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TOPICAL TIME

July-August 2016 Vol. 67, No. 4

Whole Number 398

Salt Through the Ages

See Page 43



WSS NY2016

See Page 32



Royal Mail's Quincentenary

See Page 43

...and
MUCH
more!



Journal of Thematic Philately

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Boldly To The Future Progress (Page 10)

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C.G.



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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 "unsold" 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?

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DALE'S DIALOGUE

Some Inaugural Comments

Hello ATA members! All of us (staff, officers and others) have recently returned from World Stamp Show NY2016, the once-in-a-decade international show held in the United States. What an experience! There will be more on that later in this issue of *Topical Time*.

It is indeed an honor to have been elected to serve as your new president of the American Topical Association. We will continue the work of the previous board and build on its accomplishments. But, in this article, I want to turn your attention to the names listed on page 4. Let's focus on your newly elected ATA Board of Directors.

These are 13 individuals that indeed are dedicated to your organization. While serving on the board for the last several years, I have been amazed at the amount of work these individuals are involved with over time, keeping focused on what is needed to grow and retain our membership. These individuals also expend considerable effort to raise funds to continue to support our office needs and continue to grow services for our members. They also make generous contributions to the "Boldly to the Future" fundraising campaign, as well as doing so much more.

In addition to our family and real jobs, many of us work a lot of hours meeting deadlines, planning events, writing articles, talking with ATA members and investigating opportunities that could benefit you. On top of all this, board members may serve as ATA ambassadors at several stamp shows throughout the year. Many times our own family members help us by typing, researching, preparing letters and going to meetings with us.

You would be impressed with the credentials and philatelic experience of each of these individuals. I won't repeat their accomplishments here. You can go back to the March-April 2016 *Topical Time* to read their impressive biographies. Over the next year, as you meet these board members, please thank them for the service they provide to our society.

You will notice, along with our names on page 4, we all have our contact information. That is there for a reason. We want to hear from you. You, our members, have a lot of good ideas and we want you to give us input. If you have suggestions please contact one of us. Many of the services ATA provides came from your suggestions.

A large number of members completed and submitted the survey in the last issue of *Topical Time*. That is what we need. Thanks to all those who responded. We will report back to you, over the next several issues, about the suggestions made and our progress in meeting those goals.

We invite you to get involved with the many other volunteers in our organization. Serve on a committee that interests you. Become involved in a study

unit of your favorite topic. Submit articles to *Topical Time* or to a study unit editor. You don't have to be an expert author to do so. If you have some time to give, but do not know how or where, please give me a call. Or ask one of those board members listed on Page 4, or Vera. Once involved, you will find it a joy to give back.

I want to close by mentioning a very important person still serving on your board. Jack André Denys, immediate past president, served longer than any other president of ATA – a total of four terms of two years each. He did this because consistency was needed to address the critical issues facing us at that time. Jack, through his leadership, brought financial stability and growth to our organization. He brought phenomenal leadership to ATA by selecting our Executive Director Vera Felts to manage us and the ATA office. Jack also brought our *Topical Time* editor, Wayne Youngblood, on board. I firmly believe any philatelic organization that has a strong publication can thrive and grow.

Jack has agreed to serve an additional two-year term on the Board. All of us appreciate and welcome his willingness to continue to serve. When you get a chance please thank Jack for his service.

Until next issue, "Boldly to the Future!" ☺



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

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.

Chapters Coordinator

This important position is our liaison with approximately 40 ATA chapters throughout the United States and internationally. Responsibilities include receiving chapter newsletters by email or mail so topically related information can be highlighted in *Topical Time*. Requirements are to meet calendar deadlines for including chapter information in *Topical Time*, obtaining annual reports and maintaining contact with ATA chapter representatives. Please see the "Chapter Chatter" section of this issue.

Grants and Awards Coordinator

Do you have experience in writing and obtaining grants? If so we need your advice. ATA wants to explore the possibility of obtaining grants to fund projects for our members. Some philatelic organizations have had success doing this. Please contact Dale Smith to discuss the possibility.

Topical Time Indexer

Compile 2016 index during this year, finishing by early December 2016 for the Jan-Feb 2017 *Topical Time* issue. Please see format on pages 79-85 of the March-April *Topical Time* for the 2015 index.

Volunteers with DVD Production Skills

ATA has several DVDs that need modifying/updating. They include Americana,

Firemen, Maps, Music and National Parks, as well as some others. Suggestions for modification have been compiled by a volunteer team.

TopicalsOnLine

If you visited www.TopicalsOnLine.com once and didn't find anything for your collection, you should visit again! Close to 25,000 items are now posted on the website.

1949 Society

Charter membership in The 1949 Society is still available. Please notify the ATA Office by the end of this year if you have made – or are making – arrangements to remember ATA in your will. See the article on Page XX of this issue for more information.

Recent Shows and New Members

April 16-17: Plymouth Show, Westland, Mich. Ambassador: Loraine Stanton. New Member: 2

May 28-April 4: World Stamp Show-NY2016, New York, N.Y. Ambassadors: Jeff Hayward, Mary Etta Abromaitis, Fran Adams, Agbenyega Adedze, Greg Balagian, Karen Cartier, Ray Cartier, Blanton Clement, Beth Collins, Jack Congrove, Tony Curiale, Chris Dahle, Larry Davidson, Jack Denys, Dale Dwyer, Eric Dykman, Vera Felts, Allan Fisk, Greg Galletti, Dawn Hamman, John Hamman, Bob Jarvis, Marci Jarvis, Bob Lamb, Amanda Morgenstern, Tim O'Shea, Larry Rosenblum, Laurie Ryan, Caroline Scannell, Joe Sullivan, Heather Symes and Carol Wenzel. New Members: 75, plus 4 post-show.

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.

You may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (e.g. *Topical Time* archives, handbooks, checklists, DVDs) be brought to these shows for you. **For the shows listed in green, we will have the capability to print checklists upon request.**

July 15-17: Minnesota Stamp Expo, Crystal, Minn.

www.stampsmnnesota.com/mn%20stamp%20expo.htm

July 16-17: Evergreen Stamp Show, Kent, Wash. www.nwfedstamps.org/shows.html

Aug. 4-7: APS StampShow, Portland, Ore. www.stamps.org/stampshow-ss

Aug. 5-6: Merpex, Marlton, N.J. www.merchantvillestampclub.org

Sept. 2-4: Baplex, Hunt Valley, Md. www.baplex.org

Sept. 9-11: Seapex, Tukwila, Wash. www.seapexshow.org

Sept. 16-18: Milcopex, Milwaukee, Wis.

www.milwaukeephilatelic.org/milcopex/milcopex.html

Sept. 16-18: Greater Houston Stamp Show, Humble, Texas

www.houstonstampclub.org/houstonstampshow.html

Sept. 24: Waxahachie Chautauqua, Waxahachie, Texas

www.chautauquawaxahachietx.org

Oct. 6-9: ASDA National Stamp Show, New York, N.Y.

www.americanstampdealer.com/submenu/asda_fall_new_york_stamp_.aspx?id=486

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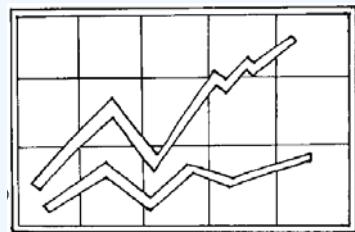
Everything for the Topical Collector!



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!

Here are some quotes from our recent membership survey:

- “Doing a very good job in an era of difficulty for all philatelic clubs.”
- “I think the ATA does a good job of interacting with members on a person-to-person basis. This makes for a richer membership and stronger member allegiance.”
- “I believe that with the new checklist database, it will increase membership because the checklists are always updated.”
- “I like the ATA and I like *Topical Time*. It seems to me the ATA is very focused and not distracted by trying to get out of its ‘realm.’ This focus is a good thing.”



And YOU are part of this fine Association! You can help your ATA keep going
BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

Members Like You

...have shown great generosity and have made the ATA the vital association that it is!

Most of your donations have been small ones. The amounts you add to your membership renewals really do add up!

