the opening of the exhibit (also in Figure 1). In this case it is an interior view. Because this was a functional post office inside the Smithsonian Institution, “Smithsonian Station” postmarks are known for many events spanning a number of years, including a few variations, such as the one shown in Figure 2.

The story of what led to modern-day pictorial postmarks goes way back, however. To fully grasp the development it is important to differentiate postmarks and cancels. Postmarks predate stamps by centuries.



**Figure 3.** This stamp was canceled by a marking left over from the stamp-less era.



**Figure 4.** Examples of stamps from the “Golden Age” of fancy cancels, the 1860s and 1870s. Postmasters created humorous, political, whimsical and highly detailed fancy cancels from whatever materials were on hand. These examples represent a tiny fraction of those available.

of the Headsville, W.V., post office inside the Smithsonian’s Museum of History and Technology, marked a new approach for the Smithsonian to integrate human experience more closely with its exhibits. The Headsville post office, also shown in Figure 1 (at its original location), was also depicted on the 1971



**Figure 5.** This cover bears a June 15, 1864, marking from the Great Central Sanitary Fair in Philadelphia. Although these special markings were used for the event, they are not known to have been used as cancellation devices for postage stamps.

They are simply a marking noting the date and location where an item was mailed. A cancel is intended to deface a postage stamp to prevent reuse.

With the advent of postage stamps in 1840 (1847 in the United States), cancellations first became used. As mentioned, the purpose of a cancellation – specifically – is to cancel, or “kill” the stamp. Although they are known, postmarks were not supposed to be used for this purpose. In fact, postmasters were specifically prohibited from using postmarks as canceling devices for many years. The 1847 *Postal Laws and Regulations* specified that if a post office did not have a special device for canceling, “stamps must be cancelled by making a cross X with a pen.”

However, despite the specific and repeated prohibition against using postmarks to cancel stamps, the USPOD was a lot more lenient about the use of non-standard devices to deface stamps – as long as the marking rendered a stamp unusable. Thus, postmasters soon began using other objects to cancel mail, such as “PAID” markings left from the stampless era (Figure 3) and even old corks or bottlestoppers.

Those with a little more time on their hands started becoming a bit more creative, carving intricate pictorial designs, such as those shown in Figure 4. These “fancy cancels,” as they are now known, are very highly prized. Better strikes of these cancels (as well as relative rarity) correspond with higher prices, and some sell for thousands of dollars – even more on cover!

Although the “Golden Age” for fancy cancels was during the 1870s and 1880s, they continued into the 1890s, when the USPOD issued new regulations requiring the use of more standardized postmarking devices (and lifted its prohibition on the use of postmarks to cancel).



**Figure 6. What is thought to be the first U.S. identifiable exposition marking, from Centennial, Pa., a substation set up for the centennial celebration in Philadelphia.**

larly, Sanitary Fairs during the Civil War also served as temporary postal stations. Although mail was processed through these fundraising events, the special markings are not known to have been used to cancel postage stamps. An example of a cover from one of these fairs is shown in Figure 5.

In 1876, the United States staged the U.S. Centennial International Exposition, held in Philadelphia, May 10-Nov. 10, to mark the centennial of the founding of the United States. For that event, the USPOD set up a postal station that was a complete working post office in every way, offering full services and staffed by four clerks and 10 letter carriers. This event also marked the first time there was a dedicated postmark for a U.S. event. Several different types similar to the Figure 6 example are known that identify mail that originated on exposition grounds. Numerous other expositions (international, national and regional) soon followed suit.

Concurrently, the use of special post-marking devices began to be used during the mid- to late-19th Century. As early as the 1840s, the USPOD began creating branch offices or sub-stations of larger offices for the convenience of the collecting, processing and delivery of mail. One of the earliest of these was for the 1853 New York Exhibition, where mail was canceled. Although there is no specific marking known, it paved the way for future examples. Simi-



**Figure 7. This Model Post Office marking is one of several used for the 1926 international Philatelic Exposition in 1926, and led to hundreds of other shows creating special cancellation devices.**



Fifty years later, beginning with the Second International Philatelic Exhibition – also held in Philadelphia (and marking the sesquicentennial

**Figure 8. This 1930 registered cover from Oakland, Calif., is one of the type that ushered in the era of 20th-century fancy cancels.**

of the United States)  
– the USPOD began setting up postal stations at large stamp shows.

Most of these stations have the show name in the marking, sometimes with variations, but all are non-pictorial.

Then, in 1924, the USPOD changed its regulations regarding registered mail, prohibiting any date or location information from appearing on the face of the envelope. This seemed to leave some interpretation open for what could appear on the front of the envelope to cancel stamps. This led collectors and 4th-Class post offices to form an alliance. These postmasters had incentive, since part of their pay depended upon postal receipts, and collectors loved novelty. Thus, a number of covers such as the one shown in Figure 8 (1930, Oakland, Calif.) were created, in many cases with no more than a few strikes known.

Within a few years postmasters began using even more ornate cancels – many in color – and frequently on first-class mail as well. The Figure 9 examples show some of this variety, virtually all with great topical appeal. By August 1934, the U.S. Post Office Department felt it had to put its foot down, issuing an edict that forbade the use of colored, pictorial or any type of non-standard cancellation. There are later examples of 20th-century fancy cancellations known, most frequently from ships (I'm not sure why they were exempt), but the edict essentially quickly ended the second era of fancy cancels. An example of one of these later pictorial cancels from a ship (in 1945) is shown in Figure 10.

Despite their popularity at the time, many 20th-Century fancy cancels were scarce to begin with (with numbers ranging between three to four strikes up to a few



**Figure 9. Several examples of modern fancy cancels used for first-class mail before being banned in August of 1934.**



**Figure 10.** While technically illegal, this ship cancel, like many, features pictorial design elements.

Well, during much of the early- to mid-20th century, the USPOD produced a number of slogan metal die-hub cancellations, many of them with pictorial elements as well as text. These, of course, proved popular with collectors. But the next step came in 1958.

It began on March 15, 1958, to be exact, with the release of the 3¢ Gardening and Horticulture issue. Included as a design element in the first-day cancel was a pictorial medallion featuring a reproduction of the bookplate used by Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954, noted botanist and horticulturist). That cancel is shown in Figure 11. These FDC medallions became very popular with collectors and continued as part of first-day cancels on most issues through 1961.

As mentioned, 1971 marked the first official pictorial postmark, followed soon after by the USPS 50th anniversary of the Philatelic Sales Division (Dec. 1, 1971). Within a few months, the Western Division of the USPS began authorizing pictorial exhibition station cancels for stamp shows. By the late 1980s, pictorial cancellations became so popular that the *Postal Bulletin* (biweekly internal USPS publication) featured announcements of new cancels, with collectors writing in to obtain them.

The rest, as they say, is history. ☺

dozen) and the survival rate also has been low, making many of them quite scarce now. Almost without exception, these have very strong topical appeal.

So, how did we go from the prohibition to having several hundred different pictorial cancels per year?



**Figure 11.** The 1958 Gardening & Horticulture issue was the first to feature a pictorial "Medallion" design as part of the cancel.

MINT, TOPICAL SETS RARELY OFFERED BY OTHER SOURCES.

PLEASE SEE MY EBAY STORE:

<http://stores.ebay.com/postagestampsforcollectors>

THANK YOU, PETER MORVILLE

# Study Unit Spotlight

## This Month: Mathematical Study Unit

[Editor's Note: This is the 38th 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 "How Circles Relate to One Another," from the April 2016 Philamath (Vol. XXXVII, No. 4). 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 (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it to the Topical Time editor ([wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward ([stamps@jeffhayward.com](mailto:stamps@jeffhayward.com)). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]

### How Circles Relate to One Another

Kenneth Garst

Back in the day, I taught public high school for 40 years. During summer school I generally taught plane geometry. When I introduced circles I always asked my students to

illustrate the several ways that two circles – in a plane – could relate to one another.



**Left: Circleville, Utah. At least 10 additional states have cities or towns named Circleville:**

Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Pennsylvania
Kansas	Texas
Missouri	Virginia
New York	West Virginia.



**Circles intersecting at two points.**



**also show a rather unusual combination of an ellipse internally tangent to a circle.]**

Since my retirement seven years ago, I have been obsessed with collecting used envelopes, postal stationery and postcards. Inasmuch as I have lived in California for much of the past 75 years, I am using *California Town Postmarks 1849-1935*, by John Williams, as a checklist (often adding sketches of cancels not listed).

Most often, circular cancels are whirling around my head – I wish I had had this obsession while I was teaching circles. I could have flashed the variety of circular

**Circles separated externally. [Ed. observation: These postmarks**



**Circles tangent externally.**

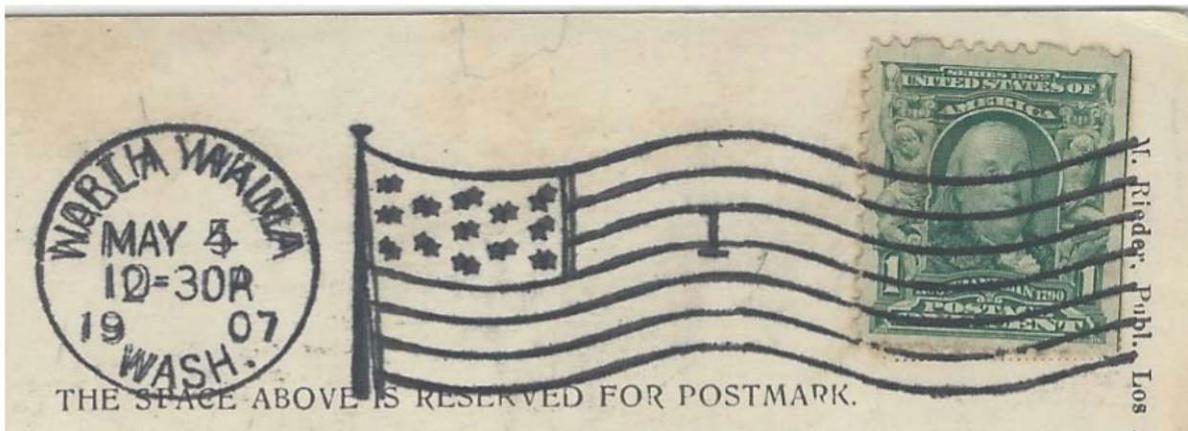
graphically cropped) that I have used as real-life examples of the various relationships two circles in a plane can have. And, of course, my budding young mathematicians, filled with curiosity as to cities and persons depicted on the envelopes, might have delved into postal history. ☺

cancels on a screen – along with a multitude of fancy and not-so-fancy geometric cancels. And, who knows, while I have an abhorrence to recruitment in any form, some students may have become interested in our hobby.

Shown nearby are a group of envelopes and cards (photo-



**Circles tangent internally.**



**Piece de resistance:** This item, the author suspects, is the most impressive example of concurrent circles on the planet. Two circles are intersecting at all points, as do the sinusoids in the flag. The author located it at a book fair in Seattle..

## Mathematical Study Unit

The Mathematical Study Unit studies philatelic materials related to mathematics, mathematicians and computers. The study unit was chartered by the ATA in 1979 and Monty Strauss has served as president of the study unit since then. For more information about the Mathematical Study Unit, please contact Monty Strauss, 4209 88th Street, Lubbock TX 79423-2941, or via email [at montystrauss@gmail.com](mailto:montystrauss@gmail.com). The study unit website is [www.mathstamps.org](http://www.mathstamps.org). Dues are \$12 in North America and \$15 elsewhere.

# The Prehistory of Britain

Barry N. Floyd



**Figure 1. Ancient Britain, as depicted on this first-day cover for a set of stamps released by Royal Mail Jan. 17, 2017.**

The story of ancient Britain has been researched by historians, recording archaeological finds and examining prehistoric sites such as the numerous standing stone circles that continue to appear on present-day landscapes. Less conspicuous, but equally revealing, are the barrows, megaliths and mines that litter the countryside. Much more remains hidden, with new discoveries coming to light almost every day.

The prehistory of the British Isles encompasses a lengthy spell of time before the Romans occupied the country in 43 AD. It is usually separated into several main periods, variously dated by different authorities. The Paleolithic (or Old Stone Age), circa 2.5 million to 2 million years ago; the Mesolithic (or Middle Stone Age), circa 10,000-5,000 years ago; the Neolithic (New Stone Age), circa 10,200 years to 2,500 years ago; the Bronze Age, circa 2,500 years ago to 200 BC; and the Iron Age, circa 800 years - 43 AD.

The British Paleolithic Period covers the period of an ancient land which, until around 6,000 BC, was attached to North West Europe. Rising sea levels created the English Channel, which formed the British Isles. Prior to this event, small groups of *Homo erectus* peripatetic hunters, forebears to modern *Homo sapiens* and equipped with simple chipped stone tools, hunted red deer and other small animals. But, over some million years or more, the excursions were infrequent due to several Ice Ages, which caused both animals and man to



**Figure 2.** The Star Carr site in North Yorkshire was the source of a number of deer antler tools (top and above), as well as antler headdresses (top and Figure 3).

retreat back to the mainland of Central and Southern Europe. During milder climes, parties of modern man ventured back across the peninsula to follow game. They tarried along rivers and lakes and in caves. But, apart from a few carved images of wild animals carved on walls, they left no major reminders of their presence.

During the Mesolithic Period, some humans became isolated on the British Isles and new and distinctive identities were forged, with numbers increasing due to more favorable weather conditions. At the same time links were maintained with mankind in Europe, encouraging cultural and economic advancement.

Firing forests to create grasslands favored the hunt, as did the creation of barbed

spears made from red deer, dating from around 9,000 BC and found recently at a location in North Yorkshire.

At the same dig – Star Carr – more than 30 red deer headdresses were located, one of which is depicted on the £1.05



**Figure 3.** More than 30 red deer headdresses were found at the Star Carr site. These were thought to be used in rituals.

**Figure 4. A reconstruction of a hut at the Skara Brae village, located on the Orkney Islands.**

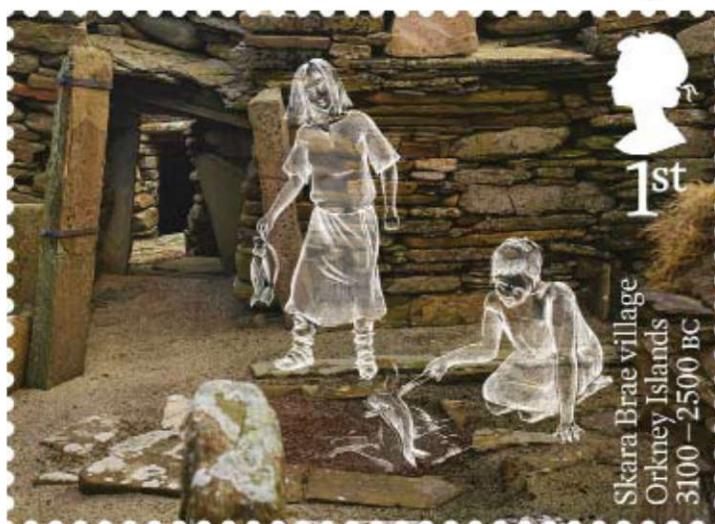
stamp of the new set. These headdresses may have been used during ritual performances by a shaman or as a disguise while hunting.

The Neolithic Period, which was marked by the use of tools of polished stone, saw important changes in the lives of human beings in Britain. Most significant was the gradual change away from hunter-gathering groups to a more permanent use and settlement of the land: growing crops and raising domesticated animals.

Farming originated in the Middle East, spreading across Europe, arriving in the British Isles around 4,000 BC. Barley and wheat were grown and cattle, pigs, sheep and goats reared. This “agricultural revolution” led to the creation of groups of family homes or extended longhouses, surrounded by small fields and set in cleared woodland or open moorland.

A good illustration of this new pattern of settlement comes from Skara Brae village in the Orkney Islands, Scotland (circa 3,100-2,500 BC). Probably originating by sea from Scandinavia, the inhabitants lived in small, stone-walled houses located on either side of subterranean alleyways. Roughly square in plan, and with common interior fittings, they undoubtedly underwent many changes over thousands of years, but outlines of structures are still discernible during contemporary archaeological excavations. Diet consisted of domesticated crops grown in a patchwork of surrounding plots and wild plants, fish, sea birds and animal products. Various forms of pottery were used to store grains, while middens containing domestic waste from many centuries have been found beyond the residential areas. The 1st Class stamp of the new set shows an underground scene with two residents at Skara Brae.

Circular burial mounds and long barrows are a Neolithic landscape feature as human settlements multiplied. These were matched around 3,200 BC by new forms of circular monuments, such as that shown on the Figure 1 first-day cover. Known as henges, these structures consist of upright standing columns of timber or stone, arranged in circles of varying diameters and thought to be oriented towards movements of the sun and moon. They became ceremonial meeting places and destinations for pilgrimages over many years and many still are. The largest and best known is located in Southern Britain: Stonehenge in Wiltshire.





**Figure 5. Stonehenge, which is easily the most well-known and popular of all ancient English archaeological sites.**

Recent research suggests that henges originated in the Orkneys and then spread southwards. Stone circle construction may be noted in many parts of the world, but the best known tradition occurs in Britain and across the English Channel, in French Brittany.

The largest prehistoric monument in Britain (circa 2,500 BC) is to be found at Avebury in Wiltshire, a few miles away from Stonehenge. It comprises almost 100 unworked stone pillars arranged in three circles and bounded by a 16-foot-high bank and internal ditch. These earthworks possibly provided a grandstand from which to observe ceremonies taking place within the henge. The Avery Stone Circles are found on the £1.33 stamp of the new set.

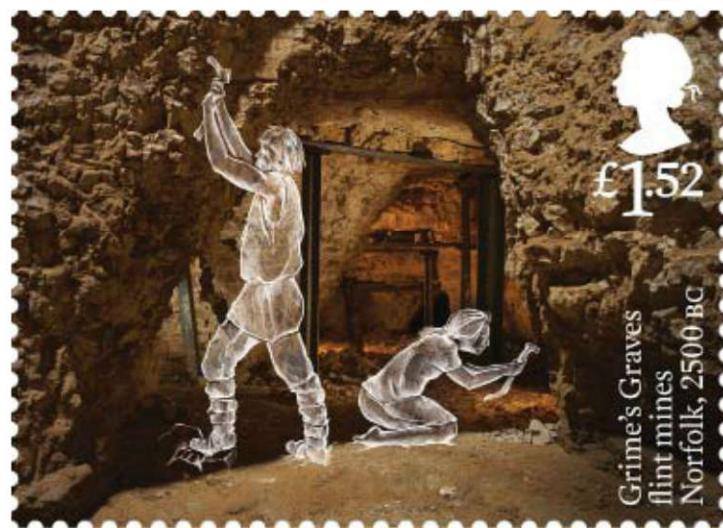


**Figure 6. The Avery Stone Circles, depicted on this stamp, are located a few miles from Stonehenge.**

Throughout the Neolithic Period and into the Bronze Age a mounting demand for flint arose, needed to help fashion edged tools and weapons. The best flints were to be found in the chalklands of S.E. England. The heavily patterned ground at Grimes Grave reflects the

remains of some 600 mine shafts, each sunk as deep as 45 feet to reach bands of superior flint below. Radiating galleries were fashioned to follow the prized nodules, which were then traded to far-flung communities or used to create tools on site. The earliest known workings date from before 3,000 BC, with the site in continual use until around 1,900 BC. An interior scene of Grimes Grave is shown on the £1.52 value of the recent set of stamps.

Around 2,200 BC knowledge of how to mine metal ores and create prestigious possessions spread from



**Figure 7.** Grimes Grave was the source of a huge amount of quality flint used for creating Neolithic stone tools.



**Figure 8 (above).** The mold cape, shown on the stamp pictured above, is considered to be a remarkable example of early metalworking. It was hammered out from a single gold ingot.

northwest Europe. Gold and copper objects were fashioned while bronze (an alloy of copper and tin) became popular for ornaments, tools and weapons. Accompanying the burials of distinguished individuals were many fine pieces such as necklaces and the fashionable mold cape, unearthed in Flintshire, Wales. (1,900 BC – 1,600 BC). The cape was made by hammering out a large gold



**Figure 9 (right).** More than 100 drumbest horns, such as those shown here, have been located across the landscape of Ireland. The metallic horns were certainly used, but are also thought to have been commonly used as ritualistic offerings.



**Figure 10. Maiden Castle, shown on the stamp above, was part of a large hill fort, of which a conceptualized version is shown at top. Reconstructed round houses from the fortress are shown above right**

ingot. The workmanship was remarkable: amber beads lay in concentric rows, along with traces of cloth. A bronze knife was found nearby. The mold cape is found on the £1.52 stamp from the new set.

Also from the Bronze Age, close to the boundary assigned to the beginning of the Iron Age, a number of metallic Drumbest Horns, such as those found on the new £1.33 stamp, were found in a North Irish bog in 1840, dating from circa 800 BC. Such finds are not uncommon in swampy areas and are thought to be sacrificial offerings to the gods made over the years. More than 100 instruments have since been located across Ireland. They probably produced deep resonating sounds when played in public rituals or during raids; the mouthpieces were located either at the end or along the side.

From 800 BC onwards, numerous hill forts were constructed across Britain. The early structures had simple ramparts but these evolved to become more complex forts, such as that at Maiden Castle in Dorset, S.W. England (circa 400 BC). Expansion of ditches and ramparts led to a three-fold enlargement of



**Figure 11.** The intricate Battershield (right) is depicted on the above stamp, representing Celtic design.

the built-up area to become the biggest hill fort in Britain. By some definitions it may be claimed as the largest in Europe. Homesteads in and around the fort housed the occupants who farmed the surrounding countryside. An envisioned entrance to Maiden Castle is shown on the £1.05 stamp.

Many items could have been selected by Royal Mail to represent the Iron Age. They chose a military item, found at the bottom of the River Thames in London. The Battershield (circa 350 BC - 50 BC) is of Celtic design, with three circular panels appearing vertically upon its bronze face. The high-domed boss in the central panel covered the handle; the backing was probably of wood. The Battershield was selected to be depicted on one of the 1st Class stamps of the new set.

I trust this overview of the prehistory of the British Isles, depicted in the eight stamps chosen to mark the various phases of its lengthy saga, is thought worthy of note by topical collectors. While the selection of items to represent the different places or events is open to question – and readers may have hoped for an alternative perspective – nevertheless the Royal Mail set is an informative philatelic reminder of human evolution worldwide.

**Acknowledgement:** Information regarding Royal Mail's selection of stamps to represent the prehistory of Britain is drawn from a presentation pack accompanying the series. ☐



**Barry Floyd** is a longtime ATA member, collector and writer who lives in Great Britain. He has contributed extensively to Topical Time over the years, writing on subjects as diverse as African Art and Charles Darwin (one of his favorite subjects). He continues to submit features as time allows. He may be contacted by email at: [bnfloyd@hotmail.com](mailto:bnfloyd@hotmail.com).



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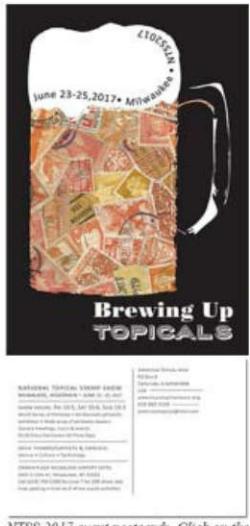
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#### New Checklist Update

February 28, 2017

The March 2017 checklist updates, including the February *Linn's* new issue listings, contain more than 595 added items. If you don't find your topic listed, ATA can customize a checklist for you. Contact the ATA Office, [american topical@msn.com](mailto:american topical@msn.com), for information. [Click here](#) to view updated checklists.

Checklists marked with an asterisk(\*) in the ATA listings contain Beyond the Catalogue (BTC) items: Basic types of common philatelic items issued by governments but not usually listed in Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, e.g., booklet covers, meter stamps, postal cards, postal stationery, postmarks. These items can add special meaning to a collection or an exhibit—and often their existence is unknown to a collector. ATA checklists are one of the few sources of this type of information.

#### Membership Directory

#### 2017 Price Reduction

February 13, 2017

ATA has published a triennial directory since the early 1950s. Members may order the 2015-2017 directory at a 2017 reduced cost of \$5 plus postage (\$3 US, \$6 Canada, \$13 international). New member price at time of application to ATA is \$4 with free postage to US and Canada. Payment by check or mixed mail US postage—or PayPal or debit/credit card through [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com). Only ATA members may purchase a Directory, and it cannot be used for commercial purposes. Learn more [here](#).

Printable album pages

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# Webmaster's Log

Amanda L. Morgenstern

[Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles by Amanda to keep you up to date with happening on the ATA website: [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org).]

An exciting addition of six new topical album pages was added to the already existing 122, all available free to print off the website. Topics added are Archaeology, Europa, French Colonies, Gems & Minerals, Turtles and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Although absolutely for adults too, these album pages can be found in the Youth section of the main website at: [americantopicalassn.org/yalbumpages.shtml](http://americantopicalassn.org/yalbumpages.shtml). These pages are created by our Assistant Youth Coordinator, Aimée Devine. Also new in the Youth section is the lovely winter edition of *Topical Tidbits*, also prepared by Aimée. The latest edition marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Print your action-packed *Topical Tidbits* from the tidbits section: [americantopicalassn.org/tidbits.shtml](http://americantopicalassn.org/tidbits.shtml).

To start off the new year, we have a new chapter, the Evergreen Stamp Club of Washington state. Learn more about this chapter and other participating chapters at [americantopicalassn.org/chapters.shtml](http://americantopicalassn.org/chapters.shtml).

On the home page you can find a new and printable "Basic Guide to Topical Collecting." Feel free to use this resource for your own learning or print it out and distribute it at your club or bourse. The link to this new guide is: [americantopicalassn.org/pdf/basic\\_guide\\_to\\_topical\\_collecting.pdf](http://americantopicalassn.org/pdf/basic_guide_to_topical_collecting.pdf).

Most exciting of all, we are preparing to open up our website for sponsorships and advertising. If you are interested in having an ad on the ATA website, watch this space. ☺



## CINDERELLA CORNER

### *Arthur H. Grotel*

## Dino the Dinosaur

Anyone of my age has heard of Dino the Dinosaur, the logo and mascot of Sinclair Refining Company (Figure 1). Sinclair took advantage of the tremendous promotional opportunities of poster stamps and meter slogans, as well as the huge popularity of dinosaurs. Back in the day when I collected meter slogans, I recall there were many varieties of color and design types for Dino. You can still find them if you look.

This article gives a brief look at the company's foray into using poster stamp sets to bring customers to its outlets. Two sets were produced, one in 1935, the other a bit later.



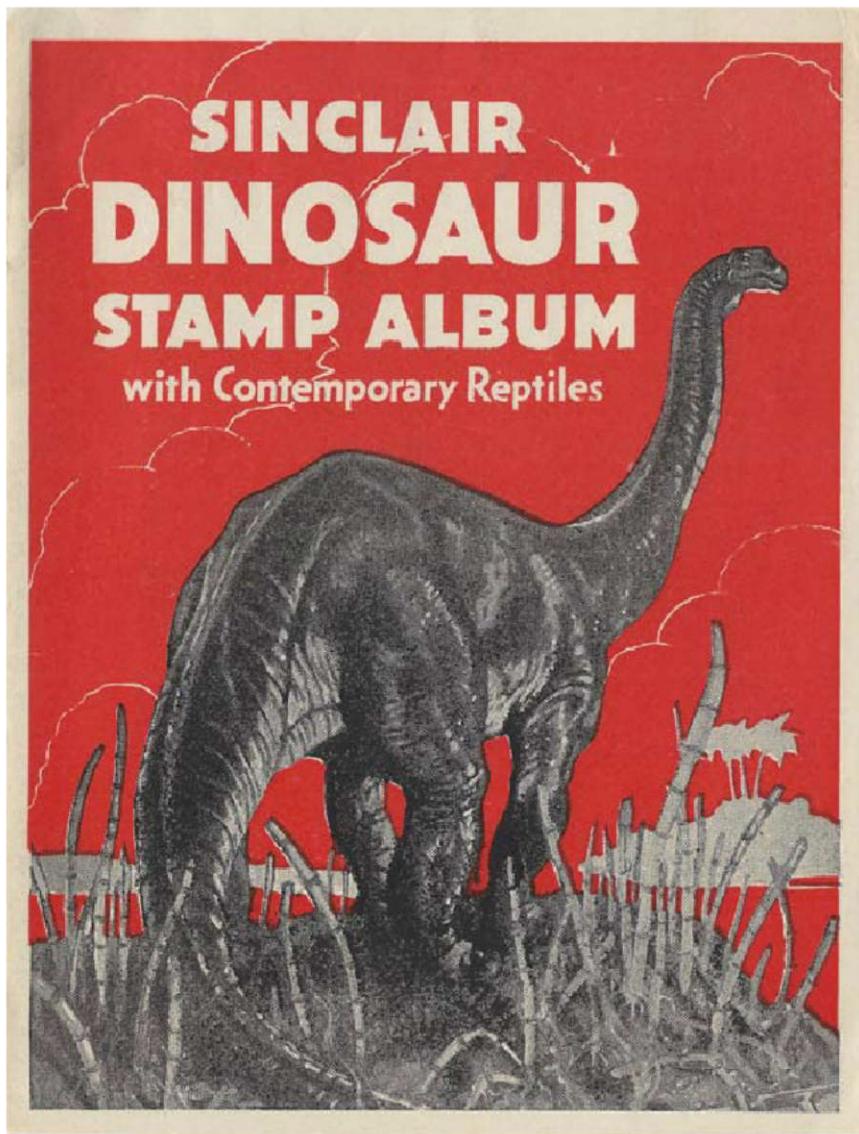
Figure 1.

## Great Gift Idea!



- Unique products to help promote the hobby
- Enjoy and share the artwork and beauty of stamps
- Create a personalized stamp display or game

Engage the next generation  
of stamp collectors!



**Figure 2.**

ferent stamps (Figure 3) were offered in different weeks. There were eight different panes for eight weeks to be given to any child who asked for them



**Figure 3.**

The 1935 set was the more sophisticated. An album (Figure 2) was supplied initially and panes of three dif-



**Figure 4.**



"provided he or she is accompanied by an adult." Dr. Barnum Brown, curator of Fossil Reptiles at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, prepared the educational descriptive material that accompanied each stamp. The drawings were created by James E. Allen.

*As Sinclair states in the booklet, the company uses "dinosaurs to impress on your mind the tremendous age of crude oils ... when nature was mellowing and filtering in the ground the crude oils which today are refined into Sinclair Motor Oils."*

The second set of dinosaur stamps was produced in four small undated folders (Figure 4) with a strip of three stamps in each (Figure 5). I have not seen an album for them.

In keeping with the company's theme, Sinclair also issued a series of dinosaur cards with a place provided for the dealer's imprint on the back. I've only seen this one (Figure 6).

There are many other dinosaur Cinderellas. We'll look at them in the future. ☐

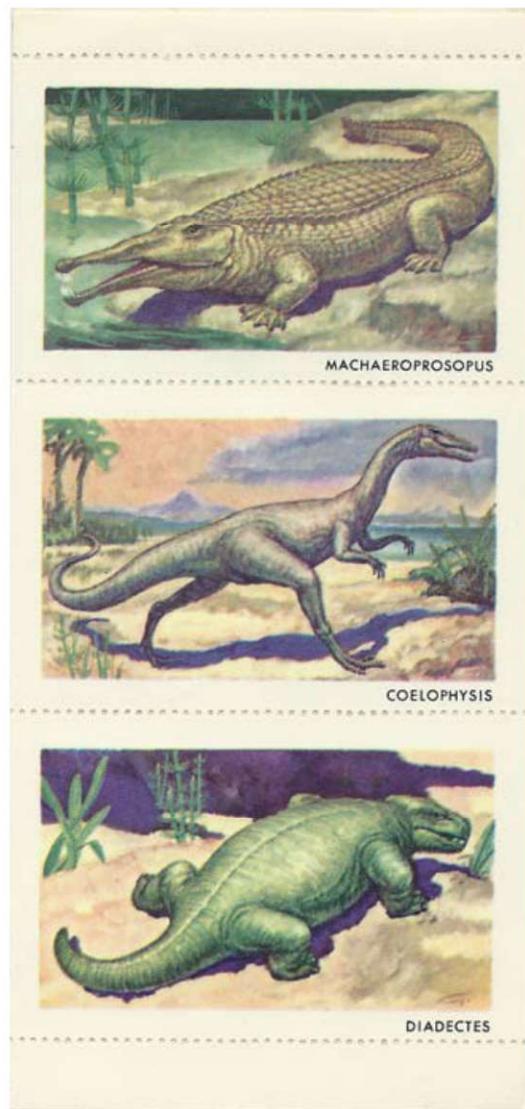


Figure 5.

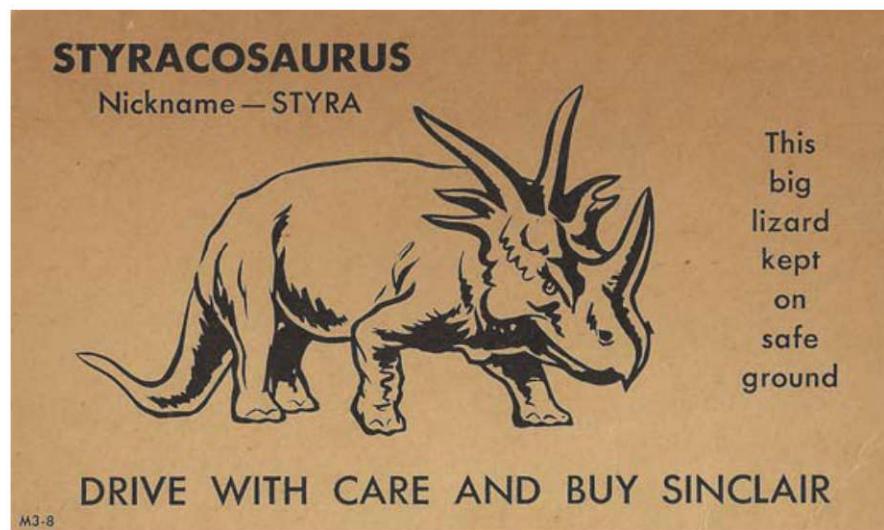


Figure 6.