2016 BTTF Goal:	\$35,000
Received or Pledged:	\$16,946 (through June 30)
Still needed in 2016:	\$18,054

Every dollar you give helps to reach our goal!

You can send your 2016 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 - preferable if you pay electronically.
- Debit/credit card – At [PayPal.com](https://www.PayPal.com) – send money safely and securely to 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

World Stamp Show NY 2016

This decade's widely publicized U.S. international stamp show is now history. I believe you should be proud of your ATA's participation. Behind the public's view, an incredible amount of hard work was involved. The ATA members who represented you and helped to make the show possible are to be commended. Chief among them is **Jeff Hayward**, our incredible ATA booth and volunteer chair. No dictionary or thesaurus in existence could possibly list all the positive adjectives to describe Jeff's dedication, but here's a start: He's organized, generous, thoughtful, hospitable, forward-thinking, kind, understanding, creative and sharply perceptive of so many issues that arose during our booth planning and the execution of those plans. **Jack Denys** and **Dawn Hamman** also spent much time and energy in planning for the booth.

Though our booth was not located in an area conducive to drop-by show traffic, according to my calculations more than 700 show visitors stopped by to check out the ATA offerings. They included a free New York City checklist compiled by **Allan Fisk** and a Show Passport



Jeff Hayward, ATA booth and volunteer chair for WSS NY2016.



ATA NY2016 Passport cancel, which was available during the international show.

page with a cancel designed by **Amanda Morganstern**. The free checklist can be printed out at www.americantopicalassn.org or obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the ATA Office.

The 250 ATA members who signed the guest book at the ATA booth came from 38 states and territories and also Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Cyprus, Finland, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the

United Kingdom. **Dawn Hamman** created our lovely guest book, which will now be housed in the ATA Archives.

Some of the comments ATA members wrote in our sign-in book include:

ATA rocks!

Thanks for being here!

I ♥ ATA!

Very nice booth!

Love my ATA!

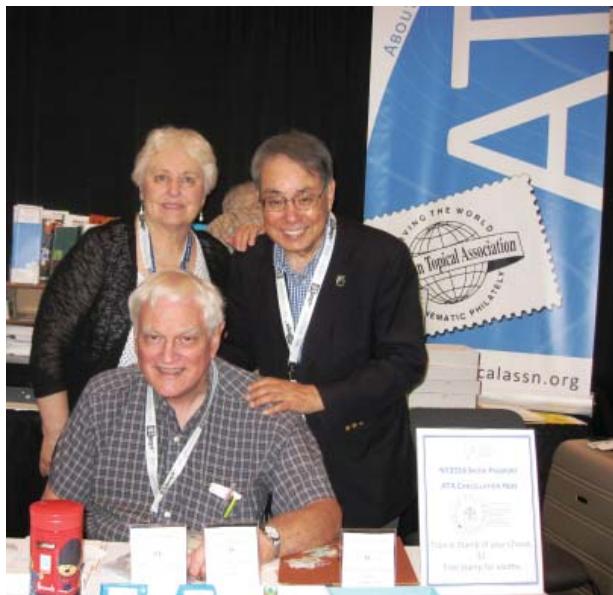
Continue the hard, beautiful work you do!

ATA yay!

I'd like to extend a special ATA welcome to the 75 new and reinstating members who joined ATA at the NY2016 show. The ATA Ambassadors at our booth were so pleased to meet you and to share some of the good things about our organization with you.

ATA Study Units sharing the booth – and its cost – with us included Old World Archaeology, Biology Unit, Cats on Stamps, Christmas Philatelic Club, Graphics Philately Assoc, Petroleum Philatelists Intl., Ships on Stamps and United Nations Philatelists Intl.

The 31 Ambassadors who enthusiastically shared the importance of ATA and its various study units in their lives were:



Clockwise, from left: Vera Felts, Yukio Onuma and Jack André Denys at the ATA booth

Mary Etta Abromaitis, Fran Adams, Agbenyega Adedze, Greg Balagian, Karen Cartier, Ray Cartier, Blanton Clement, Beth Collins, Jack Congrove, Tony Curiale, Chris Dahle, Larry Davidson, Jack Denys, Dale Dwyer, Eric Dykman, Vera Felts, Allan Fisk, Greg Galletti, Dawn Hamman, John Hamman, Bob Jarvis, Marci Jarvis, Bob Lamb, Amanda Morgenstern, Tim O'Shea, Larry Rosenblum, Laurie Ryan, Caroline Scannell, Joe Sullivan, Heather Symes and Carol Wenzel.

Several ATA members who could not attend the show in person contributed to our organization's effort to have an outstanding booth. Chief among them were **Sue Bruce**, who drove from afar to spend several volunteer days at the ATA Office, and **Rich and Mona Diefenbach**, who prepared hundreds of our new brochures on *The Basics of Topical Collecting*. **Karen McKee** sent dozens of glassine packets for Taste of Topicals just in time for the show, and Allan Fisk completed many packets as well.

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

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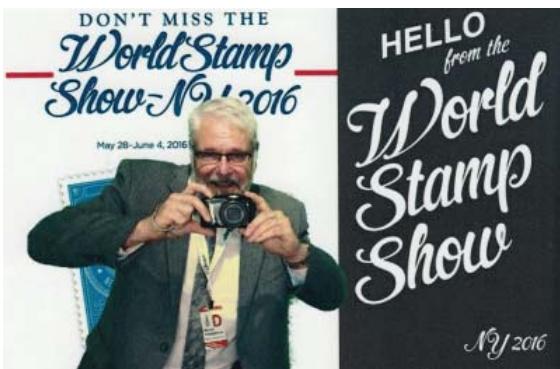


WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Welcome to the ATA!

These words are heartfelt, whether you are receiving *Topical Time* for the first time or have been a member for more than 50 years! As it happens, I'm pleased to welcome 100 new members to the fold with this issue, many of whom joined during

World Stamp Show New York 2016. You'll read elsewhere that we signed up a stunning 75 members at the show, far eclipsing the numbers of any other philatelic organization. Why? Because there's a lot positive happening throughout the ATA, which is blessed with very progressive and clear-thinking leadership. The ATA booth at NY2016 was almost always busy,



whether it was ambassadors signing up new members, selling materials or simply socializing with new and old friends.

At a time when most philatelic organizations are shrinking rapidly, ATA is committed to providing services and information necessary to collectors from all disciplines at the point where we all intersect – topical collecting – and other organizations are taking notice and beginning to emulate some of our best practices.

The show itself was pleasant for all who attended and there was much to keep one busy, whether you were shopping for philatelic material, viewing exhibits or catching up with other collectors. Please read Dawn Hamman's report beginning on Page 32, as well as some of the other show-related society business.

One of the fun moments for me was getting to ham it up inside the U.S. Postal Service photo booth (located in a central lounge area) to create a custom postcard, shown nearby. One could strike any pose, get it printed out almost instantaneously and post it at the show with one of the many new stamps released.

Magazine Variance

If you are new, you won't necessarily notice the difference, but this issue of *Topical Time* is both later than normal and a little more full of society business than usual. Normally, the July-August issue would be at the printer around mid-June, but earlier this year we decided that it was important to wait until after NY2016 to be able to present a more comprehensive report of the show, activities and society actions connected with the show. For the same reason, there is slightly less space than normal for feature articles. We hope to have everything back to normal again by next issue.

Chapters Coordinator

On Page 7 you'll note a request for a new Chapters Coordinator. Our current coordinator, Sandy Strzalkowski, has done a wonderful job, but finds the increased demands of treating a new health challengeis keeping her from being as effective as she'd like. More about this in the Sept-Oct issue.

ATA Survey Results

Beginning on Page 39, you'll see the first of several reports regarding the results of our ATA survey, which is intended to refine both the organization and this magazine to become even more useful to you and your collecting activities. Please take a few minutes and read the valuable input provided by members.

I often equate membership organizations such as ours with churches and other groups – all of which started because they fulfilled very real needs.