Arthur H. Grotens, longtime cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA, or by email: [agrotens43@icloud.com](mailto:agrotens43@icloud.com).

# Food/Gastronomy Study Unit Forming

*David Wolfersberger*

Are you interested in food and gastronomy topics on stamps? This broad category includes many “subtopics,” such as fruit, vegetables, cooking, grains, spices and eating! We want to determine if there is enough interest to see if forming a food/gastronomy study unit is feasible. It should be a fun, easy-to-collect topic, as there are currently more than 9,000 food-related stamps in the ATA checklists.

If you are interested in starting and participating in such a study unit, or have questions, please contact David Wolfersberger at [dewolf2@swbell.net](mailto:dewolf2@swbell.net), or 5062 NW 35th Lane Rd, Ocala FL 34482. ☐



# Units in Action

*Jeffrey Hayward, ATA Study Unit Coordinator ([stamps@jeffhaywardata@gmail.com](mailto:stamps@jeffhaywardata@gmail.com))*

## Americana Unit Americana Philatelic News

Paul Schumacher shares part one of his one-frame exhibit, *Next In Line*, which explores eight individuals who were next in line to succeed the office of the United States President when the office of the Vice President was vacant.

Seven pages of Americana new issues are also included in *Americana Philatelic News* October-December 2016.

Dues are \$9 in the United States, \$15 elsewhere. Contact Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.

Email: [dennisdengel@verizon.net](mailto:dennisdengel@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.americanauit.org](http://www.americanauit.org)

## Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit Old World Archaeologist

In the *Old World Archaeologist* for



October 2016, the main article is "The Army of the Underworld," illustrated with stamps depicting the First Emperor of China, Qin Shi

Huangdi's terracotta army. The article is written by Christopher Kolker.

Caroline Scannell also writes about the UNESCO Heritage site, "The Old City of Sana'a," most of which has recently been destroyed.

Fourteen new issues, along with background information of the stamp's subject are illustrated in the New Digs section of the journal.

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

Email: [editor@owasu.org](mailto:editor@owasu.org)  
Website: [www.owasu.org](http://www.owasu.org)

## Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)

### *ARPA Journal*

In the *ARPA Journal* June of 2016, Jack Kifedjian explores Armenian forged overprints on Russian stamps in "The Study of Forgeries: Framed Monogram Overprints."

Highlights from several events in which ARPA participated, as well as two pages of Armenian new stamp issues also appear in this issue.

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

Email: [igorgrig@pacbell.net](mailto:igorgrig@pacbell.net)  
Website: [www.armenianphilatelic.org](http://www.armenianphilatelic.org)

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R.W. Gray  
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Goffstown NH 03045

contact: [RGray43645@aol.com](mailto:RGray43645@aol.com)

## Biology Unit

*Biophilately*

Biophilately editor Jack Congrove



provides a "World Stamp Show NY 2016 Report" in the September

2016 issue.

Lyman R. Caswell begins the first in a four-part article on "Alexander Von Humboldt: The First Environmentalist."

New issues information from botany to paleontology make up the majority of this issue of *Biophilately*.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere and \$15 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Christopher Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724.

Email: [chris-dahle@fastermac.net](mailto:chris-dahle@fastermac.net)  
Website: [www.biophilately.org](http://www.biophilately.org)

## Books and Printing (Graphics Philately Association) *Philateli-Graphics*

Theo Huisman takes readers on

a journey of paper folding around the world in "Origami: One, two, three, four hat (made) of, hat (made) of. One, two, three, four hat (made) of paper."



The art of paper folding appears in many forms on philatelic items from boats, hats and different animals with almost 20 examples in the article.

Six pages of graphics philately new issues are also included in *Philateli-Graphics*, January-April 2016.

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: [unhinged@gbstamps.com](mailto:unhinged@gbstamps.com)  
Website: [www.graphics-stamps.org](http://www.graphics-stamps.org)

## Captain Cook Society *Cook's Log*

Captain Cook Society member



Alison Sutherland introduces herself and her interest in Arapawa goats, along with providing their connection to Captain Cook in the April-June 2016 issue of *Cook's Log*.

Also noted in this issue the double-hulled Hawaiian canoe *Hōkūle'a* could be spotted in the North Atlantic on a voyage celebrating the 40th anniversary of her first voyage.

Dues in the United States are \$28, \$14 for the electronic version. Contact Jerry Yucht, 8427 Leale, Stockton CA 95212.

Email: [us@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:us@CaptainCookSociety.com)

or, £14, £7 for the electronic version in the United Kingdom. Contact Alwyn Peel, Secretary CCS, 13 Cowdry Close, Thornhill, Dewsbury, W. York WF12 0LW, United Kingdom

Email: [Secretary@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:Secretary@CaptainCookSociety.com)

or, \$Aus48 in Australia. Contact Roz Johnston, PO Box 1157, Thornbury, Victoria 3071, Australia

Email:  
[australianbranch@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:australianbranch@CaptainCookSociety.com)

or, \$CA30 in Canada. Contact John W. Richardson, 19 Oakhurst Dr, North York, ON, Canada M2K 2N2

Email: [canada@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:canada@CaptainCookSociety.com)

or, \$NZ40 in New Zealand. Contact Brian Wyeth, 12 Baska Dr., Kerikeri,

Northland 0230, New Zealand

Email: [nz@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:nz@CaptainCookSociety.com)  
Website: [www.CaptainCookSociety.com](http://www.CaptainCookSociety.com)

### Cats on Stamps Study Unit *Cat Mews*

Felix the Cat makes an appearance in



*Cat Mews*, Winter 2016. Felix the Cat first appeared in silent films in 1919 and has been in comic books

and TV cartoons since. Cats on Stamps Study Unit member Tsu Soo Tan shares a Chinese Railway voucher issued by China Post in 2015 where Felix is holding his Magic Bag of Tricks.

Four illustrated pages of new cat stamps are also included in this issue.

Dues are \$14 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Bob Jarvis, 2731 Teton Ln, Fairfield CA 94533-6503.

Email: [bobmarci@aol.com](mailto:bobmarci@aol.com)  
Website: [www.catstamps.info](http://www.catstamps.info)

### Chemistry & Physics Study Unit *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*

A biography to celebrate Chemistry & Physics Study Unit member Foil Miller's 100th birthday is featured in the Winter 2016 *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*. Miller's primary research was in infrared and Raman spectroscopy and he received several awards for his work.



Miller collected chemistry and physics stamps since 1981 and he wrote more than 180 philatelic articles. Miller also shared some of his favorite philatelic possessions in this issue. Miller, who

recently passed away, was honored as the ATA's Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 2009.

Dues are \$20 in the United States, \$26 in Canada, \$40 elsewhere, with electronic delivery for \$20. Contact Roland F. Hirsch, 20458 Waters Point Ln, Germantown MD 20874-1091.

Email: [michael@cpossu.org](mailto:michael@cpossu.org)  
Website: [www.cpossu.org](http://www.cpossu.org)

### Chess on Stamps Study Unit *Chesstamp Review*

Jon Edwards provides "Victor Korchnoi, A



Chesstamp Obituary," in *Chesstamp Review* for April-June 2016. Korchnoi was a professional chess player and one of two strong chess players never to become World Chess Champion.

Gibraltar issued a set of stamps in 2012 showing the first position of chess piece from a game which Victor Korchnoi defeated opponent Fabiano Caruana.

Dues are \$17 in North America and \$24 elsewhere. Contact Barry Keith, 555 Rolling Valley Ct, Charlottesville VA 22902-8257.

Email: [keithfam@embarqmail.com](mailto:keithfam@embarqmail.com)  
Website: [www.chessonstamps.org](http://www.chessonstamps.org)

### Disneyana on Stamps Society *Disnemation*

The "Disney Films on Stamps" series continues with



"Disney Films from 1963-1966" in *Disnemation* No. 76. Three Disney films were released between 1963-66, one of which was the *Sword and the Stone*, based on the T.H. White book series on King Arthur.

Scenes from this movie are depicted in

a set of three stamps issued by Gambia. A tribute to Robin Williams is also included in this issue.

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

**Email:** [disnemation@yahoo.ca](mailto:disnemation@yahoo.ca)

**Web:** [www.disnemation.wixsite.com/doss](http://www.disnemation.wixsite.com/doss)

**Errors, Freaks, and Oddities  
Collectors' Club  
The EFO Collector**

John Hotchner continues his series



about affordable ways to collect EFOs in "Perforations - Not Spending Big Bucks." Hotchner

provides several examples of repair and rejection markings, including one that shows black spray that was used on a block of 2¢ Frank Lloyd Wright stamps as a rejection marking.

The author notes that many collectors may mistake this marking as damage to the stamps and throw them away.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$37 elsewhere. Contact David Hunt, 45 Fairway Dr, Denver PA 17517.

**Email:** [dbhunt@ptdprolog.net](mailto:dbhunt@ptdprolog.net)

**Website:** [www.efocc.org](http://www.efocc.org)

**Europa Study Unit  
Europa News**

The *Europa News* for September-October 2016 leads with 14 illustrated pages of almost 50 Europa new issues.



Several Mediterranean countries have begun issuing fish stamps for the EuroMed 2016 theme of

"Fishes of the Mediterranean."

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$30 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Tonny Van Loij, 3002 S Xanthia St, Denver CO 80231-4237.

**Email:** [tvanloij@gmail.com](mailto:tvanloij@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.europastudyunit.org](http://www.europastudyunit.org)

**Fire Service in Philately  
Fire Stamp News**

In the April-June 2016 *Fire Stamp*



*News* Walter Penka shares several philatelic items celebrating the "150th Anniversary, German Search and Rescue Association."

In 2015 Germany issued a stamp to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the search and rescue association that maintains a modern fleet of more than 60 sea rescue cruisers and lifeboats.

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

**Email:** [etflory@ptd.net](mailto:etflory@ptd.net)

**Judaica Thematic Society  
Judaica News**

Gene Eisen provides a biography of "Lipman Pike: A Baseball Pioneer" in the October 2016 *Judaica News*. Born in New York in 1845, Lipman

Pike, in 1866, became the first Jewish professional baseball player. Nicknamed "The Iron Batter," he was second only to Babe Ruth for all home run hitters.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available,

in electronic format only, at no cost. Contact Gary Goodman at the following email address.

Email: [judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net](mailto:judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net)

### Lighthouse Stamp Society *The Philatelic Beacon*

Several pages of lighthouse new issues make up the November-December 2016 *Philatelic Beacon*. Portugal released a booklet and a set of stamps in 2016 and the Belém Tower appears on a stamp in each issue.

The four-storey limestone tower was built in the early 16th century on an island in the Tagus River. After an earthquake in 1755, the river was redirected and now the tower is located by the shore.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere; an electronic subscription of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232.

Email: [dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org](mailto:dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org)  
Web: [www.lighthousestampsociety.org](http://www.lighthousestampsociety.org)

### Malaria Philatelists International *Miasma*

Larry Fillion presents "Malaria Advertisement in 1962" in *Miasma*. Fillion shows advertisements from several philatelic dealers, most likely published in 1963. The author includes scans of many of the stamps listed in the advertisements and points out that many of the stamps still cost the same as they did in 1963.



The author also shares his recent visit to the National Postal Museum in this issue.

Dues are not required; the publication *Miasma* is available in electronic format free. Contact Larry Fillion at the following email address.

Email: [malaria.stamps@yahoo.com](mailto:malaria.stamps@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.malaria.stamps.com/mpil](http://www.malaria.stamps.com/mpil)

### Mathematical Study Unit *Philamath*

In *Philamath* July 2016, Rachel Braun explores the use and rarity of pie charts on postage stamps. In the article, the author shares nine examples of stamps with pie charts. Braun also points out that most pie charts on stamps are used to show economic or demographic data.



Dues are \$12 in North America, \$15 elsewhere. Contact Monty Strauss, 4209 88th St, Lubbock TX 79423-2941.

Email: [montystrauss@gmail.com](mailto:montystrauss@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.mathstamps.org](http://www.mathstamps.org)

### Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group) *Der Musikus*

Pink Floyd is one of many musical artists and musicians highlighted in *Der Musikus* for September 2016.



The English rock band was formed in London in 1965 and was active until 2015. In July 2016, Royal Mail issued a set of 10 stamps honoring Pink Floyd. Four of the stamps show images of past performances and the remaining six



show the band's album covers, which used experimental art techniques that would become a popular art form.

Dues are €25 (€12.50 for collectors 25 years old or younger.) Young collectors receive one year of *Der Musikus* free. Contact Peter Lang, Rotkamp 14, 13053 Berlin, Germany.

**Email:** [motivgruppe.musik@gmx.de](mailto:motivgruppe.musik@gmx.de)  
**Website:** [www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html](http://www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html)

### Napoléonic Age Philatelists Campaign

Eighteen pages of the July-



September 2016 issue of *Campaign* are of Napoleon-related new issues and discoveries. One of these issues shows five churches and a tower in the Kremlin in Moscow. This stamp was issued by Russia in

a tower in the Kremlin in Moscow. This stamp was issued by Russia in

December 2015 to celebrate the new year in 2016. Napoleon ordered the Kremlin to be destroyed during his retreat from Russia in 1812. The destruction of the Kremlin was not successful and the stamp shows Spaskaia Tower, which was rebuilt after being partially destroyed during Napoleon's retreat.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$20 elsewhere. Contact Ken Berry, 4117 NW 146th St, Oklahoma City OK 73134-1746

**Email:** [krb2@earthlink.net](mailto:krb2@earthlink.net)  
**Website:** [www.nap-stamps.org](http://www.nap-stamps.org)

### Penguins on Stamps Study Unit *The Rookery Report*

In the Summer 2016 *The Rookery*



Report some highlights from guest speaker and stamp designer Nancy Stahl are shared. Lynn Vernon also

ponders "Oh To Be a Penguin - (or at least travel where they live and breed)" and gives readers a worldwide tour via stamps of exotic locations where different penguin species live.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Lynn Vernon, 8430 Iris Rd, Plymouth IN 46563-9055.

**Email:** [gento0172@yahoo.com](mailto:gento0172@yahoo.com)  
**Website:** [www.penguinstamps.org](http://www.penguinstamps.org)



### 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>

Lynn Vernon  
8430 Iris Rd  
Plymouth IN 46563-9055  
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# STAMP NEWS

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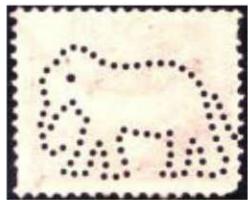
## The Perfins Club

*Perfins Bulletin*

The September-October 2016 issue



of *Perfins Bulletin* begins with a report of the study unit's annual meeting and convention in Portland, Ore.



Stephen Tauber finds an "Unreported Pattern MP/R" on a copy of a 3¢ Lincoln stamp. This perfin

used by the Missouri Pacific Railroad has not been found in any catalog and members have been asked to check their collections for additional examples.

Dues are \$16 in the United States, \$23 in Canada and \$26 elsewhere. Contact Ken Rehfeld, PO Box 125, Spokane Valley WA 99016-0125.

Email: [kenrehfeld@comcast.net](mailto:kenrehfeld@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.perfins.org](http://www.perfins.org)

## Petroleum Philatelic Society International *Petro-Philatelist*

Steve Fraser writes about "Zhang



Heng and the Seismoscope" in the Autumn 2016 *Petro-Philatelist*. Zhang Heng lived during the Han Dynasty

and invented the first seismoscope in AD132. Zhang's seismoscope had eight dragonheads containing a bronze ball that would drop if there was seismic activity.

In 1953 the device was depicted on a stamp issued by the People's Republic of China.

Free electronic membership.

Contact Feitze Papa, 922 Meander Dr, Walnut Creek CA 94598-4239.

Email: [oildad@astound.net](mailto:oildad@astound.net)

## Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

(PNC<sup>3</sup>)

*Coil Line*

John Himes shares a "14-Cent



Iceboat with Interesting Anomaly," found by PNC<sup>3</sup> member Jim Lowery.

Lowery discovered a 14¢ Iceboat coil that was tagged with two horizontal bars across the face of the stamp.

PNC<sup>3</sup> also announced Vickie Canfield Peters as editor of *Coil Line* and conducted its fall auction in this recent 2016 issue.

Dues are \$32-\$40 in the United States and Canada, \$45 elsewhere, \$18 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Michael J Conway, 239 Judd Rd, Easton CT 06612-1025.

Email: [mjcconway@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcconway@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org)

## Polar Philatelists, American Society of *Ice Cap News*

John Young provides a history of "Polar Icepick: A Ship Named Bear," in *Ice Cap News* July 2016. Built in Scotland in 1874, *Bear* was



built for power to break through ice, as she was to be used for sealing. *Bear* is noted for participating in the rescue of the Greely Expedition in 1884. The U.S. Navy transferred *Bear* to

Alaskan waters as part of Bering Sea Patrol.

Dues are \$22 in the United States, \$30 elsewhere. Contact Alan Warren, Box 39, Exton PA 19341-0039.

**Email:** [alanwar@comcast.net](mailto:alanwar@comcast.net)  
**Website:** [www.polarphilatelists.org](http://www.polarphilatelists.org)

### Railroad Unit, Casey Jones *The Dispatcher*

*The Dispatcher* for September-



October 2016 leads with recent new issues of "Swiss Railway Station Stamps," released in September 2016. This set of four stamps shows the

Bellinzona, Brig, Geneva and Lucerne railway stations. Six additional pages of train-related new issues are also included in this issue.

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](mailto:roymenn@sbcglobal.net)  
**Website:** [www.uqp.de/cjr](http://www.uqp.de/cjr)

### Rotary on Stamps Fellowship *ROS Bulletin*

Editor Dick Dickson points out that *The ROS Bulletin* has just reached a milestone of 2,100 *ROS Bulletins* published, culminating with the October 2016 issue.

In addition to several administrative announcements, details on several



Solomon Islands

Rotary new issues are also in this edition of the bulletin.

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

**Email:** [gfitz@suddenlink.net](mailto:gfitz@suddenlink.net)  
**Website:** [www.rotaryonstamps.org](http://www.rotaryonstamps.org)

### Ships on Stamps Unit *Watercraft Philately*

A detailed look at the boats that



appear on a recent Netherlands new issue showing boats and landmarks for five different cities is the feature article in the September-October 2016 issue of *Watercraft Philately*.

Also in this issue is background information for new listings of passenger and cargo ships.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$10 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Myron P. Molnau, 1616 E 32nd Ct, Spokane WA 99203-3918.

**Email:** [hobbies@turbanet.com](mailto:hobbies@turbanet.com)  
**Website:** [www.shipsonstamps.org](http://www.shipsonstamps.org)

### Sports Philatelists International *Journal of Sports Philately*

Patricia Loehr explores the philatelic programs for "Ireland's 2006 Ryder Cup" in *Journal of Sports Philately* of Fall 2016. The year 2006 was the first time Ireland hosted the golfing competition that is comprised of teams from the United States and Europe.

Three different stamp issues were released in September 2006



to commemorate the event. One of the issues released was a set of two lenticular stamps that simulated hitting a golf ball when tilted.

Dues are \$31 in the United States and Canada, and \$43 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for \$15, worldwide. Contact Mark C. Maestrone, 2824 Curie Pl, San Diego CA 92122-4110.

**Email:** [markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)

**Website:** [www.sportstamps.org](http://www.sportstamps.org)

### Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club SOS Signal

Recent messages between Stamps on Stamps members discussed what appears to be a possible illegal Madagascar issue commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black.

Incorrect design elements, such as an image of an unissued Penny Black official stamp and the wrong image of Rowland Hill, suggest that the issue may not be genuine. SOS members continue to research the issue's validity.

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### United Nations Philatelists

*Journal of United Nations Philatelists*

Greg Galletti provides extensive coverage of "NY2016 - An International Extravaganza" in the August 2016 *Journal of United Nations Philatelists*. Galletti



provides a report for new U.N. issues and ceremonies at the show, as well as exhibits United Nations Philatelists would find of interest. Galletti also shares an exhibit of *The Making of the United Nations Permanent Headquarters* in the journal.

Dues are \$28 in the United States, \$35 in Canada and \$50 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement, Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.

**Email:** [bclemjr@yahoo.com](mailto:bclemjr@yahoo.com)

or, Larry Fillion, 18 Arlington St, Acton MA 01720-2602.

**Email:** [malariastamps@yahoo.com](mailto:malariastamps@yahoo.com)

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### Wine on Stamps Study Unit *Enophilatelica*

The August 2016 *Enophilatelica* issue leads with "Beer on Stamps." This is the first article in a series that will show the process involved in brewing beer, brewers, containers and drinking on stamps. Part one shows many stamps



depicting the raw materials used in brewing, such as barley, hop, rice and yeast. Three pages of wine-related new stamp issues also appear in this issue.

Dues are \$17 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$14 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Paul J. Parham, 1768 Aurora Ave N No. 303, Seattle WA 98109-2758.

**Email:** [pauljparham@msn.com](mailto:pauljparham@msn.com)  
**Website:** [www.wine-on-stamps.org](http://www.wine-on-stamps.org)

**World of Engravers  
Philatelic Association  
*Engraver's Burin***

Geof Belshaw shares a set of two stamps in "Sweden 1966 - National

March-April 2017



Museum." The set of stamps was issued in Sweden in 1966 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of

the National Museum. The set of stamps was engraved by Czeslaw Slania with the designs showing the entrance hall to the museum.

Dues are not required; the quarterly publication, *Engraver's Burin*, is available in electronic format only at no cost. Contact Matt Hayes at the following email address.

**Email:** [stampcrazy71@gmail.com](mailto:stampcrazy71@gmail.com)

## Lonely Onlys...

### Can You "Top" These Topicals?

*Mark Sommer*

[Editor's Note: This is the eighth installment of this column, focusing on unusual or, perhaps, unique topics.]

Okay, so the ATA has completed a database of hundreds of topicals. Fine. You have a master list of items and have found most of those you need.

Here's a new challenge: Find either new topics (where only a single stamp might exist) or add to these. Don't just sit there reading, get out those catalogs and start looking! ☺

**Below:** Although no longer unique in terms of concept, the 2001 Greetings stamps shown below from Liechtenstein both feature a scratch-off panel. The stamp at left shows a postman with a parcel. The message when scratched off is a message of thanks. The right stamp, intended to be congratulatory, features a bouquet of flowers. Both messages are revealed in the selvage.



# Growing a Topical or Thematic II

Wayne L. Youngblood

In the last issue of *Topical Time* (January–February, Page 55), I began a guide for starting a new topical or thematic collection, or for continuing to develop an existing one. Identifying and finding material related to your interest is the single-most challenging (and fun) aspect, whether you're collecting for your own amusement or planning a multi-frame exhibit. But some of the thrill of the hunt can be tempered by not knowing *where* to hunt.

As I mentioned, there is a wealth of material available for most anything you may wish to collect – and there is much you may not have even identified as being an important or desirable part of your collection. All you need are the tools to help you know what to look for.

It can never be overstated that the bottom-line guiding principle regarding philately – of any type – is that this is *your* collection. You decide what belongs or does not belong in it. You don't have to acquire anything you don't wish to, nor should you feel the need to avoid something you like because it doesn't fit someone else's notion. It's your own fulfillment you are seeking, not anyone else's.

Because I want to cover as broad of range of possibilities as possible, I chose horticulture as the topic, and am making no attempt to be comprehensive.

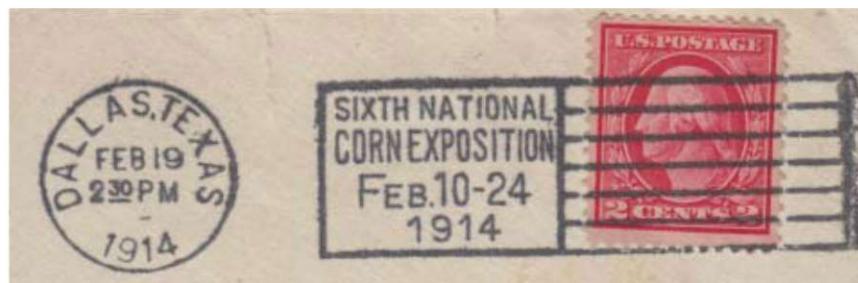
Last issue we briefly covered stamps (postage and revenue), use of those stamps on cover and some topic-related cancels (either through town name or pictorial).

## Additional cancellations

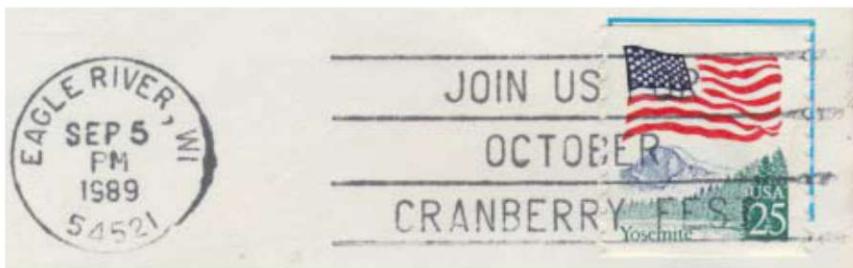
In addition to town names and fancy cancels, there are almost certainly many other types of postmarks and cancellations that will fit your collection. Unfortunately, there is no definitive listing or cancellation checklist by topic, so, like many things, you'll

need to keep your eyes open for what may show up in dealer boxes, on TopicalsOnLine, eBay or other sites.

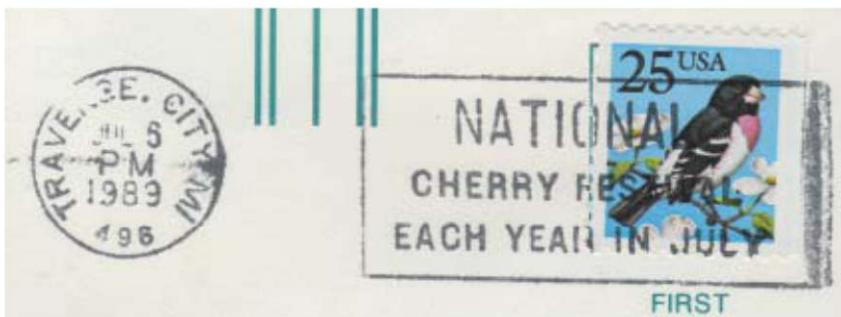
It is, however, important to distinguish between machine cancellations



**Figure 1.** An example of a fairly early horticulture-related machine cancel, marking the Sixth Annual Corn Festival in Dallas, Texas, in 1914.



**Figure 2.** This 1989 machine cancellation from Eagle River, Wis., calls attention to an annual cranberry festival. The device was likely used for several years.



**Figure 3.** A somewhat generic metal die-hub cancellation marking the National Cherry Festival each year. This device was likely used for several years.

significance if you are planning to exhibit, but you don't need to exclude either. Most of the cancels accompanying this feature have been photographically cropped from their covers for clarity.

Figure 1 shows one of the earliest horticulture-related machine cancels I've been able

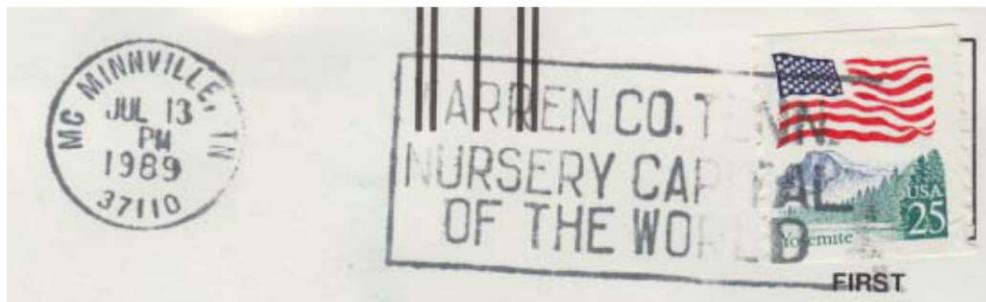
to locate. It celebrates the 1914 "Sixth Annual Corn Exposition" in Dallas, Texas. Because it is a metal die-hub cancellation

with a specific date, this cancel could have been used for only a short span during one year. Other similar cancels may exist for other years.

The Figure 2 example, from 1989, promotes a Cranberry Fest in Eagle River, Wis. Metal die-hub cancellations are fairly expensive for post offices to create, often running \$250 or more for the die. Thus, a post office is more likely to commit to a metal die-hub that can be used for more than just a few days (like the Figure 1 cancel). By avoiding specific dates, the Figure 2 cancel was likely used for several years, and probably for a month or more before the event each year.

Additionally, because we know the Figure 2 cancel exists, we could track

that are created primarily to process mail, and pictorial handstamps, which are created primarily for collectors or specific events (see "Topics on Postmarks" in this issue, on Page 29, for more). Machine cancels will certainly carry more



**Figure 4.** This 1989 machine cancellation celebrates Warren County, Tenn., as the "Nursery Capital of the World."



**Figure 5.** An attractive pictorial handstamped cancel from 1979 illustrates flowers and a man sowing seeds.

down nearby communities in the so-called "Cranberry Belt" of Wisconsin to see if other cancels (either machine or handstamps)

related to cranberries were created or used for their own festivals.

Similarly, the Figure 3 cancel, also from 1989 (July 6), can give us clues about other potential cherry festivals near Traverse City.

Mich., that may have created similar cancels. This cancel, too, was likely trotted out each June and July for several years to promote the event.

The cancel shown in Figure 4 is a bit different. While it, too, is from 1989 (July 13), it doesn't promote a specific event. It is more of what is known as a "community builder" cancel; that is, it's something you'd expect to see created by the Chamber of Commerce. Still, as "Nursery Capital of the World," this cancel from Warren County, Tenn. (McMinnville, specifically), has a very direct link to horticulture and was likely available from several different communities from Warren County.

Let's take a look at a few pictorial cancels. Again, these are usually created for specific events and generally exist in quantities ranging from a couple of dozen to several hundred. Despite their relative scarcity, most are highly affordable, due to what can only be assumed as a general lack of interest. Still, they are quite collectible and can add much to a topical or thematic collection.

The cancel shown in Figure 5, from Florissant, Mo., is from May 5, 1979, and depicts a man sowing seeds, with flowers poking out from the edge of the postmark dial. A woman stands in the background. The text reads "Valley of Flowers," referring to the annual festival that takes place in that community (2017 will be the 55th Valley of Flowers festival in Florissant).

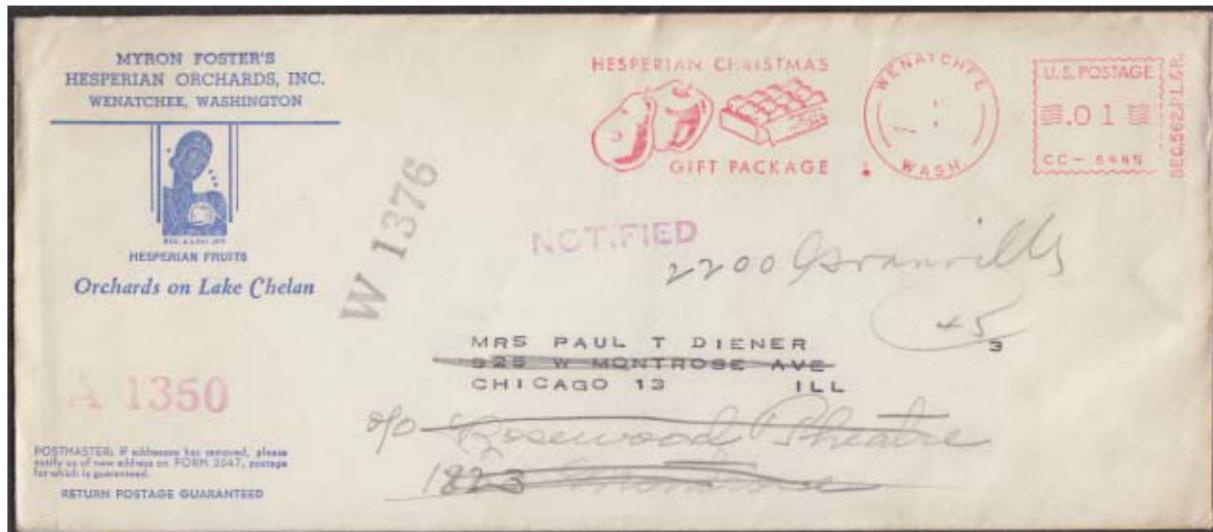
The Figure 6 example, from Plant City, Fla., March 5, 1992, promotes that city's annual Strawberry Festival. The red cancel also marks the quincentenary of Columbus' landing and depicts his



**Figure 6.** A colored pictorial cancel from 1992 that not only depicts strawberries, but would be of interest to a Columbus topicalist as well.



**Figure 7.** This 1984 pictorial (overcanceled with a space-related machine cancel) depicts several types of vegetables.



**Figure 8.** This 1940s-era bulk-rate cover has the double appeal of being a custom-designed pictorial meter that matches the business cornercard. The auxiliary markings add postal history interest as well.

three ships as well. Thus the cancel has appeal to both horticulture and Columbus collectors.

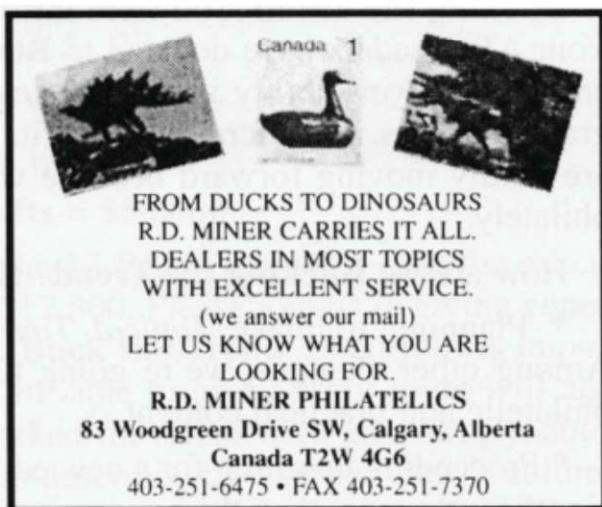
The Figure 7 cancel, a 1984 marking celebrating a New York City farmers' market, takes the prize. Within the roughly 1½- by 3½-in cancel area, we see a bushel of apples, cucumbers, a jug of cider, bag of potatoes, a basket of eggs, a couple of live plants and other items – and the artistic depiction is pretty good! Obviously the piece traveled through the mail, as evidenced by the faint overcancel celebrating the 25th anniversary of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

## Meters

The next best thing to stamps are meters and there are usually many of these “beyond the catalog” items to pursue for most any topic or theme. We’ll examine a few. Pictorial meters are always preferable to text-only examples, but if you have only a limited number of items available, then they will be quite fine.