Over the years, culture changes and the needs of members change as well. If the organization does not rethink its purpose for existence and evolve, then it becomes doomed to its goal becoming simply self-preservation, which is always a losing proposition. The leadership of the ATA is determined not to let this happen and is constantly looking for opportunities to serve you and your collecting needs better. And feedback isn't limited just to answering the survey. Please tell us what you think – good and bad. It's the only way we'll know how you feel.

Sundaes & Sundays

On June 30, the USPS released the 47¢ Forever Soda Fountain Favorites stamps shown nearby as an any-city first-day. There are five designs, each of which features a different ice cream delicacy. While most cities and towns take little notice of modern first-day events, I'd like to point out one organization that took the opportunity very seriously indeed – the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. The WFSC not only helped with a first-day ceremony, but designed a cancel and created special cacheted FDCs, an example of which is shown on the following page. The best part is the issue, cancel and cachet are all tied neatly to Wisconsin, and the group worked cooperatively with the Two Rivers post office and Historical Society to create a successful event. I'll let WFSC President Karen Weigt tell the story:

"We made 100 WFSC Soda Fountain Favorites first-day-of-sale covers and sold out. I am, however, going to make more, as we were overwhelmed at the ceremony and took mail orders. It will be worth the effort to make more. Of the 100 created, 20 were sold off the top from a quick mail order received from "Mr. Ice Cream," who lives in Chicago. His name is Allan Mellis, and he collects all kinds of ice cream memorabilia. He told me he had been lobbying for an ice cream stamp for 10 years. Members may reach him by email at: mellisfamily@rcn.com.

"The ceremony itself was a tremendous success. It seems as though the whole city of Two Rivers was there.





District U.S. Postal Service reps were there. Several stamp collectors were there, too. It was standing room only with at least 200 people, maybe 300, in attendance.

"The Two Rivers Historical Society also made a cover and a postcard and they sold like crazy. I'm glad they were able to make some money. The Two Rivers Post Office made 500 programs and franked and canceled a number of them that sold for \$1. They made money, too.

"We franked our covers using only the Hot Fudge Sundae stamp. We're not set up with Paypal so we will require a check payable to the WFSC. The cost is \$3 each when a No. 10 stamped addressed envelope is provided, or \$3.50 each for up to four if an envelope is not provided. Send orders to Karen Weigt, 4184 Rose Ct, Middleton WI 53562."

Now, how about that spelling? When asked about the spelling of "Sunday" in the cancel, Weigt responded, "The 'Sunday' was and was not intentional. Jay Bigalke designed the cancel using 'Sunday.' When I questioned it, he sent me to www.roadsideamerica.com/story/11967, which has the story."

According to lore, in 1881, George Hallauer asked Ed Berner, owner of a soda fountain to top his dish of ice cream with chocolate sauce, which was used only for ice cream sodas. The concoction became popular, but was only sold on Sundays. One day a little girl asked for one, asking if they could pretend it was Sunday...

"I submitted the 'Sunday' cancel to the Two Rivers Postmaster, pointing out the spelling and gave him the same Roadside America website address. A week or so later I learned the local postmaster and Two Rivers Historical Society approved the cancel and submitted it to the Postal Service people. The historical society, as it turns out, even preferred the alternate spelling."

As a side note, there were even special commemorative sundae dishes created to serve sundaes in conjunction with the event. For \$3.50 one was able to eat the sundae and keep the dish, which was inscribed "Home of the Ice Cream Sundae, Two Rivers, WI 1881."

This event – and the resulting covers – is the perfect example of what a small group can do to reach out to the general public and share the enjoyment of our hobby. We may or may not generate new collectors, but those who attended will certainly think fondly of the collectors they encountered in Two Rivers, Wis. ☺



TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

A Very Fowl Subject

During a recent and (finally) warm spring Saturday here in New York's mid-Hudson Valley, sunrise was greeted from the table by the bay window in the kitchen with a breakfast feast that included a "to-die-for" cheese omelet made with real eggs. None of that fake-egg stuff here. We're talking honest-to-goodness extra large incredible, edible (like the TV commercial) eggs!

After getting some outdoor chores done and out of the way, lunchtime found Benny the Black Lab and me dipping our beaks into a leftover bucket of The Colonel's finest original recipe. There's something about cold, left-over fried chicken that speaks spring and summer (and probably cardiologist) to anyone enjoying its mix of flavors and textures, and we were in our glory.

While chowing down, it occurred to me that its no small irony that our poor – yet tasty – friend, the chicken, can be enjoyed on either end of its life cycle, and perhaps this cycle would make for a fun article for *Topical Time*. Well, we're about to find out.



Figure 1.

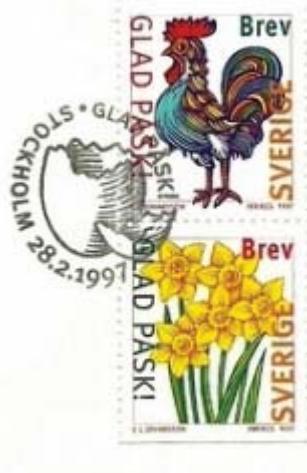


Figure 2.

Albeit out of order life-cycle wise, our first cancel (Figure 1) gets this place of prominence in our story simply because its likely the most famous chicken marking extant, the so-called Running Chicken,* carved by Postmaster John W. Hill of Waterbury, Conn., who, during the 1860s and early 1870s, created all sorts of now-sought-after fancy cancels. The Running Chicken was in use for only a few days, making it a highly prized and rare marking to own or behold.

While fully aware that there is only an endless loop answer to the age-old question of "Which came first...?" let's take a stand here and start our tour of



Figure 3.

the cycle on the egg end. In Figure 2 we see a pictorial from Stockholm, Sweden, used in 1997, showing a newly hatched chick that has already escaped his or her temporary calcium carbonate quarters. Since the stamps, as well as the pictorial, are wishing the viewer Glad Pask (Happy Easter), this item lends itself neatly to additional topical possibilities on top of our chicken theme, such as holidays and flowers.

Figure 3 brings us to a 1979 pictorial titled "Easter Chick" (Paaskuiren), used at Diksmuide, a Belgian city in the Flemish province of West Flanders. Here we have our recent escapee victoriously perched on top of his former jail cell with an obviously smug and victorious expression on his face.

The first few days of the chick's life have it following mom around the barnyard as she gossips with other hens, their chicks also in tow (Figure 4). This pictorial was used as a first-day cancel on a concordant stamp issued in 2013 at New Farm, Australia, a suburb of Brisbane and the capital of Queensland. The chicken breed depicted on the stamp is the Australorp, an Australian-developed breed that "eggcells" at egg-laying.

Another FDC, this one from Finland, can be found in Figure 5. Used at Helsinki in 1996, our chick marking cancels a set of semi-postal Red Cross issues with the Rooster stamp at right showing a prime example of *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

Figure 6 brings us to Great Britain, with a pictorial used to cancel a 35p Machin issue in 2005. Designed for the 10-stamp set depicting farm animals issued the same year, this particular marking commemorates The Poultry Club of Frampton, Boston & Lincolnshire that acts as



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

a blanket society for local specialist breed clubs, much like the APS serves our stamp clubs. The Poultry Club was established in 1877.

At other times of the day, chicks can be found socializing with other barnyard critters. The Israeli marking seen in Figure 7, typifying the innocence of youth, puts together a chick, a kitten and a rabbit kit that was used as a first-day cancel for the 2010 Animals and Their Offspring issues. This particular example was applied at Ramat Gan, a city in the Tel Aviv district.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia, established in 1831, moved its festival and exhibition to the Claremont Fair



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Grounds, Perth, in 1905. Held annually and recently attracting 500,000 visitors over seven days, the pictorial shown as Figure 8 commemorates the 1987 event, while showing our now grown-up hen with her grown-up barnyard friends, all no doubt admiring her freshly laid eggs.

Next let's look at some adult rooster pictorials. Figure 9 brings us to Bophuthatswana for

a marking used at Mmabatho in



Figure 8.

1993. Here we find terrific concordance between the stamps and the pictorial, although the rooster in the marking sure appears to be a sourpuss. Mmabatho was the capital of the Northwest Province of South Africa until the end of apartheid in 1994, and is



Figure 9.

now known as Mafikeng.