Although meter cuts are acceptable (the vast majority are trimmed down), it’s

always better when you can show the full cover. The cover illustrated in Figure 8 is useful from several standpoints. Although it is undated (because it is a piece of discount-rated bulk mail), it dates from the 1940s. The meter itself,



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**Figure 9. Two meters, one from the United Nations (marking the Second World Olive Oil Year), and one from St. Louis (depicting a jug of olive oil).**

which was custom created for the business, depicts an apple, a pear and a crate of fruit, with the advertisement of "Hesperian Christmas Gift Package." The illustrated cornercard is for the Hesperian Orchards of Wenatchee, Wash. Adding to the overall flavor of the cover (from a postal history aspect) is the fact it was forwarded twice within Chicago.

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**Figure 10.** These meters, each from the 1930s, picture fruits and vegetables. The top meter features tomatoes, the bottom one a Florida grapefruit.

The cropped meters in Figure 9, from the United Nations and St. Louis, Mo., show olives on a branch (from the Second World Olive Oil Year 1979-1980) and an olive oil jug.

The 1930s-era meters shown in Figure 10 each show produce. The top example, an advertising meter from Campbell's, features a juice glass balanced on a cut tomato, while the bottom one (to promote Florida produce) features a grapefruit.

I've always been partial to meter tapes because they more closely resemble an adhesive postage stamp than a simple meter impression, but they aren't always possible to find. Still, we have a nice example of a 1952 tape in Figure 11, which promotes the state of Iowa and depicts (among other things) an ear of corn, superimposed on a map of the state of Iowa.

The two cropped meters in Figure 12 stay more closely to the overall horticulture theme, with a 1952 example showing an owl (wearing a Virginia Southern States



**Figure 11.** A 1952 pictorial meter tape showing ears of corn superimposed on a map of the state of Iowa.



**Figure 12.** Two different pictorial horticulture-related meters, from 1952 and 1967.

Cooperative crest), advising us to “Be Wise, Fertilize,” and a 1967 meter advertising lawn & garden supplies.

### Permits

Permit mail also is desirable in a topic or thematic collection/exhibit, although older examples are a bit tougher to find, particularly denominated ones, such as the one shown in Figure 13. This permit postcard from 1919 (with a 1¢ denomination) is from the George Henckel Co and is advertising vegetables. The entire permit and cornergard were all printed at the same time in the same color of ink.

For many years, however, bulk-mail permits expressing any form of illustration or personality of the sender were not allowed by the U.S. Post Office Department or the U.S. Postal Service. I do, however, love the presumably 1980s or '90s example shown in Figure 14, from the National Foundation for Cancer Research, which



**Figure 13.** An early denominated bulk-rate meter from 1919, along with an illustration of a head of cabbage, all printed in the same color of ink.



**Figure 14.** This undated, non-pictorial permit urges recipients to “Eat Your Veggies.”

to pursue. We won't spend much time discussing them here, as there are so many different types of ephemera, but they do need to be noted.

The strict dictionary definition of ephemera is “something of no lasting significance.” This, of course, is not entirely true for paper ephemera, which can add tremendously to philatelic collections or even for a better understanding of history in general. As the term relates to philatelic or other paper items, ephemera simply means items that were meant to be used and discarded. They were not created specifically to collect, and the survival rate is variable, but usually quite low. In that way, stamps themselves are a form of cultural ephemera. Examples of philatelic ephemera include exhibition labels, poster stamps, test or dummy stamps and even old stamp albums. All are collectible, many are rare and some are even valuable.

From a collecting standpoint all items related to your topic or theme are fair game if they interest you (and can very much dress up your collection), but ephemera items should be used sparingly in an exhibit – and then only if there is a fairly direct connection to the story you are telling. Used effectively, some types

encourages recipients to “Eat Your Veggies.”

## Ephemera

While ephemera items can add greatly to a collection or – with limited use – an exhibit, most items are not strictly philatelic. Many are appealing nonetheless and are fun

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**Figure 15.** This packet of space-flown tomato seeds is a desirable form of ephemera that can add depth to a collection.

of ephemera can add considerable depth to your collection.

Shown in Figure 15 is a space-flown packet of tomato seeds. They were launched on the space shuttle *Challenger* as part of an experiment in which the seeds were deposited on the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF), orbiting the Earth for nearly six years, before

returning aboard the *Columbia* (April 6, 1984, to Jan. 20, 1990).

These could make an interesting addition to a specialized collection on tomatoes, or space flight, but would have little use in a more generalized approach to horticulture. A bit more closely related are the items shown in Figures 16-18.

The 1880s business card shown in Figure 16 is a beaut. It is an intricate copperplate engraving, transforming the horticulturist's name



**Figure 16.** An intricately engraved business card featuring a horticulturist. The "G" in his name has been humanized (see inset).



**Figure 17.** A humanized cantaloupe emphasizes a pun on this early 20th-century picture postcard.

9 inches), I would suggest using the label as a background piece to enhance other items.

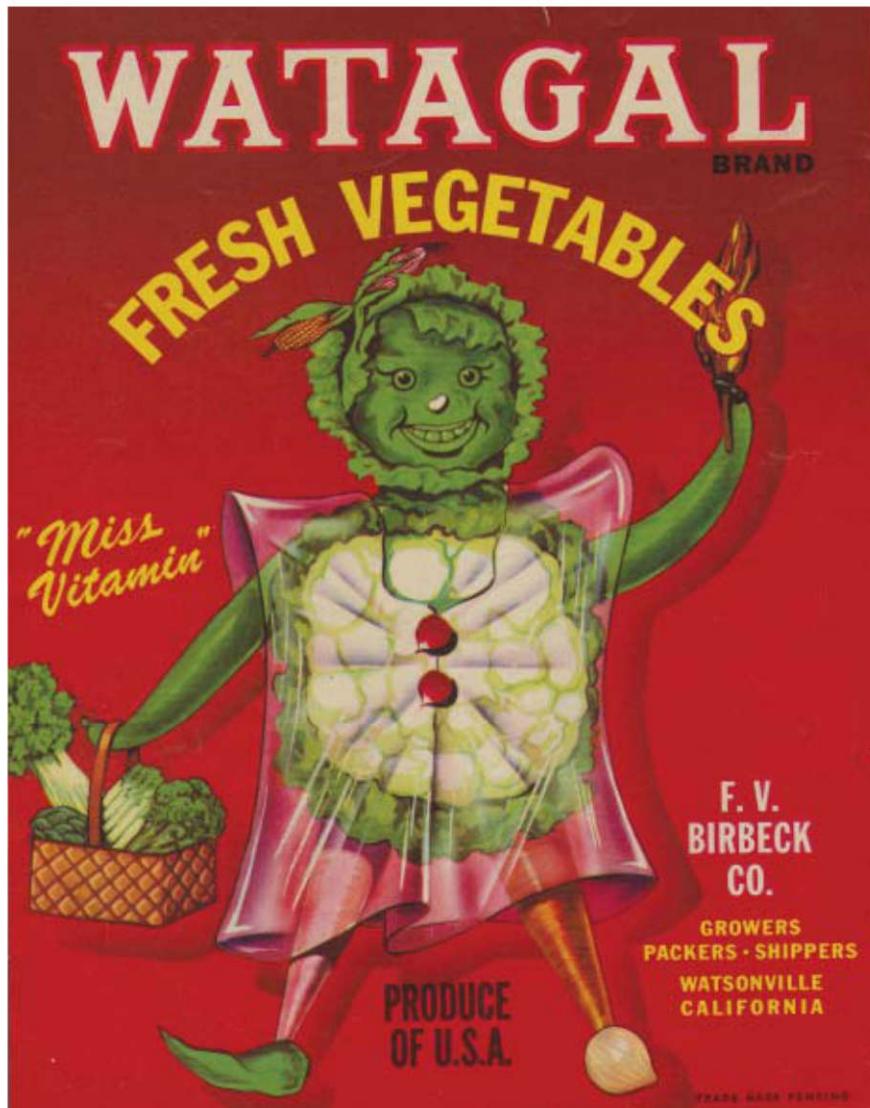
Finally, there is a huge collecting area available featuring illustrated advertising covers and cornercards, as well as horticulture-related postal history content that would be appropriate to include in a horticulture collection or exhibit. We'll take a look at some of these items in the May-June *Topical Time*. ■

To be continued...

into lush vegetation, and even featuring what is presumably a portrait as part of his last name (see inset).

Humanizing horticultural items is not a unique – or even particularly unusual – practice, however. The Figure 17 postcard is an early 20th-century humanized melon expressing a romantic pun. The image may be familiar to you from the cover of the January-February 2017 *Topical Time*.

Another related item is the Figure 18 label from a vegetable crate. Like the Figures 16 and 17 items it features humanized vegetables, in this case with multiple vegetables creating "Miss Vitamin." Her body includes carrots, garlic, lettuce, radishes and corn. In this case, because of its size (7 inches by



**Figure 18.** If used judiciously, even a fruit crate label such as this can be put to good use in a topical or thematic collection.

# PUBLICATION REVIEWS

## Wayne L. Youngblood

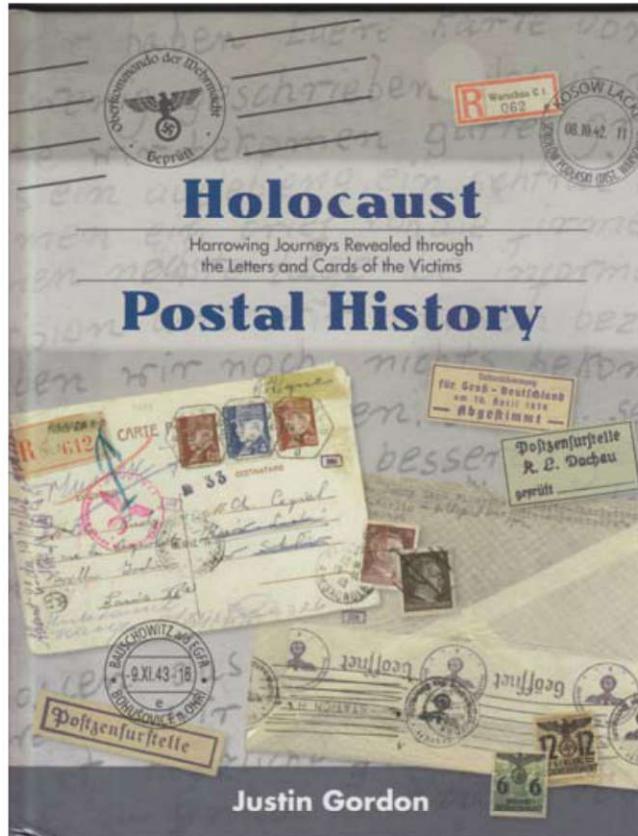
### *Holocaust Postal History*

Holocaust Postal History, by Justin Gordon, in English, 170 pages, 8¾ by 11½ inches, hardbound, illustrated in color, ©2016 by Justin Gordon, ISBN: 978-0-9978401-0-0, \$29.95 plus \$4 shipping (United States). For international or expedited orders, contact [info@holopostal.com](mailto:info@holopostal.com) ([www.holopostal.com/#home-section](http://www.holopostal.com/#home-section)).

Unlike the time period when most of us grew up, “self-published” no longer means dreadful manuscripts that are untouched by “normal” publishers. One of the best examples of shattering the Vanity Press stereotype just crossed my desk in the form of *Holocaust Postal History*, by Justin Gordon.

“For me, this book represents a dual journey – one into the childhood delight of stamp collecting and the other into the adult horrors of Holocaust History,” Gordon writes. “I happened upon both worlds in my youth, and Holocaust philately represents the convergence of the two.” Indeed. Although the book is written primarily for a non-philatelic audience, it not only gives good, solid information, but is a valuable reference tool as well – useful to both the collecting and non-collecting world. In a word, Gordon nails it.

Among the most helpful references is a clear, concise map of all ghettos and concentration camps discussed within the book (including not only Germany, but Netherlands, Poland, Latvia and Belarus), along with a self-explanatory legend. There’s also a handy guide to censorship offices, a timeline of anti-semitic laws, explanations of rates and markings and much more. Relevant covers are illustrated and described throughout. An extensive bibliography and index simply add to the considerable usefulness of this volume.



Throughout the book Gordon deftly balances Holocaust history with specific postal history items that are fully described and relevant to the overall story he tells of the Holocaust, importance of communication and the mails. All of this is accomplished in a clear, easy-to-follow narrative voice that brings new understanding of various aspects of the Holocaust through surviving postal history.

I view this volume as a necessary addition to a personal or philatelic library if you have any interest in Holocaust postal history – or if you have friends or relatives who have studied this fascinating chapter of history (collectors and noncollectors alike).

## 2017 Brookman Price Guide

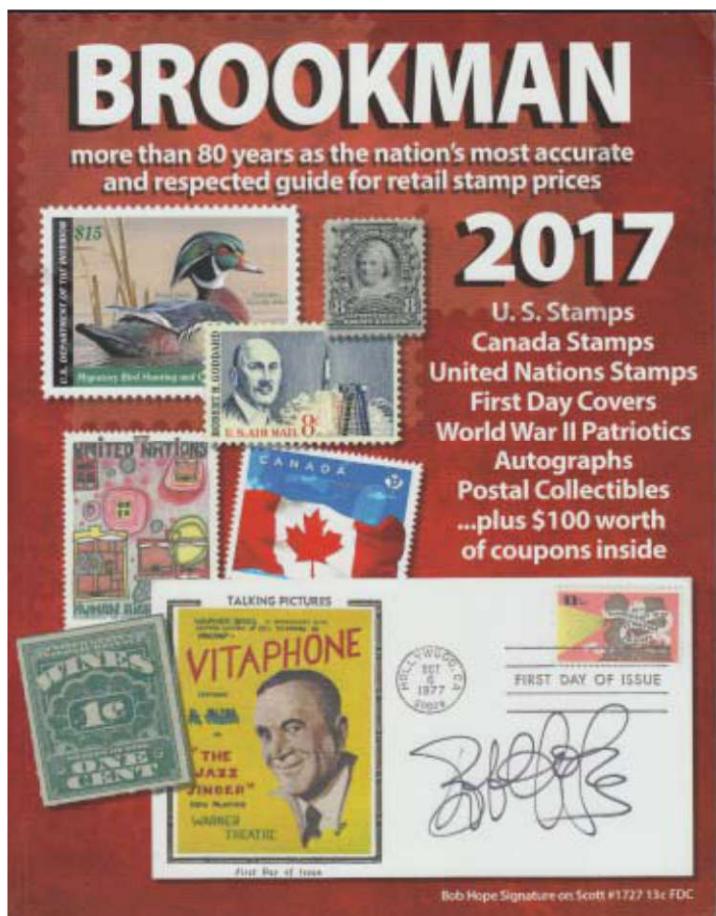
2017 Brookman U.S. Stamps, Autographs Price Guide, edited by David S. MacDonald, in English, 392 pages, 8½ by 11 inches, soft- or spiral-bound, illustrated in color, \$37.95 and \$41.95, respectively, plus \$5 each for shipping if ordered domestically ©2016 by Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, ISBN: 978-0-936937-85-4. Available directly from the publisher (Brookman/Barrett & Worthen, 167 S River Rd, Unit 3, Bedford NH 03110), [covers@coverspecialist.com](mailto:covers@coverspecialist.com), [www.coverspecialist.com](http://www.coverspecialist.com). or from numerous dealers.

For those already familiar with the *Brookman Price Guide*, which has been published for more than 80 years, there are few surprises. The book is an important and affordable reference. The *Brookman Price Guide* uses the Scott numbering system (as an official licensee) and is easy to use with thousands of newly scanned

illustrations throughout the full-color volume.

Although the guide does not go into as much specialized detail as Scott, it does a number of things that Scott does not. The values given for stamps include more grades than simply “very fine,” and there are also listings for full mint panes of many issues. The guide also includes listings for stamps from Canada; United Nations; U.S. first-day covers; souvenir cards, pages and panels; Trust Territories; and U.S. Possessions.

And then there are the autographs. Because there is significant crossover between philatelists and autograph collectors (particularly as covers



and documents are concerned), Brookman features an extensive autograph guide. There is no other currently-in-print value guide that comes close to the usefulness of the Brookman autograph section (much less valuing on-cover signatures), which includes (organized by type and alphabetically in each) presidents, vice presidents, first ladies, Supreme Court Justices, signers of the Constitution, signers of the Declaration of Independence, heads of state/royalty, military, artists and photographers, astronauts, authors and poets, aviation, business leaders, celebrities, entertainers and scientists. Previous editions have also listed and valued music-related autographs (composers, conductors and musicians), as well as featuring a fairly comprehensive sports autographs section. I suspect that as the Brookman autograph section continues to grow, certain sections such as these are rotated out and may return in the future.

The 2017 edition of the *Brookman Price Guide* is 392 pages with more than 7,000 value changes (both up and down) 5,500 photos and more than 55,000 values of stamps and covers from 1847-2016, all based on current retail offerings.

Finally, the *Brookman Price Guide* also features a user-friendly identifier and basic topical index that helps users find potential stamps based on topic. ☐

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# Chapter Chatter

*By Frederick C. Skvara, M.D., ATA Chapter Coordinator*

Please send all chapter ATA publications to Frederick C. Skvara, M.D., 617 Country Club Rd, Bridgewater NJ 08807, or by email to: [fcskvara@optonline.net](mailto:fcskvara@optonline.net).

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

**Website:** [annarborstampclub.org](http://annarborstampclub.org).

**Newsletter:** AASC Newsletter (Harry Winter, editor, email: [harwin@umich.edu](mailto:harwin@umich.edu))

**Newsletter topics (January):** At Aapex '16 there were several topically related exhibits: *Next In Line*, by Paul Schumacher, and *Unusual Steam Locomotives*, by Harry Winter. One of the APS Sales Circuit books at the January meeting was on animals and flora.

## ATA Chapter No. 5, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Website:** [wfscstamps.org/clubs/atachap5.shtml](http://wfscstamps.org/clubs/atachap5.shtml)

**Newsletter:** Robert Mather, editor, email: [burrobob@wi.rr.com](mailto:burrobob@wi.rr.com)

**Newsletter topics (December, January):** The December newsletter leads off with an image of the cover of Edward Bergen's book, *The Pictorial Story of Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse*. Articles included "Air Post Semi-Official Issues of 1877 (Buffalo Balloon Stamp) and 1911 (Rodgers Aerial Post Stamp)" and "Postal Note Stamps." The article "The First Christmas Card" mentions that it was the creation of Henry Cole, a patron of the arts and an educator in Victorian England. Editor Bob Mather, who is known to have a "slight attachment" to donkey stamps, reprints an article, "Where's Donkey in Flight, by Albrecht Dürer, Australia 1974 (Scott 601)."



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the Love for Donkey?,” by James, which appeared in the Oct. 31, 2015, edition of *The New York Times*. I assume the added philatelic illustrations accompanying the article are from Bob’s award-winning exhibit, *The Donkey in Man’s World*.

### **Evergreen Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 130), Kent, Wash.**

**Website:** [www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club](http://www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club).

**Newsletter:** Tim Greene, editor, email: [gt45@msn.com](mailto:gt45@msn.com)

**Newsletter topics (January):** Art van Uchelen gave a talk on Canadian back-of-the-book issues. I was also sent a copy of the December 2016 issue of *The Federated Philatelist, The Journal of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs*, edited by Jack Congrove. The Evergreen Stamp Club is one of the constituent clubs of the Federation. Jack illustrates a striking “Christmas Airmail Hollygram” from 1928 showing Santa Claus with presents – in a biplane – being guided by a group of reindeer. It was sent by Harold Crary, who worked for Boeing Airplane Co. in Chicago, to Claude Vincent O’Callaghan, who worked for Varney Air Lines in Seattle, Wash.



**Coat of Arms/flags on spe-  
cial Delivery Express stamp,  
Canada 1942 (Scott E10).**

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



**Bicycle, U.S.  
1870s, issued  
1982 (Scott 1901).**

**Website:** [www.hamiltonphilatelic.org](http://www.hamiltonphilatelic.org).

**Newsletter:** *The Hamilton Hinge* (Tony Zingale, editor)

**Newsletter topics (January–February):** There is a short illustrated article about member Ed Muench’s topical collection of bicycles on stamps. For the March meeting, Barbara Harrison will give a presentation titled “The Old Fashioned Veterinarian,” probably based on her wonderful exhibit that I had the good fortune to view at Merpex 2016. New member Charles McGinley, besides having a number of country collections, also has topical collections on Girl Scouts, trains, turtles and whales.

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

**Newsletter:** *Philatelic Chatter* (Don Smith, editor, email: [donsmith32@atlanticbb.net](mailto:donsmith32@atlanticbb.net))

**Newsletter topics (January–February):** A number of recent USPS issues are

illustrated. Mary Anne Bell presents an article on her topical collection, “Bells.” She has a collection of actual bells that she expanded into bell-related philatelic material, including stamps picturing bells, and people and places with “bell” in their name. Shown with the article are the U.S. 1926 stamp issued for the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence that depicts the Liberty Bell and several stamps from Germany issued in the early 1950s showing the Freedom Bell in Berlin. As a symbol of anti-communism, the bell was given to the city of Berlin (at that time well inside East Germany) by the American people and through the efforts of Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lucius Clay.



**Freedom Bell,  
Germany-Berlin  
1951 (Scott 9N73).**

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

**Newsletter:** *Knoxville Philatelic Society News* (Tom Broadhead, editor, email: [tomwb50@aol.com](mailto:tomwb50@aol.com))

**Newsletter topics (December, January):** The stamp of the month (actually included with the December newsletter) is the United States 1974 10¢ coil showing the Jefferson Memorial. Tom Broadhead's article, "Jean Moulin: A 20th Century Joan of Arc and A Tribute to Beverly Rice," tells the story of Jean Moulin, a World War II martyr of the French Resistance. Broadhead includes several French stamps and a naval cachet for a ship named in Moulin's honor. The "Tribute to Beverly Rice" in Tom's title refers to a Knoxville Philatelic Society member who died in 2012 while working on an exhibit of Jean Moulin. Tom acquired part of her collection and intends to build an exhibit. Beverly, although never attending a KPS meeting, sponsored and financially supported five KPS members to join the ATA. Mike Blankenship's column, "School Outreach," shows a bulletin board mounted by students at Knox County Schools showing stamps and covers related to sustainable agriculture, building structures and architecture for sustainable design. The Slovakian stamp included with the January newsletter shows the altar of the 12th-century church of St. John the Baptist in Pominovce-Sedmerovec, Slovakia. It is from a set of 11 stamps showing churches and their decorations. The theme for the 2017 Southeastern Stamp Expo is the celebration of baseball. The newsletter notes that the ATA has a baseball-themed checklist of 567 items available to ATA members.



**Altar of St. John the Baptist Church, Slovakia 2009 (Scott 561).**

at Knox County Schools showing stamps and covers related to sustainable agriculture, building structures and architecture for sustainable design. The Slovakian stamp included with the January newsletter shows the altar of the 12th-century church of St. John the Baptist in Pominovce-Sedmerovec, Slovakia. It is from a set of 11 stamps showing churches and their decorations. The theme for the 2017 Southeastern Stamp Expo is the celebration of baseball. The newsletter notes that the ATA has a baseball-themed checklist of 567 items available to ATA members.

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

**Website:** [www.lcps-stamps.org](http://www.lcps-stamps.org).

**Newsletter:** Paul Petersen, editor, email: [pcpetersen@comcast.net](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net)

**Newsletter topics (December, January):** Exhibits at the society's 2016 Open House and one-page exhibits event included Len Kasper's Christmas seal collection; Paul Petersen's worldwide issues commemorating the *Centenary of the Great War of 1914–1918*; Trayde Greiner's radio stamps and Dennis Bouchard's collection of stamps issued for service organizations (such as Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions).



**Queen Louise on the first Christmas Seal, Denmark 1904 (Green 1).**

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 90), Arlington, Irving and Granbury, Texas.**

**Website:** [www.mid-citiesstampclub.com](http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com)

**Newsletter:** *Stamping Around*

(Peter Elias, editor, email: [editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

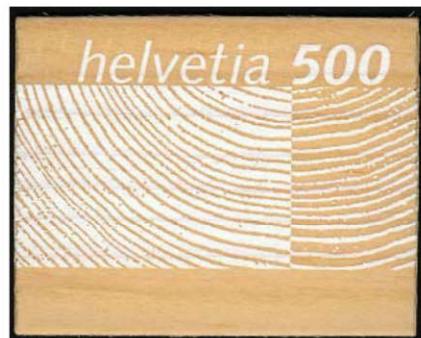
**Newsletter topics (January):** Peter Elias illustrates two items found at a beginner's collecting table at Texpex 2016: A Herm Island stamp and a Malta postage due label.

**Milwaukee Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 112), Milwaukee, Wis.**

**Website:** [milwaukeephilatelic.org](http://milwaukeephilatelic.org)

**Newsletter:** *Milwaukee Philatelist* (Jonathan Kumbera, editor)

**Newsletter topics (January):** Mentioned is a 2004 stamp from Switzerland commemorating the timber industry. The stamp is made from a thin piece of pinewood. The information was obtained from the website of Switzerland's postal service. The article notes other recent unusual Swiss stamps, including stamps made from lace, chocolate-scented and more.



**Pinewood stamp, Switzerland 2004 (Scott 1188).**

**Omaha Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 123), Omaha, Neb.**

**Website:** [omahaphilatelicsociety.org](http://omahaphilatelicsociety.org)

**Newsletter:** *The Spacefiller* (Paul Breakenridge, editor, email: [paul\\_breakenridge@gmail.com](mailto:paul_breakenridge@gmail.com))

**Newsletter topics (December, January):** At the November meeting Bob Akaki showed items from his astronomy collection. In January, Dave Wells gave a talk on the 1899 Greater America Exposition that was held in Omaha, Neb., on the grounds of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition that was held one year earlier, in 1898. The United States Post Office Dept. issued a set of nine commemoratives for the Trans-Mississippi Exposition on June 17, 1898.



**Troops Guarding Wagon Train, U.S. 1898 (Scott 289).**

**Salem Stamp Society (ATA Chapter No. 114) in Salem, Ore.**

**Website:** [www.salemstampsociety.org](http://www.salemstampsociety.org)

**Newsletter:** *Willamette Stamp & Tongs* (Lucien Klein, editor)

**Newsletter topics (December, January):** In January, George Struble prepared the Frame of the Month showing Swiss airmail to the United States, while at the February meeting Aaron Currier presented a program on Greek philately. Pipex 2017 will be held May 12-14 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach, Portland, Ore. One of the societies convening at the show will be Scouts on Stamps International.



**Verse IX, Homeric Iliad, 1st-2nd century AD, Greece (Scott 1857).**

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

**Website:** [wfscstamps.org](http://wfscstamps.org)

**Newsletter:** *Across the Fence Post* (Ray Perry, editor, email: [fiveperrys@athenet.net](mailto:fiveperrys@athenet.net))

**Newsletter topics (January):** In MaryAnn Bowman's column, "Connecting with Clubs," she illustrates a page of nine Valentine-related images, each of which shows a stamp and a Valentine message. The page is one of several available at the "Youth Resources" section of the federation's website. In "Searching for the Real Sherlock, or Happy Birthday Mr. Holmes," Clete Delvaux delves into the mystery of when Sherlock Holmes was born. He



**Bengale triomphant rose, Belgium 1988  
(Scott B1069).**

gathered information from groups that have formed to study the novels and short stories of Sherlock Holmes written by Arthur Conan Doyle. The article is illustrated with several images related to the great detective. His conclusion: there is disagreement on Sherlock's birth. Editor Ray Perry writes about his interest in collecting the stamps and first-day covers related to the four U.S. commemoratives issued in the late 1950s and early 1960s for Forest, Soil, Water and Range Conservation. Illustrations of the stamps and several first-day covers accompany the article. "Topical and Thematic Collecting: Mounting Topicals," is covered by James E. Byrne in an illustrated article with several examples of how he has mounted some small topical exhibits. At the

Federation website, under "Online Exhibits," you can view his beautiful four-page exhibit of the Belgian stamp and souvenir sheet series "Sixty Roses for A Queen," depicting the botanical watercolors of Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840), a Belgian painter and botanist. Other topical exhibits can also be found on the website.

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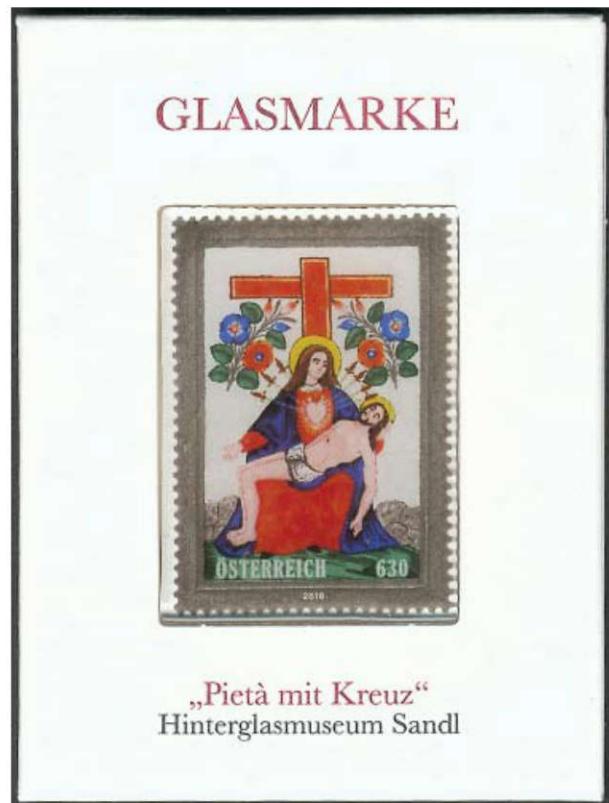
## Canada

**Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance (GTAPA) (ATA Chapter No. 109),  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

**Newsletter:** *PhilaJournal* (Susan Butler, editor, email: [sbutler@ilap.com](mailto:sbutler@ilap.com))

**Newsletter topics (Winter 2016):**

“Unusual Stamps from Austrian Post” is Jerry Piotrowski’s latest article on stamps printed by non-conventional methods. Here he illustrates a 2016 Austrian glass stamp with a reverse glass painting of a Pietà from the Austrian municipality of Sandl, where there is a long tradition of reverse glass painting. The stamp shows the Virgin Mary weeping over the dead body of her crucified son, Jesus, and was produced by Augarten, a Viennese porcelain manufacturer. Also shown is a 2014 porcelain stamp showing a rose. Fraser McKee illustrates part of his collection of Canadian stamps showing Inuit art, which currently contains 27 stamps. The “Focus on Italy” column, by Ron Dell’Agnese, is about Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-82), an Italian patriot who was instrumental in the unification of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel II (1820-78) in 1861. There have been a number of stamps showing Garibaldi and several are depicted in the article. Tony Manson shows a number of “Early Boy Scout Slogan Cancels” in his “Scouts on Stamps” column.



**Pietà (glass stamp in a protective folder),  
Austria 2016 (Scott 2620).**

## Great Britain

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

**Website:** [www.britishtematic.org.uk](http://www.britishtematic.org.uk)

**Newsletter:** *Themescene* (Wendy Buckle, editor)

**Newsletter topics (December):** Barry Stagg, chairman of the British Thematic Association, has been invited to give a talk at NTSS 2017 in Wisconsin

this June. He plans to show the ATA the variety of topics that members of the BTA collect. As Barry Floyd notes in “Stained Glass Windows,” the coloring of glass has a long history, for the ancient Egyptians, Romans and Phoenicians knew the process thousands of years ago. Although a number of countries from around the world have

**St. Eligius in workshop (detail from stained glass window in Church of St. Madelaine in Troyes, France), France 1967 (Scott 1175).**



issued stamps depicting stained glass windows, this article concentrates on examples from European countries. Stamps from Austria, France, Great Britain and Switzerland, among others, are illustrated in the article. Shown nearby is a 1967 French stamp showing a detail from a 16th century stained glass window in the church of St. Madelaine in Troyes, France. It depicts St. Eligius (588-660 A.D), patron saint of goldsmiths. At the "BTA Weekend 2016" there were numerous thematic displays including: *Alice in Wonderland and Beyond*, by Paul Leonard, Lesley Marley's *Whale's Tale* and Peter Wood's *Ireland Invasion of the World*, which looked at the Irish and their descendants around the world. In the "How I Started" column, Carol Turner relates how, after seeing the 1962 World Health Organization's 1962 Anti-Malaria issues, she was hooked and began a malaria stamp collection that now approaches two dozen albums. Lise Whittle's "Just4Kids" column looks at the sport of curling and shows a number of stamps for the sport, which – since 1998 – has been an official sport of the Winter Olympics.

## South Africa

### **Thematics Southern Africa (ATA Chapter No. 103) in South Africa.**

**Website:** [www.thematics.co.za](http://www.thematics.co.za).

**Newsletters:** 1) *Thematics* (Robbie Harm, editor, email: [robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com));

2) *ThemNews* (Wobbe Vegter, acting editor, email: [wobbe.vegter@gmail.com](mailto:wobbe.vegter@gmail.com))

Members of this chapter are treated to two wonderful publications devoted to thematic philately: *Thematics* (a six-page newsletter issued monthly and sent by email), which contains club news, news of themes in South Africa, columns on philatelic facts, abstracts of thematic articles from around the world and occasional original articles. *ThemNews* (a 30-page quarterly journal in full color) contains a half-dozen or more full-length, well-illustrated original articles on thematic philately. Recently, I received all the newsletters published since February 2015 and the last four issues of the journal. I briefly reviewed half in the January-February *Topical Time* and finish with this issue.