Always a sucker for colored markings, I love the blue double-circle with rooster at center created by Laos. This marking was used at Vientiane, the capital city located on the



Figure 10.



Figure 11 (left).

Figure 12 (above).

Mekong River near the border with Thailand. The Rooster is 10th in the Chinese zodiac and these stamps and marking commemorated the year of the Rooster that coincided with our year 2005 (Figure 10).

Our next marking (Figure 11) comes to us compliments of the Romanian Na-

ATA Mission Statement (amended June 2016)

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

- ☒ Encouraging the collection, research and study of topical stamps and related material.

- ☒ Providing for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.

- ☒ Developing, publishing and promoting books, checklists and multi-media programs.

- ☒ Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.

- ☒ Assisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.

tional Ceramics Fair, Cocosul (Rooster) de Hurez, held in the town of Horezu. First established in 1971, this exposition has become an international affair, especially appropriate for Horezu, a town well known for its pottery and artisan residents. The pictorial shown was used in 2001 and matches up nicely with the ceramic rooster shown in the stamp at right.

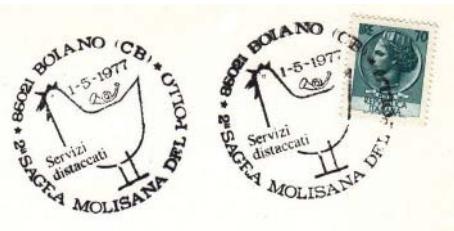
Our final rooster, from Romania, presents us with another super example of concordance between marking and stamp. Used in 1963, the deep red color of the mark-



Figure 13 (above).

Figure 14 (left).

Figure 15 (below).



ing makes for a nice effect, but the rooster's "fish eye" tends to be a bit unnerving (Figure 12).

Next let's look at some stylized pictorials of our feathered friends. The Figure 13 marking fits that bill, one from the Czech Republic, used in 1999. This, another FDC postmark, was applied in Prague (Praha)



and was issued, as one might expect, for the Easter season.

Figure 14 brings us to Italy for a marking commemorating the second annual Molise Festival held to collect money for funding the fight against one of the dreaded childhood diseases, poliomyelitis, or polio. This pictorial was used in 1977 at Bojano, a town in the Molise region of south-central Italy.

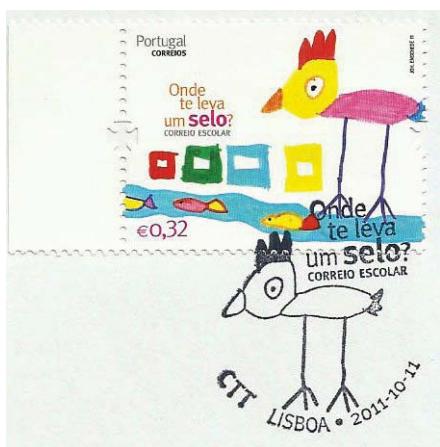


Figure 16.



Figure 17.

in the past – our Japanese pictorial for this issue comes in a deep red ink and has a distinct Pokémon-esque feel to it. This marking, shown in Figure 15, was used in Chugoku in 1993.

In Figure 16 we're back on the European continent and in Portugal, viewing a pictorial that clearly mimics the stamp upon which it has been applied – a child's drawing that begs the question: Why did the chicken cross the stream? Meanwhile, both the stamp and its cancel ask "Where does a stamp take you?" while referencing School Mail (Correio Escolar). Used in Lisbon, this marking is of 2011 vintage.



Figure 19.

next four pictorials will have us abandon any such hope. Figure 17 brings us back to Romania for a marking used at Vâlcea in 1998 on a set of stamps issued to stress the importance of nature. Both our stamp and our marking show a nice bushy-tailed red fox, but notice how in the marking the fox has an added thought bubble above his head, and its clear what he's thinking about: the hen house and an easy, tasty meal!

Our final three examples are all from here in the United States:

Although it is likely an inking anomaly (as opposed to two different markings), note the difference in the eyes between the two hens shown, the one on the left clearly looking happier than her counterpart at the right.

In typical fashion – and as they mostly have



Figure 18.

Finally (and it had to happen), we approach the twilight of our chicken's life cycle and, as much as we would like to think all chickens pass on due to old age, the

Figure 18's marking commemorates the 40th annual Hen Derby, held by the Fontana, Calif., Lion's Club in 1986. Although the word "derby" brings on images of hens scurrying around a track to name a winner, in this case the champion is determined by the number of eggs laid within a certain period of

time, usually four days. That said, the lion depicted in the marking has that mischievous, lip-smacking look on his face as he slyly eyes the chicken dinner obliviously pecking away near his front claws. The winner of the Hen Derby is announced at the end of the four-day Fontana Days Festival and is awarded a cash prize. Monies taken in during this festival, most recently sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, is used for many local projects including the awarding of student scholarships.

The Stockton, Mo., annual Chicken Stampede is honored in our Figure 19 cancel, this one from the 1988 event. Again we're led to envision running hens and roosters, but sadly (for the chickens) the only stampede involved here is the one run by the diners as they head to the barbeques fired up by the Lions Club for this Memo-



Figure 20.

Horror Movie

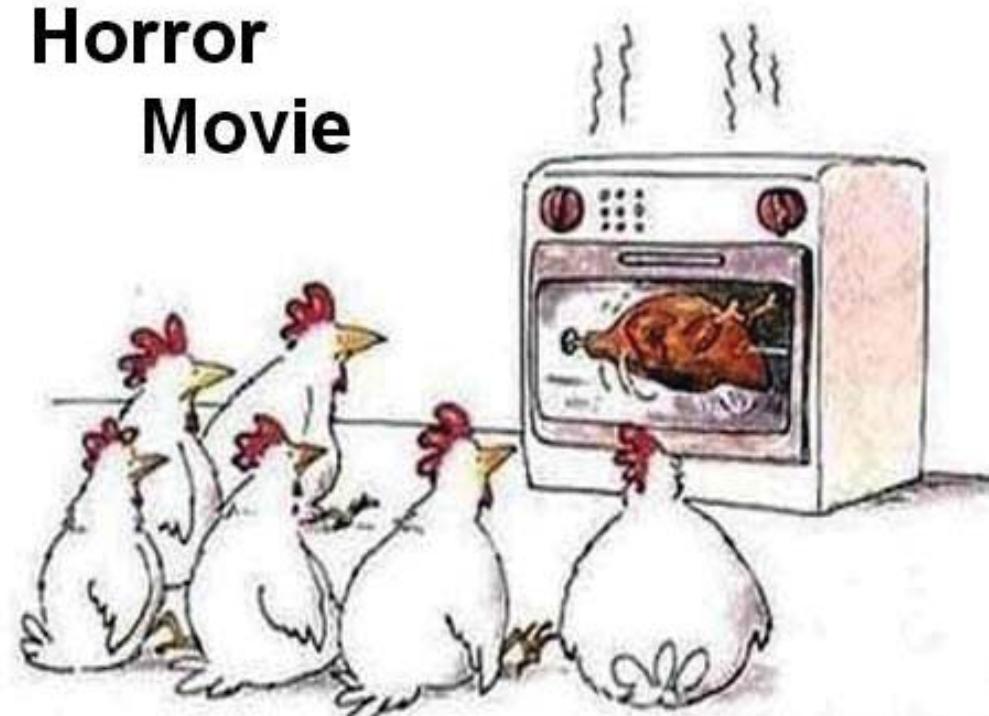


Figure 21.

rial Day weekend festival. The first chickens are on the grill by 7:15 a.m. and well over 200 chickens have had their gooses cooked before the end of this two-day affair (along with more than 100-lbs of beef brisket, but that's fodder for a future topic).

Our last item for this issue (Figure 20) is a pictorial used to commemorate the 2004 Chatfield, Ohio, 30th Annual Volunteer Fireman's Barbeque, held to earn money to maintain and purchase firefighting equipment. Using what's been fondly referred to as "sick humor," this pictorial illustrates an ill-fated chicken at the window of its burning coop, ready to jump down into the safety of the firefighter's net, only to have the net pulled away leaving nothing but...the grill to land upon...please pass the potato salad.

I leave you with Figure 21, no explanation needed! Enjoy your summer! Until next time...

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

**Students of fancy cancels have determined Hill's carving in this case was actually a running turkey, created around the Thanksgiving holiday season (and has the turkey running for obvious reasons). Regardless, the term "Running Chicken" is still used to describe this creative marking.*



TOPICAL POSTLINE

More on Revenue Stamped Paper

The ATA and, more recently, the APS are bordering on recognizing topical subjects as appropriate for exhibiting at WSP exhibitions. The new (7th) edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* will be issued by August and will likely contain details of how one goes about preparing and judging a topical exhibit. It becomes increasingly important, therefore, to distinguish between topical and thematic exhibits. The recent article on "Thematic Aspects of Revenue Stamped Paper (RSP)," Vol. 66, No. 6, pp.33-42) introduces yet another area for adding to topical subjects. I especially appreciate the article as a revenue collector myself. However, the title is misleading in that the nature of revenue stamped paper lends itself to only topical collections and exhibits, not thematic exhibits. The philatelic aspects of these items are limited to the imprinted revenue, much akin to the stamp and cancel on a first-day cover. The non-revenue printed designs on these checks and documents are not philatelic, and are akin to the cachet on a first-day cover or illustration on illustrated mail. Accordingly, while these are clearly of interest in topical collecting, they would not be readily acceptable for thematic exhibits, especially outside the United States.

— Edwin J. Andrews



Encouraging Exhibiting *(but not for exhibitors only!)*

Jack André Denys

Read this, even if you don't exhibit

This column will offer tips, resources, information and commentary about thematic exhibiting. But even if you don't exhibit, you will find at least some of it helpful. Your comments, suggestions, questions and additions are most welcome:
jdenys@verizon.net

Helpful Hints

Things I wish I did to get organized when I started gathering items and information about my topic:

- Obtained large three-ring binder stock books for stamps and other items – initially for holding all items, later for keeping items not used on album pages – arranged in the (changing) order of the pages of the collection/exhibit.
- Maintained a three-ring binder for resources on my topic. It would include photos, articles, photocopies from the web or elsewhere, and other ephemera - also arranged in the order of the pages of the collection/exhibit.
- Made notes from my topical reading on 3x5 index cards (including page numbers of reference sources). Writing sub-topics in pencil at top of card (subject to change). The cards could be re-arranged as needed when writing up the collection/exhibit.
- Used a large notebook to write/tape miscellaneous jottings – such as names of dealers, resources, clippings, want lists, plans, questions, searches, and the like.

Thematic Exhibits on the Internet

Hundreds of exhibits have been posted on the web. Why look at them?

- To get ideas on how to organize your collection/exhibit.
- To discover items you didn't know about.
- To learn more about your topic (thematic knowledge).
- To contact the exhibitor.
- To admire what someone else has done with your topic.

Is your topic listed here? If not, it may be in this column next time.

In the following listing, each site has one exhibit unless noted otherwise:



Biology: www.biophilately.org/exhibits/exhibitindex.htm (2)
Cartography: <http://motivsamler.dk/Cartography>
Chess: <http://motivsamler.dk/chess/>
Denmark: <http://motivsamler.dk/Denmark%20the%20Land>
Eskimos: <http://motivsamler.dk/PolarEskimoer>
Fisheries: <http://motivsamler.dk/Fisheries/>
Horses: <http://motivsamler.dk/The%20Horse?frame=2>
Scouts: - <http://sossi.org/exhibits/bexhibits.htm> (27)
Space: - www.space-unit.com/mexhibit.htm (8)
United Nations: www.unpi.com/exhibits.asp (26)

ATA website: <http://american topical classn.org/exhibiting.shtml> - selected exhibit pages:

Beavers	Mail Car	Tennis
Cockroach	Panama Canal	Tomatoes
Hamilton, Alexander	Sailing Races	United Nations
Olive (2)	Sun	

British Thematic Association website: www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/displays.htm

African Railways	Fisheries	Money
Astronomy	Geology	Motorcycles
Basketball	Heart	Olympic and World Soccer
Children	Horse	Paper and Printing
Christian Vocations	Italian Immigration	Rikke Tikke Tik
European Union	Mother Earth	Venice

News

Major stamp exhibitions in the United States are under the authority of the American Philatelic Society's Committee of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ). That committee has been coordinating the re-writing of its official manual. Here are some proposed major changes that affect thematic exhibitors:

The name and the content of the manual have changed to <i>The Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting</i> to reflect that it addresses the interests of both judges and exhibitors.	Current Medal Levels	Medal Levels Jan. 1, 2017
--		Large Gold
Gold		Gold
--		Large Vermeil
Vermeil		Vermeil
--		Large Silver
Silver		Silver
Silver-Bronze		Silver-Bronze
Bronze		Bronze

A draft of the proposed new Manual had been posted on the APS website since spring. Comments were encouraged and have resulted in some changes. The revised draft was to be presented to the APS Board for approval on Aug 3. The Manual is expected to go into effect on January 1, 2017. Watch this column for other changes affecting Thematics. [■]

My Topic

Jennifer Miller

Dawn Hamman

Some people choose a topic related to his or her career or other hobby interests. But often a topic is chosen "Just because I like it." Such is the case with Jennifer Miller, who collects sheep on stamps.

Jennifer tagged along with her husband Martin to Ameristamp Expo in Atlanta last winter. *"He was there to collect, and I was there just to keep him company. But, when I heard about topical collecting, I was thrilled!"*



Although her encounters with live sheep have been limited to a few petting zoos, Jennifer has always liked them, and knew what her topic would be. *"I joined the ATA and ordered my checklist,"* she

relates. Checklist in hand, she began shopping. Jennifer was able to find many sheep stamps at the show, and continues to be enthusiastic about her topic. She is still working on that checklist of 1,298 stamps.



"My next topic will be farming. Both of my grandparents were farmers in Illinois," she said. She views it as continuing the family history. *"I hope to continue the interest in stamp collecting in my family,"* she said.

Granddaughter Rebecca, born in May, is one of the youngest topical collectors, thanks to a grandmother who has started a panda on stamps collection for her! ☺



Continued Dialog on Topical Exhibiting

The first part of this dialog on the proposed new exhibiting class called “Topical Exhibits” appeared in the last issue of Topical Time, pp. 54-56. Here are additional comments received since then, prior to the ATA Board meeting:

Pro - George DeKornfeld (An exhibitor)

Phil Stager stated: “Time to put away childish pursuits,” to which I respond (with all due respect): phooey! Why not utilize some of this childhood collecting innocence to work for the betterment of our hobby? As long as some sort of story line is followed – as is required by today’s exhibiting guidelines – why exclude an entire class of collectors? Inclusion of a “childish pursuit” may even help dissipate the sense of snobbery that many non-exhibitors attribute to the exhibiting world.

Further, I would think that opening up another exhibiting class would stimulate more folks to exhibit. At many WSP shows, we see the same old exhibits. I’m not a topicalist per se, but know many who are and I’d be willing to bet that at least some of them would come out of the woodwork to exhibit if given the opportunity to do it on a topical basis.

I do understand Phil & Doug Clark’s points about no qualified judges being available for such a venture, and that in a sense topicals could be seen as outdated, but these don’t seem like insurmountable problems. Why we might even get a few more judges out of the deal from the topical collecting community. We might even get some new members for the ATA out of the deal. And then there are the youth collectors – a topical class might make their entry into exhibiting an easier first step.

Kudos to Phil for approving topical exhibits on an experimental basis! We have nothing to lose, but much to gain. Why be exclusionary when we can be proactively inclusionary?