### **Newsletter topics: *Thematics* (July, August, September, October, November)**

Articles by Robert Harm include "Pirates" and "Semipostal Horses on Stamps".

Thematics also presents a number of short thematic notes from other philatelic publications from around the world.

### **Newsletter topics: *ThemNews* (August, November)** Jan de Jong's article

"In Memoriam: *Coros Chronicle*

(1945–2016) Collectors of Religion on Stamps" expresses remorse on the disbanding of COROS, an ATA Study Unit. The "Interest Group" column by Rev. Cassie Carstens in this issue covers: Agriculture (2011 Australian stamp showing Macadamia nuts); Arts & Culture (New Zealand stamp from *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*); Aves (United Nations stamp

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showing the masked owl); Biblia (cover of Ireland booklet of four stamps for the Church of Hof); Dendrion (2000 Swedish stamps from a booklet of four showing forests); Domestic Fauna (New Zealand stamp showing a lamb); Fauna (Iceland stamp showing a reindeer); Flora (Iceland stamps showing edging Lobelia); Historia (Jersey stamp relating to piracy).

Anton Putter concludes his story of "Duck Stamps of the United States of America, Part 2," with a look at the design competition that results in each year's duck stamp and the National Wildlife Refuge system that benefits from the sale of these stamps. He also notes that duck stamps are suitable for other thematic collections besides birds: nature conservation, national parks, hunting rifles, hunting dogs, wildlife art and more. In the well-illustrated article, "Malaria: She Still Bites Us," by Dr. Saji Kumar, J., the author traces the history of the disease and mentions some of the scientists who were involved in the discovery of its cause, treatment and prevention.

David Kent shows a number of stamps depicting pillar boxes in his article, "The English Pillar box." He mentions that the idea of the vertical pillar box is credited to the Victorian novelist, Anthony Trollope (1815-82), who spent several years with the British postal service and set up the first one on the island of Guernsey in 1852. Keith Downing tells the story of "The Saint Helena Railway," while Victor Millard begins a series on shellfish with "Shellfish Pursuits: Part 1." Wobbe Vegter looks at "Telegrams" in Part 8 of his continuing series on using postal stationery in a thematic exhibit. In another article, "Pokémon: Craze or Crazy?," he looks at computer games and the current fascination with Pokémon. "The Orchid and I: Part 1," by Mike J. O'Connor, presents a survey of the various orchid genera, notes how orchids differ from other flowers and relates the legend of how the name "orchid" came about. ☐



**American Wigeon (2010 Federal Hunting Permit Stamp), U.S. 2010 (Scott RW77).**



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## YOUTH IN TOPICS

### *MaryAnn Bowman*

## Spring is here!

Spring has arrived! Did you use the long, cold, dark evenings of the winter season to work on your collection? Perhaps you organized your philatelic materials and now find that you have duplicates or unwanted items. If so, the ATA can find a new home for your castoffs. Please consider donating them to the ATA, your local stamp club or to other groups that promote the hobby to beginners and youth.

### Organizing Donated Material

Over the years, I have received many nice donations of philatelic material. I have also spent many hours trying to put it in some type of order that would make it readily available and easy to find. How you plan to use the covers, stamps, albums and other supplies you receive, will influence the way you go about storing and organizing the materials.

I basically have five plastic tubs of on- and off-paper stamps: one tub each for on-paper U.S., off-paper U.S., on-paper foreign and off-paper foreign. The fifth tub is for topical stamps that have not yet been sorted by subject.

I also have several boxes of stamps that have hold U.S., foreign, country or topical packets that are ready for distribution. I even have a box of sets of stamps of the type that used to be found in dime stores or stamp store packets for beginners. When I need a prize or incentive, these packets and sets are readily available.

However, if I am going through a collection and notice such collectible items as perfins, precancels, socked-on-the-nose or others, then I sort them into smaller plastic tubs such as the type that is obtained when purchasing name-brand cold cut meat at grocery stores. If you are giving Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge programs, then you might want to pull out imperforate stamps, overprints, surcharges or other collectible varieties. Although it is ideal for youth to find and recognize these collecting types, sometimes having a quantity and assortment of those types of stamps already sorted and ready for your use saves time. It is also helpful in the event that you are creating a type of philatelic sample book and want to cover many vocabulary terms in your session.

I find that on-paper stamps that have been neatly trimmed have more visual appeal than those that are not. These are used at stamp shows and with youth groups. However, with larger public community events, that may not be the case, as my experience has shown that most often those attending are just looking to pick things up. So I am more apt to just have a mixture of unsorted and untrimmed stamps for use on those occasions.

Trimming stamps is time consuming. For me, it is relaxing and I find that I can enjoy watching a movie or the news on television while working on that task. I also have taken quantities of on-paper stamps to my local stamp club meeting where members work on trimming them in the minutes before the actual club meeting and program. Those stamps are being prepared for use with the APS Stamps Teach program. I know of other groups that utilize seniors to help with the project of trimming stamps.

Some donations arrive with envelopes of stamps already sorted by country. I store them in large envelopes and arrange them alphabetically. I usually wait until I am ready to use that particular country before checking them for condition and sorting them further as needed.

Some countries are so popular that they have a box to themselves. For example, I have a box each of Great Britain, Machins, Germany and Australia. If I were to get a sizable donation of other specific countries, I would probably have a separate box for them as well.

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#1452	\$280
#1483	\$110
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Some off-paper stamps are in binders. I have a binder of used U.S. stamps arranged by catalog number as well as a large binder with topical stamps arranged on stock cards – one subject per page.

Some donations arrive in albums. If the albums are clean, they are given to interested youth. Some albums, however, have torn covers, missing pages or other issues. The stamps are then stripped from the albums. My club members have also helped with that project. On rare occasion, there are many stamps from a particular country and so the pages are left intact and inserted into a file folder with an identifying country label.

Lately, a lot of first-day covers have been donated, and I try to sort and organize the better covers by year for rapid finding. Other first-day covers, such as those that are addressed or without cachets, are put into another box. I also have boxes with postal stationery, airmail covers, foreign covers, and even postcards. Covers (usually foreign first-days) with topical appeal are filed by subject.

Supplies, such as tongs, hinges, mounts, catalogs and other literature, also have special homes.

Damaged stamps even have their place, as they can be used in artsy-craftsy projects, such as making pencil holders or decorating paper that might be used for stationery.

The quantity of donations and your intended use of the materials will determine the best way for you to organize the stamps and covers you receive.

I'd like to hear about your organizing techniques.

## Spring Celebrations

Although St. Patrick's Day actually falls within the winter season, its celebration is during the month of March, when we are all looking forward to seeing some green outside. It seems appropriate, therefore, to mention in this column.

Some ideas to use with youth include creating an all-green stamp scavenger hunt or preparing a mini-program about the country Ireland, and having a

selection of Irish stamps for mounting on album pages.



Easter! Who doesn't love a good old fashioned Easter egg hunt? Fill some colored plastic eggs with stamps, hide the eggs and watch the joyful expressions and sounds of delight as the children search for and find the eggs. Concerned about the noise level? Then have a silent egg hunt. Label the filled egg with

a child's name. While looking for the hidden eggs, each child can only find and take the eggs that have his or her name on them. Other eggs that they see must be left for the owner to find. With no talking allowed, it is fun to watch the actions and reactions of those hunting for the eggs. A possible added benefit to having labeled eggs is that you can tailor the contents to the collecting interests of the child.

Have you used the resources of the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History? Visit [www.spellmannmuseum.org](http://www.spellmannmuseum.org). You might be able to pattern your own activities based on some of the ideas that group posts for its special events. The museum also has a monthly stamp calendar that depicts a postage stamp related to that particular date in history. Sometimes that can give you ideas for themes and programs for your group. And, as I write this in January, Henry Lukas has an interesting program about some of the stamps and their stories as depicted on that month's calendar. If you have internet access where you meet, this would make for an interesting program. Sign up to receive their emails.

Do you have any special programming ideas that you use in spring? Share them with me via email or snail mail. 

*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.*

## *Exfilna 2016, French Championship 2016*

# Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Exfilna 2016 and French Championship 2016. 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.

## Exfilna 2016

This national stamp exhibition was held in Zaragoza, Spain, Sept. 14-18, 2016. It was arranged by FESOFI (Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies) and was organized by the Philatelic Association of Zaragoza “Gregorio Sierra.”

### Multi-frame Exhibits

<b>Lawrence Fisher</b>	<i>The Jewish Homeland</i>	93, LG
<b>José Antonio Herraiz Garcia</b>	<i>Monarchy, a Form of State</i>	93, LG
<b>Izhak Barak</b>	<i>The Development of Aviation and Transportation of Mail by Air until 1911-1914</i>	90, LG
<b>Francisco Piniella Corbacho</b>	<i>A Country where the Sun never sets</i>	90, LG
<b>Maria Teresa Miralles Sangro</b>	<i>Nursing: Caring, Teaching, Comforting</i>	87, G
<b>José R. Rumoroso Rodriguez</b>	<i>Navigation from the Seventeenth Century</i>	87, G
<b>Ángel Iglesias Vidal</b>	<i>In illo tempore: The Gospel according to Luke</i>	86, G
<b>Luis Ignacio Rollán Infiesta</b>	<i>The Horse: His Relationship to Man</i>	85, G
<b>José Antonio Francés Fleta</b>	<i>The Production and Transformation of Electrical Energy</i>	85, G
<b>Martin González Gutiérrez</b>	<i>International Movement of the Red Cross, Crescent and Red Crystal</i>	85, G
<b>José Ángel Pulido Parca</b>	<i>4,000 Years of Field Hockey</i>	85, G
<b>Begoña Imaz Ortiz</b>	<i>I, Juana</i>	82, LV
<b>José Luis López León</b>	<i>Do We Dance... the Trompo?</i>	81, LV

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<b>José M. Ulacia Ortiz de Urbina</b>	<i>Airmail: A Great Adventure</i>	81, LV
<b>Luciano Lomba Vicente</b>	<i>From the Rural Monastery to the Urban Cathedral</i>	80, LV
<b>Maria Elisa Abad Suárez</b>	<i>Oubiña from the Beginning to Personal Identity</i>	75, LS
<b>Valero Benito Jorro</b>	<i>Goya in Philately</i>	73, LS
<b>Ivan Martinez</b>	<i>Emigrants' Travel from the Port of Rijeta (Fiume) 1882-1914</i>	71, LS
<b>Juan Ramón Pidre Bocardo</b>	<i>The Spain of the Catholic Monarchs</i>	70, LS
<b>Begoña Sáenz Francés</b>	<i>Covering the Nude</i>	70, LS

### Open/Display Exhibits

<b>Pedro Pastor San Miguel</b>	<i>Between the Divine and the Human: "The Dove and its Allegories"</i>	81, LV
<b>José María Silvestre Tabasco</b>	<i>Spanish Territories and Protectorates in Africa</i>	76, V

## French Championship 2016

The French Championship is a national exhibition held every year in a different city in France. In 2016, it was held in Toul, France, Oct. 21-23. Among the partners in presenting the exhibition were the French Federation of Philatelic Associations, the Philatelic Club of Toul, the Lorraine regional philatelic group, the post office and the city of Toul.




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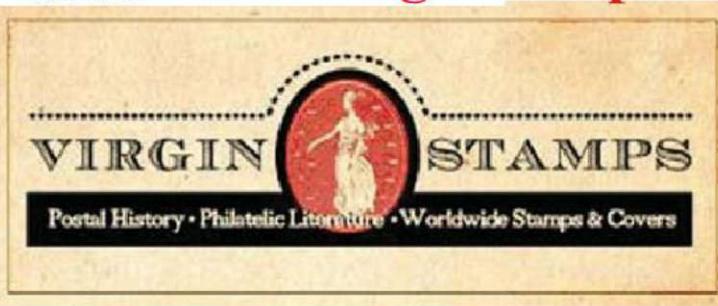
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## Multi-frame Exhibits

<b>Martial Beckrich</b>	<i>Around the Olive Tree</i>	91, G
<b>Gabriel Frick</b>	<i>Criminal Science</i>	92, G
<b>Jacques Rothenburg</b>	<i>Me, the Eagle!</i>	90, G
<b>Michel Abram</b>	<i>Yellow</i>	90, G
<b>Xavier Vigneron</b>	<i>Who are these Serpents...</i>	90, G
<b>Jacques Rothenburg</b>	<i>Beautiful as a Rose</i>	88, LV
<b>Louise Hamon</b>	<i>Existence</i>	86, LV
<b>Jean-Marie Sauvaitre</b>	<i>My Journey in Freemasonry</i>	85, LV
<b>Jean-Paul Uettwiler</b>	<i>7 – a Number, a Figure, it's quite a Story</i>	85, LV
<b>Bernard Santraine</b>	<i>Cement and its Applications</i>	85, LV
<b>Paul Bonnin</b>	<i>The Bicycle</i>	83, V
<b>Jean Louis Blanquet</b>	<i>And if Time was told to me</i>	83, V
<b>Alain Auriau</b>	<i>The Foot of Man</i>	83, V
<b>Christian Busson</b>	<i>The Assault of a Summit</i>	83, V
<b>Anne-Marie Schneider</b>	<i>The Polar Regions</i>	83, V
<b>Claude Troboë</b>	<i>The Road and its Signage</i>	82, V
<b>Irène Daniel</b>	<i>Nurses: History, Role and Evolution</i>	82, V
<b>Paul Renversez</b>	<i>The Republican Calendar</i>	82, V
<b>Jean-Claude Barrandon</b>	<i>The Vikings</i>	82, V
<b>Didier Andrivon</b>	<i>The Potato, from Yesterday to Tomorrow</i>	81, V
<b>Vincent Bastien</b>	<i>The History of European Construction</i>	80, V
<b>Pierre Riedweg</b>	<i>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791</i>	78, LS
<b>André Gasser</b>	<i>Windmills</i>	78, LS
<b>Jean-Claude Hitz</b>	<i>The History of Life</i>	78, LS
<b>André Gasser</b>	<i>The Use of the Hand</i>	78, LS
<b>Henri Seurre</b>	<i>One Hundred Thousand Songs</i>	78, LS
<b>Michel Rivier</b>	<i>From the Telegraph to the Telephone</i>	77, LS
<b>Colette Collet</b>	<i>Me, the Rose</i>	77, LS
<b>Didier Daugan</b>	<i>Around the Violin</i>	77, LS
<b>Françoise Valdenaire</b>	<i>On Guard, Ready, Go!</i>	75, LS
<b>Bernard Nortier</b>	<i>The Rooster</i>	72, S
<b>Christophe Delorme</b>	<i>The Evolution of the Grand Prix and Formula I</i>	71, S

*Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for 60 years and exhibiting for 32 years. His display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, received the Grand Award at NTSS 2015. His mailing address is 30 Front St, Apt 307, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada. His email address is [lawrencedavidson@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencedavidson@gmail.com).*

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# Membership

## New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with similar collecting interests, are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited. **This list includes new membership numbers 57706-57740 and recent reinstatements (membership through Feb. 15, 2017).**

57737	CLAIRMONT, Don	
57713	COURTEAU, Kevin, <i>courteau.kevin@gmail.com</i>	Boy Scouts, Chess
57734	COURTEMANCHE, William, <i>a76eagle@yahoo.com</i>	Trains, Scouts, Disney
57711	DABEK, Joe	
57720	DAVIDSON, Gordon, PO Box 66907, Baton Rouge LA 70896-6827	Horses
57715	DIXON, Stephen	
57740	duBELL, William, <i>w_h_lefty@comcast.net</i>	Anything railroad related
57708	EAGLE, Paul, <i>paul@earthlovers.org</i>	History, Political, Propaganda, Culture, Archaeology
57709	EGGLESTON, John	Space, People, American Revolutionary War
57733	EVERETT Jr, Kevin, <i>vitamin_water@icloud.com</i>	Disney, Wildlife (all kinds), Christmas
57728	FARDELLA, Henry	
57731	GRATZ, Silvia, <i>sgratz001@aol.com</i>	
57732	HICKS, Patricia, <i>skyisnotblue@aol.com</i>	
57729	KABUSK, George	
57738	KOSTELL, Ann	
56979	KNIGHT, Frank	
57716	LOOKER, Sara, <i>simplysara76@gmail.com</i>	Love, Music, Santa, more as I discover them
	5245 Vista Blvd Ste F3-271, Sparks NV 89436-0839	
57543	LOPROTO, Vincent (email correction), <i>vjlsr13@gmail.com</i>	Whales, Dolphins
57736	LOYNES, Diana	Nursing, Hawaii, Medicinal Plants



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56002	MAZHUGA, Pavel, <i>pavelmaj@rambler.ru</i>	Bridges
57730	MELZER, Ron, <i>rcmelzer@hotmail.com</i>	Amateur Radio; Shortwave Radio; Communications; Radio
57727-DM	MORVILLE, Michael, <i>prints@printsmorville.com</i>	
	249 Avenida Madrid, San Clemente CA 92672-4107	
57706	MOUKEH, Ghamez, <i>gmoukeh@gmail.com</i>	U.N., Universal Postal Union, U.S.A., Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt
57714	ORGAN, Robert, <i>rjorgan@gmail.com</i>	Disney
57712	PENNUTO, Craig, <i>cpenn@me.com</i>	Soccer
57726-DM	ROBINS, Elliot, <i>erobins001@gmail.com</i>	Postcards, ephemera
	1337 Gately Rd, Jacksonville FL 32225-3946	
57723	ROGERS, Melanie, <i>mrogers93@hotmail.com</i>	Cats, Transportation, Dinosaurs, Deer
57722	RYBOLT, Gina, <i>geeners@gmail.com</i>	Rainbows, Nursing, Pharmacy, Zodiac
57718	SALMON, Henry	
57717	SMITH, Gregory	World Wildlife Federation, Golf, Freedom From Hunger (FFH), Jazz/Rock Music
	50 Cliffside Dr, Williamsport PA 17701-1829	
57724	STOCKBRIDGE, Erica	Tuberculosis, Healthcare, Medical conditions, Public health
57721	VOGENBERGER, Mary, <i>memmlv@comcast.net</i>	Snails/Mollusks, Scented Stamps
57739	WALKER, David, <i>diwalker1@ntlworld.com</i>	Microscopy, Slide Rules, Logarithms
57725	WANG, Jean, <i>jcyw65@rogers.com</i>	Blood and Organ Donation, Orchids, Gastronomy,
	Eclipses, Aurora Borealis/Australis), Space Photographic Imagery, Lunar New Year/Zodiac, Europa (CEPT), Art	
57707	WELCH, Eric, <i>ericwelch@hotmail.com</i>	Ships, Trains
57735	WILDERNESS, Robin	
57719	ZAIS, Mick	
57710	ZHAO, Michael, <i>michael2012zhao@hotmail.com</i>	Steam Locomotives

### Unknown address

Please notify ATA Office with information you might have regarding this member:

57483 ATTURA, Azar (Va.)

### Deceased

28090 BRENNAN, Charles W (Wash.)

## ATA Membership Recruiters

The final Membership Recruiters report for 2016 appeared in the Jan-Feb issue. Dawn and John Hamman were ATA's outstanding recruiters for the year, with 34 new members recruited. The top 2016 recruiters are listed in the first column. One hundred thirteen new ATA members were recruited by current ATA members. They have received \$5 credit in ATA Bucks for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here in 2017! Those individuals who recruited new members for ATA from Jan. 1 to Feb. 15 are shown in the second column below.

**ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.**

**ATA Dealer Members shown in red**

### 2016 Top Recruiters

Hamman, Dawn and John	32
Stout, Jean	12
Fisk, Allan	8
Hayward, Jeffrey	8
Sullivan, Joe	6
Curiale, Tony	5
Winnegrad, Mark H	5

### 2017 Recruiters, Jan. 1-Feb. 15

Hamman, Dawn and John	4
Asher, Barbara	1
Bland, Dennis	1
Fisk, Allan	1
Winnegrad, Mark H	1

## ATA TopicalsOnLine

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## Remember to Use TopicalsOnLine!

Our new website, TopicalsOnLine ([www.topicalsonline.com](http://www.topicalsonline.com)), continues to grow, as people discover the great selection of inexpensive stamps for sale and discover how easy it is to list duplicates. Grab your checklists and stop in!

ATA board member Bob Lamb, who spearheaded the website project, has enjoyed watching it grow and continues to receive positive feedback from buyers and sellers.

Topical and thematic collectors have varied interests, and stamps have so far been listed and purchased for the majority of the topics that ATA officially identifies. There are some topics that are not yet represented, but more are added all the time. TopicalsOnLine is a great new tool to help you collect and is a fantastic member resource. Please check it out if you haven't already! ■



### Editorial Content

All editorial inquiries or comment for *Topical Time* should be directed to Editor Wayne L. Youngblood. 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. The *2015-17 ATA Membership Directory* is available from the ATA Office for \$5, plus postage (\$3 U.S., \$6 Canada and \$13 international).

The American Topical Association is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

ATA website: [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org).

### ATA Membership Dues

**Electronic membership** (access *Topical Time* online): one year \$25; two years \$45; three years \$65; five years \$100. **Domestic (U.S.) membership** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$30; two years \$55; three years \$80; five years \$125. **International membership:** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$40; two years \$75; three years \$110; five years \$175. **Life membership** (print and electronic): \$1,000.

All memberships begin in the month of the current issue of *Topical Time*, and include six issues of *Topical Time*. Subscription rates are included as part of ATA membership dues.

Single copy, \$5 plus postage (\$2 U.S., \$5 international).

### Advertising

All advertising is subject to approval of the American Topical Association, which reserves the right to reject or suspend advertising privileges for such periods of time as ATA sees fit.

For a rate card and other data on display advertisements, contact the ATA Office. Adlets are available for 30¢ per word with a \$6 minimum.



## Philatelic Journals

(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

*American Philatelist*: Jay Bigalke, editor

American Philatelic Society

100 Match Factory Pl

Bellefonte PA 16823

[www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)

*Atout Timbres*: Aude Ben-Moha, editor, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036, Amiens, Cedex 1, France.  
[www.yvert-et-tellier.fr/](http://www.yvert-et-tellier.fr/)

*Canadian Stamp News*:

PO Box 28103, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7P8, Canada

[bret@trajan.ca](mailto:bret@trajan.ca); [www.canadianstampnews.ca](http://www.canadianstampnews.ca)

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

[ac.filacap@uol.com.br](mailto:ac.filacap@uol.com.br); [www.filacap.com.br](http://www.filacap.com.br)

*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*: Hugh Jeffries,  
 editor, 5 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire,  
 BH24 3SH, United Kingdom  
[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

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

[sipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:sipeditor@gmail.com); [www.israelstamps.com](http://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](http://www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com)

*Linn's Stamp News*: Donna Houseman,  
 managing editor, PO Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA

[dhouseman@amosmedia.com](mailto:dhouseman@amosmedia.com); [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)

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

[www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com)

*Philatelic Exporter*: Graham Phillips, editor,  
 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood,  
 Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom

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[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

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

[randyneil1941@gmail.com](mailto:randyneil1941@gmail.com)

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

[computerstamps@yahoo.ro](mailto:computerstamps@yahoo.ro).

[www.philatelica.ro](http://www.philatelica.ro)

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

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

*South African Philatelist*: Chris Mobsby,  
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 South Africa

[saphilatelist@iafrica.com](mailto:saphilatelist@iafrica.com).

[www.philatelysa.co.za](http://www.philatelysa.co.za)

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

[astarkweather@nystampclubs.org](mailto:astarkweather@nystampclubs.org)

[www.stampinsider.org](http://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](mailto:stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk).

[www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm](http://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.

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[www.stampmagazine.co.uk](http://www.stampmagazine.co.uk)

*Stamp News Australasia*: Kevin Morgan,  
 editor, PO Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia

[kevinnmorgan2@live.com](mailto:kevinnmorgan2@live.com)

[www.stampnews.com.au/](http://www.stampnews.com.au/)

*U.S. Stamp News*: John Hotchner, editor,  
 PO Box 1125, Falls Church VA 22041-0125 USA.

[www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com)

# Show Calendar

**March 25-26, 2017, Canada.** Spring National Stamp Show, sponsored by Edmonton Stamp Club, Central Lion's Recreational Centre, 113 St & 111 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta. Show hours 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday, numerous stamp dealers, WSP exhibits, circuit books, door prizes junior stamp table. Free admission and evaluations. For exhibits, contact [luiszmoser@gmail.com](mailto:luiszmoser@gmail.com). For show, contact Ed Dykstra.

Email: [eddykstra@shaw.ca](mailto:eddykstra@shaw.ca)

Web: [www.edmontonstampclub.com](http://www.edmontonstampclub.com)

**April 8-9, 2017. Oregon.** Sopex, sponsored by the Southern Oregon Philatelic Society, Jackson County Fairgrounds and Expo in Central Point, Ore. Competitive exhibits, 10 dealers, free admission and parking. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10-4 Sunday.

Contact Jerry Shean (541) 772-5536.

Email: [geraldshean@yahoo.com](mailto:geraldshean@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.norcalstamps.org/sopex.htm](http://www.norcalstamps.org/sopex.htm)

**April 29-30, 2017. Michigan.** Plymouth Show, sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, Mich. WSP exhibits, dealers, free parking. Contact Tim Strzalkowski (313) 533-7737.

Email: [mywssc@msn.com](mailto:mywssc@msn.com)

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**May 6-7, 2017, Wisconsin.** Wiscopex 2017, sponsored by Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wis.. Show hours are 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Free parking and admission, 40 frames of exhibits, 16 dealers and free appraisals. Contact J.D. Manville (715) 341-6767.

Email: [jadeco@charter.net](mailto:jadeco@charter.net)

Website: [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org)

**May 12-14, 2017, Oregon.** Pipex, 2017, sponsored by Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, Red Lion Hotel on the River, Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Ore. Free parking and admission, WSP exhibits, 40 dealers. Contact Tony Wawrukiewicz (503) 244-8223.

Email: [tonywaw@spiritone.com](mailto:tonywaw@spiritone.com)

Website: [www.pipexstampshow.org](http://www.pipexstampshow.org)

**June 10, 2017, Missouri.** Stratford Inn Bourse, 800 S. Highway Dr, Fenton, Mo. Free admission and parking. Hours 10-4 (every second Saturday).

Contact Gene Stewart (636) 343-5757

To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, 705 Forest Glen Cir, Prairie du Sac WI 53578, or by email to: [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com). Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show if at all possible.

# The 1949 Society

Membership in The 1949 Society is open to individuals who bequeath their philatelic estates to ATA, or have made a provision in their will in support of the American Topical Association.

## Charter Members

Dennis M. Dengel

Jack André Denys

Victor B. Eichler

Roland Essig

Vera Felts

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Robert E. Lamb

Barbara E. Miller

Richard A. Roman

Edwin H. Shane

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These individuals are Charter Members of The 1949 Society.  
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# NTSS 2017 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN – JUNE 23-25, 2017

**Page 2**

## REGISTRATION AND EVENT TICKETS

Register by **June 10, 2017**, for prices listed below. If received by ATA Office **after June 10**, add \$5 to the cost for each numbered event. Later event reservations accepted *only if space is available*. All gratuities and taxes included. Tours canceled and payments refunded if minimum number of participants is not met.

Event	Function	Number	Total
	<b>Show Registration</b> (3 days, free parking)	___ x <b>\$5.</b> (youth <18 yrs, dealers and exhibitors free)	
#1	<b>Half-day Thursday Tour – Cedarburg</b> Thursday, June 22, depart Crowne Plaza 11:15 am, return ~5:30 pm (min. 25, max. 36 tickets available)	Wisconsin Center of Fiber Arts, Cedarburg Cultural Center, Cedarburg Art Museum. Includes buffet lunch (curried chicken salad wrap, lean roast beef sandwich, ham and cheese sandwich, vegetarian wrap).  ___ x <b>\$55.</b>	
#2	<b>President's Reception</b> Karl Ratzsch's (Bavarianstyle restaurant) Friday, June 23, 5:30 bus from Crowne Plaza; 6:00 cash bar; 6:30 dinner (max. 60 tickets available)	___ x <b>\$36.</b> Sauerbraten, Gingersnap Gravy, Red Cabbage ___ x <b>\$36.</b> Wienerschnitzel, Red Cabbage ___ x <b>\$36.</b> Broccoli Rabe/Potato Dumpling/ Butternut Squash platter (vegetarian) Each includes salad, side dishes, dessert and beverage	
#3	<b>Awards Banquet</b> Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Saturday, June 24, 7:00 pm; cash bar, 6:30	___ x <b>\$50.</b> Parmesan-crusted Tilapia ___ x <b>\$50.</b> Stuffed Chicken Breast ___ x <b>\$50.</b> Ratatouille Manicotti (vegetarian)	
#4	<b>Full-day Monday Tour – New Glarus</b> Monday, June 26, depart Crowne Plaza 8:30 am, return ~6:00 pm (min. 25, max. 36 tickets available)	Motorcoach tour to New Glarus, Wis. ("Swiss capitol of the U.S.") Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum, lunch at historic New Glarus Hotel Restaurant, Swiss Historical Village and Museum.  ___ x <b>\$77.</b> Kaeseschuechli (indiv cheese pie-vegetarian) ___ x <b>\$77.</b> G'schnetzborts (veal) ___ x <b>\$77.</b> Grilled chicken breast Each includes relish tray, salad, Swiss style potatoes, spaetzle	
	<b>Program Contribution</b>	<i>Donations are tax deductible; each donor of \$10 or more will be listed in the show program.</i>	
	<b>TOTAL Enclosed</b>	<i>Tickets will be included in show preregistration packet</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check if registrant requires auxiliary services under the Americans with Disabilities Act

**METHOD OF PAYMENT** (If paying by PayPal, please include a small bonus to help ATA cover electronic charges)

Check payable to ATA (preferable—saves all fees)

Sending payment by PayPal to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com) (best way to use debit or credit card)

If you do not use the internet but prefer electronic payment, supply card number, expiration date and CVC/CID code

## Need ATA info fast?

**Check our website [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org) for all the latest!**

## **NTSS 2017 REGISTRATION – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN – JUNE 23-25, 2017**

Preregister by **June 10** to receive special nametag and preregistration materials upon arrival at the show hotel.

**Admission is \$5 for all three days, which includes free parking for the duration of the show.**

Completion of this form is required for entrance to the show. Information will not be released to other entities.

Mail form to ATA, PO Box 8, CARTERVILLE, IL 62918-0008.

Or attach copy to an email to [american topical@msn.com](mailto:american topical@msn.com)

Last Name:

First Name:

ATA Member? Y/N

# Adults:

# Children:

List names of additional attendees:

Address:

Email address:

### **INFORMATION:**

Please list collecting interests (this information will be anonymously supplied to the NTSS dealers prior to the show, to assist them in bringing items corresponding to your interests):

I plan to travel to NTSS by:  car  train  plane  bus

Locally I plan to use  hotel shuttle  my own transport

Please indicate where you learned about NTSS 2017. Check as many as appropriate:

Philatelic publication – Publication name:

ATA Website       Postcard from Dealer

Flyer picked up at a stamp show – Show name:

Media (internet, Facebook, etc.) – Media type:

ATA society table at a stamp show – Show name:

On what days do you plan to attend NTSS?  Fri.  Sat.  Sun.

Where are you staying while attending NTSS?

Home  Friends  Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport

Another hotel  Other:

**Please volunteer to help with NTSS!**

Contact Igor Grigorian, [igorgrig@pacbell.net](mailto:igorgrig@pacbell.net)

**Page 2 of this Registration Form is on the reverse side.**

*Need NTSS 2017 Info?*

*Check our website or contact ATA for the latest!*

# TOPICAL

# TIME

ISSN 0040-9332  
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## DATED MAGAZINE

POSTMASTER:

Send New Address to:

American Topical Association

P.O. Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008

Web Page: [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)

**www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org**

✓ Your ATA membership expiration date is shown near the top of your mailing label.  
If it's coming up soon, here's a convenient way to renew:

### ATA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew my ATA membership.

Name:

Member # (on address label):

US Print & Electronic:

1 yr \$30  2 yrs \$55  3 yrs \$80  5 yrs \$125

Electronic:

1 yr \$25  2 yrs \$45  3 yrs \$65  5 yrs \$100

International Print & Electronic:

1 yr \$40  2 yrs \$75  3 yrs \$110  5 yrs \$175

\$  **Donation to ATA's BTTF (Boldly To The Future)**

\$  See attached order for Checklists, Directory,  
Handbooks, Multimedia, *Topical Time* Archive

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If paying electronically in one of the following ways, there is no need to return this form.  
A small bonus to help cover electronic charges would be appreciated.

- Log into [ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org); click on Renew
- At [PayPal.com](http://PayPal.com), send money to [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com)  
One can safely and securely pay by debit or credit card on the website even without a PayPal account.

I do not use the internet but would like to pay by debit or credit card. Please charge USD\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  Visa  
 MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CID \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# **OFFICIAL BALLOT**

## **For Officers and Board of Directors of the American Topical Association**

**Please complete and mail ballot to:**

**Robert Ulatt  
Canvassing Committee Chair  
1700 Chestnut Lane  
Waukesha WI 53189**

This election is non-contested. You may vote for as many or as few of the candidates as you choose. Your vote shows your confidence in the ATA and its leaders. Mark "X" in boxes before names. All terms are for 3 years.

\* denotes incumbent board member

Members may be nominated by 10 ATA members or by an ATA Chapter.

**For Secretary:**

\*Beth Collins, Cottonwood, Minn.

**For Board of Directors: (vote for up to FOUR)**

- \*Chris Dahle, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Igor Grigorian, Glendale, Calif.
- Kim Kellermann, Westmont, Ill.
- \*Laurie J. Ryan, Cincinnati, Ohio

If you have an email address on file with ATA, you may vote online at: [www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org). Or, mail your vote to Robert M. Ulatt at the address given at the top of this page. Please use commemorative stamps on your envelope.

***Deadline for receipt of ballots is April 30, 2017.***

**ATA members always get a 10% discount.**

***www.topicalsonline.com***

**A great ATA Resource!**