Pro – Ed Andrews (Head of *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* [MPJE7] Core Team)

I understand that there will always be differences of opinion when it comes to judging and exhibiting. Picture postcards are the most recent example of a type of exhibit that still rankles some judges, yet is accepted worldwide as a legitimate class. APS is not trying to follow a world trend. So, just because Australia has chosen to test topical exhibits as a class does not mean we have to in the United States. But we do have to look out for our best interests and, clearly, topical exhibits give collectors yet another opportunity to show their material. The fact that we have not seen a topical exhibit for more than 20 years really does not mean anything. First, there has not been a mechanism to show these exhibits until the new 7th edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*. Also, exhibiting has dramatically changed over that same 20 years, especially in the United States.

While it has been suggested that no consensus could be reached on a definition for topical exhibits, one was indeed reached and refined with comments of judges and exhibitors to the current wording in the 7th edition of the *Manual*. Personally, I think it is a good definition. Will it need to be refined over time? Very possibly. I have taken on the challenge of introducing and educating judges to topical exhibits. I have written companion articles on how to build a topical and how to judge a

topical. I have also created a 10-frame topical exhibit as an exemplar of this new type, both to stimulate the interest of collectors and to use as a training tool for judges. The exhibit was first shown (non-competitively) at Balpex as part of the WE Festival 5 seminar series. It will also be shown non-competitively at Florex, along with a seminar on how to create a topical exhibit. I plan to show the exhibit competitively at Ameristamp Expo in Reno Nev., March 3-5, 2017, and at NTSS 2017 (if ATA accepts the class), where I will also be offering seminars to both exhibitors and judges on how to create and how to judge these exhibits.

I believe that this exhibit type will spark the interest of topical collectors and I am looking forward to seeing and judging this new exhibit type well into the future. I also think that with an increase in topical exhibits we will see a resurgence of thematic exhibits. How can more people exhibiting and getting excited about their collecting interests be wrong?

News

The ATA Board of Directors, at its June 1-2 meeting, adopted the following motion by a 10-0 vote, with two abstentions.

That the Board accept “topical exhibits” (as defined in the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting – 7th Edition*) as an exhibiting class at NTSS, beginning in 2017.

More about the new Topical Exhibit Class in the next issue of *Topical Time*. 

Westminster Stamp Gallery, Ltd. is the North American Agent for Auktionshaus Christoph Gaertner

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The auction firm, located in Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, can be contacted directly at <http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de>

We are members of ASDA, APS, ATA.

Your ATA Board of Directors, at its June 1-2 Meeting...

- Heard plans for National Topical Stamp Show 2017.
- Voted to appoint a committee to begin planning NTSS 2018, including possibilities of a joint show and changing to a Thursday-Saturday format.
- Adopted numerous bylaw amendments (please see our website for details of these amendments). www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/bylaws_amendments.pdf
- Revised the board nomination process.
- Discussed the ATA judges' accreditation process and tabled a motion to discontinue it.
- Endorsed the revised [2014] APS uniform exhibit evaluation form (UEEF).
- Established three new classifications of membership: electronic member, youth electronic member and retired life member.
- Entered into a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library to produce quality, philatelic-related audio-visual presentations.
- Appointed Dalene Thomas as ATA liaison to the RMPL.

The 1949 Society

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

Charter membership available until Dec. 31, 2016.
Please notify the ATA Office if you qualify for Society membership.

- Voted to accept the new class of “topical exhibits” in NTSS.
- Adopted revised criteria for eligibility of ATA awards.
- Decided to continue including “free-style” exhibits in NTSS.
- Brainstormed on how to further support our study units.
- Received report and recommendations from our Chapter and Study Unit Review Team.
- Received evaluation report on our DVDs.
- Took a first look at our recent membership survey.
- Reviewed status of our action plans.
- Received financial reports.
- Heard comments from our outgoing and incoming presidents. ☺

ATA Finances – A Summary

Comment on our recent membership survey:

“ATA needs to be open and honest as to where all funds are used.”

Here is the summary that was presented at the annual meeting in New York in June.

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	Notes
Total Income	\$ 151,324	\$ 125,585	2016 income & expense are significantly down because there is no National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) this year
Total Expense	150,442	135,949	
Net gain/loss	882	-10,364	Most of the 2016 deficit is because there are no sponsorships for NTSS this year
<i>Cash reserves as of Dec 31</i>	76,040	64,154	<i>Includes advance paid dues \$6,500. 2016 year-end is down to make up for deficit</i>
<i>Boldly To The Future (BTTF)</i>	35,200	35,000	<i>We depend on BTTF donations to avoid additional spending of limited reserves. Without substantial gifts to BTTF, reserves would be spent within 2 years</i>



What topic or thematic do you collect?

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World Stamp Show NY2016; Images From an Exhibition

Dawn Hamann



One of the busiest places at World Stamp Show NY2016 was the ATA booth, where crowds gathered throughout the eight days. ATA ambassadors visited with members from many countries, including India, Peru, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and Mexico. Many topical collectors and prospective members stopped by to hear about the many activities and services of ATA. An astonishing total of 75 topical collectors became



Opposite: The ATA booth was the scene of a great deal of activity during NY2016, with the organization signing up 75 new members!

Opposite bottom and above: The Jacob K. Javits Center, site of WSS NY2016.

Below: A view from above of less than 25% of the show floor!





Above: One of the few operational Curtiss Jenny aircraft was on display inside the Javits center, near the show's entrance. The Jenny, of course, was the first aircraft to carry official U.S. airmail

Right: APS Executive Director Scott English holds the re-covered Inverted Jenny airmail that was returned by the FBI during NY2016.

Below: A sea of frames greeted those interested in perusing exhibits.



members during the show, including visitors from Belgium, China, India and New Zealand.

Linn's Stamp News created a passport, in which attendees could place stamps and get cancels from countries and societies at the show. ATA's was the very first one in the passport section. Colorful topical stamps and the "About The Adventure" cancel decorated that page.

The ATA booth, which functioned as the world headquarters for thematic collecting during the show, was ably run by ATA executive director Vera Felts and booth manager Jeff Hayward.

We gathered on June 3 for an informal exchange with thematic collectors eager to tell about the hobby in their countries. Among the countries represented were New Zealand, Belgium, United Kingdom, Israel and Switzerland. Cards were exchanged and participants hope it was the beginning of a continuing exchange of ideas.



Above: ATA members begin to gather for the ATA Annual Meeting, which was held during the eight-day show.

Right: Robert Lamb accepts the Distinguished Topical Philatelist award.



Outgoing President Jack André Denys (left) and incoming President Dale Smith took a serious approach to the show.

President Jack André Denys led the ATA annual meeting, where the year's accomplishments were highlighted. Robert E. Lamb was honored



with the ATA's highest award: Distinguished Topical Philatelist. Also recognized were members of the 1949 Society (those who have made bequests to ATA), and 25- and 50-year members.

A highlight of the annual meeting was an entertaining talk by Damian Läge, one of the world's most accomplished thematic exhibitors, from Switzerland. He





The USPS area at WSS NY2016 reflects the vibrancy of the show (above), but also shows how ephemeral these events are, photographed barely two hours after closing.

explained the process he followed in developing his exhibit, *A Swan's Biography*. Then he led a group of about 30 on a tour of thematic exhibits for nearly two hours, pointing out their noteworthy aspects.

We finished the week with a Topical Stamp Collecting Day celebration by adding the special United States Postal Service cancel to the ATA show cachet. ☐



Officers and "Official Family" at the ATA booth. NTSS 2017 will be held in Milwaukee, Wis. See you there!

Save the Dates for NTSS 2017!

Save this weekend: June 23-25, 2017. That's when the National Topical Stamp



Brewing Up TOPICALS

Show will be coming to the Crowne Plaza, Milwaukee Airport. Brewing Up Topicals is the theme for the ATA's next show in the historic city known for beer brewing, baseball, summer festivals and much more.

Milwaukee, first home of ATA, has an active philatelic community and is the site of Milcopex, an annual WSP show.

The show venue, a modern and spacious full-service hotel, was chosen for its convenience and amenities. Forty U.S. cities offer nonstop flights to Milwaukee, and more than 150 cities have flights with just one stop. From the airport, a free shuttle makes the three-mile trip to the hotel quickly.

If you prefer a road trip, the hotel is located just off I-94, less than 90 minutes from Chicago. In fact, one-third of the U.S. population lives within a day's drive from Milwaukee.

However you choose to travel, the show will offer programs, meetings, exhibits, dealers and fun for topical collectors. Watch for more news of Brewing Up Topicals. ☐

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN – JUNE 23 - 25, 2017

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**Brewing Up
TOPICALS**

Survey Says...

by Jack André Denys

The recent ATA survey prompted 514 members to respond to its 13 questions. This 21% response rate is excellent. In their replies, members demonstrated their commitment, insight and thoughtfulness. Many thanks to all who participated!

Responses were received: electronically (429) and by US mail (85). They were compiled by Jane Eastwood Schemonia, administrative assistant at the ATA Office. Our ATA Board has received every word of every response and will use them in its planning and decision-making.

This is the first of several articles in response to the survey results.

Most, but not all, respondents spoke highly of the ATA, as these samples indicate:

- *"I belonged to ATA years ago and dropped my membership because I didn't find it of value to me. I rejoined a few years ago, and am having the same reaction."*
- *"Please continue to act and feel as the family atmosphere created and implemented by Vera Felts, and Jerome Husak. This environment is exactly the encouragement I have needed over the years to seek the ATA as my go-to resource."*

Summary of responses to questions 1-7 and 9-10.

**Complete responses are posted on our members-only website:
www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org; click on Survey.**

1. Our membership: Gender: Male: 80%; Female: 20%

- I was born...

Pre 1950 – 64%	1950s – 24%	1960s – 9%	1970s – 3%	1980s - >1 %
----------------	-------------	------------	------------	--------------

Comment: Almost two-thirds are over the age of 66.

- I have collected stamps since...

1950s – 30%	1960s - 26%	1970s – 12%	1980s - 7%
1990s – 5%	2000s – 5%	2010 – now – 3%	

Comment: More than half have been collectors for 46 years or more.

- I joined ATA....

Pre-1950 – 1%	1950s - 2%	1960s – 4%	1970s - 12%
1980s – 13%	1990s – 17%	2000s – 19%	2010 – now – 33%

Comment: More than half are new to ATA in the last 16 years (½ in last 7 years)

2. My collection includes ...

498 - Stamps	183 - Picture postcards	140 - Revenue stamps
419 - Covers	167 - Poster stamps/Cinderellas	
233 - Postmarks	148 - Ephemera	139 - Maximum cards
229 - Postal stationery		130 - Meters

Other topical items collected - 85 responses

Include: Proofs (5), Booklets (4), Numismatics (3).

3. The ATA services I most value are:

<i>Topical Time</i> 71%	Checklists 44%	Study Units 27%
Handbooks 22%	<i>Topical Time</i> Archive 19%,	Website 15%
TopicalsOnLine 13%	NTSS 13%	DVDs 7%

Other services I value not mentioned include:

- Friendships made (16)
- *Membership Directory* (7)
- Vera (16)
- Connections with other collectors (5)
- Philatelic publications (5)
- Talking with Topical exhibitors and looking at their exhibits at shows (5)
- Friendly staff/directors/ambassadors (4)

Here's a recent response:

- I just joined and have really no idea how to use the ATA services. A few introductory emails would be extremely useful. I am sure there is an enormous amount that can be learned from ATA.

We are beginning to send new members a series of six electronic newsletters to provide such information. Titled *About The Adventure*, the two-page newsletters will focus on Checklists, Connectivity, TopicalsOnLine, *Topical Time*, Supporting the ATA and Renewing Membership. Over the next several months, copies will be emailed to all ATA members. Members who would like mailed copies should send a stamped, addressed envelope to the ATA Office and ask for the *About The Adventure* newsletters.

4. I read the following in *Topical Time*:

	Usually	Sometimes	Never
About ATA (ATA news)	77%	21%	2%
Feature stories about topics	71%	27%	2%
Meters by Topic*	33%	40%	27%
Youth in Topics	24%	49%	27%
Cinderella Corner	20%	42%	38%
Editing with Style	20%	46%	34%
Foreign Thematic Exhibits	18%	42%	40%
Postmark Pursuit	16%	43%	41%
Chapter Chatter	15%	49%	36%

Publication Reviews	10%	50%	40%
Units in Action	10%	48%	42%
My Topic (interviews)	5%	34%	61%

* This was unintentionally omitted on the surveys published in the March-April issue of *TT*

5. The following features are included in *Topical Time* annually. Would you like the feature to continue to be included in *Topical Time*, featured only on our website, or available on both?

- **None recommended to appear only in *Topical Time*.**
- **Four were recommended by a majority to be in both *Topical Time* and on our website:**
 - Index to ATA Publications,
 - List of NTSS dealers,
 - List of NTSS exhibits,
 - NTSS schedule.
- **Three were chosen by about a majority to be only online:**
 - NTSS Exhibit Prospectus and Entry Form,
 - List of NTSS Judges and Awards,
 - List of Donors to ATA.

6. I would like for *Topical Time* to have a larger page size
(449 responses): YES - 49.4% --- NO - 50.3%

7. I would like *Topical Time* to include a column for beginner-intermediate topical collectors (474 responses): YES - 90% -- NO - 10%

8. I wish *Topical Time* would... [This will be the subject of a future column]

9. I buy stamps and other items from these sources...
(491 members checked at least one option):

Dealers at stamp shows - 404	Dealers with whom I'm familiar - 327
eBay & other online sellers - 301	Display ads in <i>Topical Time</i> - 216
Dealers who advertise elsewhere – 161	Adlets in <i>Topical Time</i> * - 70

* Unintentionally omitted on the surveys in the March-April issue of *Topical Time*

10. I browse and/or buy from TopicalsOnLine (502 responses):

Often -- 5%	Occasionally -- 41%	Never -- 54%
-------------	---------------------	--------------



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Selling All Varieties of Topical Stamps for 56 Years

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Email enquiries to jmarinomontero@aol.com

If you answered "Occasionally" or "Never," check all the reasons (457 members checked at least one option):

Reason	Responses
I don't think/remember to go there	171
I haven't tried it	169
I've looked but didn't find anything I wanted	143
I don't buy stamps on the internet	73
I don't know about the site	50

Responses to the following three questions have been organized into 29 categories. They will be the subjects of future columns.

11. I wish the ATA would... (118 responses)
12. I think ATA can attract new members by... (106 responses)
13. Other comments... (131 responses)

Your comments and feedback are most welcome!

Please see page 4 for contact information.

What's your passion?

*Consider sharing it as an article in *Topical Time*!*

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The “King’s Post” in Great Britain: Marking Royal Mail’s Quincentenary

Barry N. Floyd



Figure 1. First-day cover for the 500th anniversary of Royal Mail issue.

The practice of relaying messages over distance has a lengthy history. Official announcements from rulers or news of battles were an important aspect of how societies operated over many centuries.

In England in 1516, the Tudor King Henry VIII (Figure 2), in an effort to strengthen his control over the country’s news, appointed Sir Brian Tuke to the role of Master of the Posts (Figure 3). This was with the express purpose of ensuring that all towns would have a fresh horse available for a messenger boy carrying the King’s mail (Figure 4). Payments for this service would be made from the royal purse.

“The King’s pleasure is, that posts be better appointed, and laid in all places most expedient.” Sir Brian Tuke

In the 500 years since then, Royal Mail has evolved to serve not only the reigning monarch but all citizens of the United



Figure 2. Royal Mail was established under the rule of King Henry VIII.

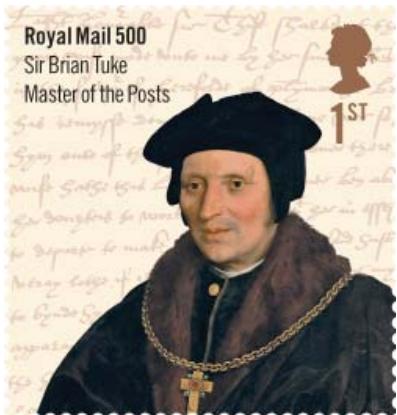


Figure 3. Sir Brian Tuke, painting by Hans Holbein.

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This was made possible by increasingly efficient means of transportation and letter sorting, handling together the many pieces of mail to be delivered daily to their destinations.

Yet, over the intervening years, there arose a number of local postal systems, with different charges and often anomalous arrangements, which led to widespread abuse of services. Letters were charged by the distance traveled

and the number of sheets they contained. The charges were normally paid by the recipients.

In the late 17th Century, while the postal service facilitated the carriage of mail between towns, shorter distances were less catered to. The first Penny Post was created, allowing people to send letters within a limited area for a flat fee of one

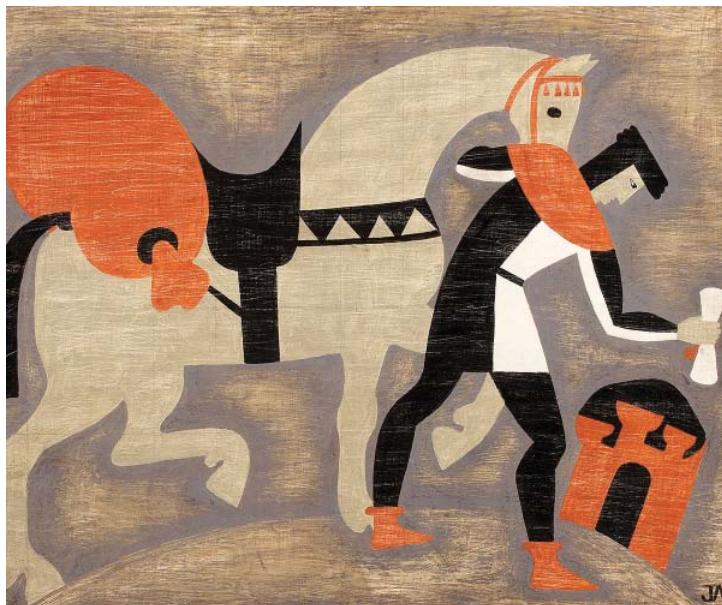


Figure 4. The King's Post provided for a fresh horse in every town for the use of a messenger boy to carry the king's mail.



Figure 5. By the late 18th Century, most mail was carried by horse-drawn carriages manned by uniformed drivers

penny. However, this was considered an infringement of the government-controlled General Post office and the service was brought under state control.

Movement of mail by a single rider on horseback eventually proved both slow and unreliable so that, by the late 18th Century, stage coaches drawn by several horses and manned by uniformed riders were increasingly common (Figures 1 and 5). The image of an imposing mail coach speeding across the countryside persists as a popular vision of the post in Great Britain in the past. However, the era was short-lived, as the advent of railways soon made stage coaches obsolete.

The time was ripe for reforms and, by 1840, these were introduced by two important figures in postal history: Rowland Hill and Henry Cole. They were to change the face of British postal service, opening up what had become a complex and expensive operation to a wider and increasingly

Figure 6. The Penny Black and Penny Red, which introduced the concept of prepaid postage in the form of stamps to the world.





Figure 7. At the suggestion of Anthony Trollope, roadside pillar boxes were established for the collection of mail.

literate public. They are best remembered for the creation of the Penny Black and Penny Red postage stamps (or labels), to be paid for by the originators of letters (Figure 6), introducing the ultimate shift to prepaid mail.

This time, one penny would cover the cost of transporting a letter weighing up to half an ounce and traveling anywhere within country. The world's first adhesive postage stamp, the penny Black, came into use on May 6, 1840.

Responding to the expansion of postal services, and at the suggestion of postal worker and novelist Anthony Trollope, roadside pillar boxes were created. Regular collecting times were set to help speed up the transmission of mail. Originally painted green, they were later colored bright red to improve visibility; they remain this way to the present (Figure 7).



Figure 8. A young woman undertaking the delivery of River Post mail during the early part of World War II.

A modification took place in 2012 when, celebrating the success of the London Olympic Games, post boxes in the home towns of successful gold medal winners were painted gold to honor their achievements. While the scheme was originally intended as a temporary change, it proved so popular that it was made permanent and there are



now more than 100 gold pillar boxes located around the country.

For much of its history, the Royal Mail has employed young and older men while women's duties were largely restricted. This changed in 1914 with the outbreak of World War I. With men leaving to join the fighting, women were employed in increasing numbers to fill gaps in the workforce. Towards the end of the war, more than 35,000 women were engaged in the General Post Office, possibly the largest employer of women at that time. While many of them were to lose their jobs after the cessation of hostilities, a similar situation was to occur at the outbreak of World War II in 1939, when women were again enlisted to help with the mounting tide of communication between servicemen and their loved ones at home.

In the set of six first class stamps issued by Royal Mail to mark its Quincentenary,

the one shown in Figure 8 depicts a young woman engaged in rowing a boat, delivering mail that could not be sent via an overland route. Others took on the equally challenging job of house-to-house-deliveries, come fair weather or foul. Over the years, their work might have been assisted by bicycles, hand-drawn carts and motor vehicles.

Pursuing the theme of moving mail across water, a number of packet ships or sail boats were created to carry packets of mail across longer distances – via open seas and oceans – to the colonies and outposts of the British Empire, as well as to distant foreign lands (Figure 9). Regular services in the 18th and

19th centuries led to the addition of freight and passengers until larger and faster vessels ultimately saw replacement of the packets.

Today, the British postal services employ both men and women to undertake a wide variety of activities. Perhaps more women than men may be seen behind the counters of both urban and rural post offices, and more men than women are engaged in the sometimes lengthy outdoor circuits

Figure 9. During the 18th and 19th centuries, packet boats helped carry mailed communications across the seas.



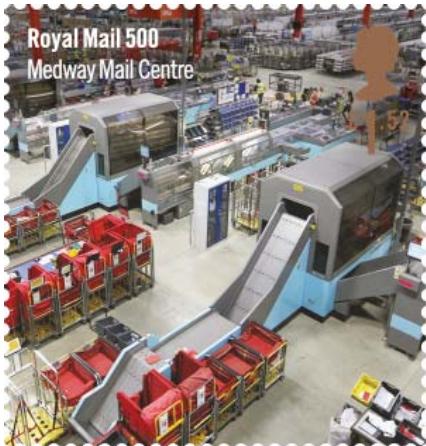


Figure 10. The Medway Mail Centre is pictured on the high value of the Quincentennial set.

required to deliver the mail, but their efforts combine adequately to provide the numerous services expected of Royal Mail. Much of the previously tedious and time-consuming work of identifying letter destinations is now carried out by mechanized means, as illustrated in the high value £1.52 stamp showing the Medway Mail Centre (Figure 10).

Accompanying the six quincentenary commemorative stamps was a miniature sheet featuring four GPO posters, set against a colorful background of poster designs (Figure 11).

Clockwise from the top left: “Quickest Way by Airmail” was designed by the American-born McKnight Kauffer, who also produced designs for London Underground and Shell. He made use of new techniques such as airbrushing and photomontage to offer attractive posters.

Top right: “Address Your Letters Plainly” was the work of Berlin-born Hans Schleger, who moved to England in 1932 to escape the Nazis. He was at the forefront of European émigré artists using modern techniques and was known for his witty designs.

Bottom left: “Pack Your Parcels Carefully” is a poster by another German émigré who had moved

from Berlin to South Africa in 1936 and, later, to London in 1943. His work was also featured by London Transport and various travel firms.

Bottom right: “Stamps in Books Save Time” was designed by Harry Stevens. He was born in



Figure 11. These special stamps were created using the designs of classic GPO posters from Great Britain.



Figure 12. An example of a special sprayed-on cancellation in use this year

Manchester, England, and had no formal artistic training but – from the early 1950s – became a versatile and prolific poster artist. In recognition of his talents he was later appointed a Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists.

Finally, in Figure 12, we see a special cancel that is being used by Royal Mail during this anniversary year.

Summary

I trust this review of Royal Mail's celebration of its 500-year history will have proved of interest to *Topical Time* readers whose focus is on the evolution of postal services, both nationally and worldwide. Despite obvious geographical and historical differences between Great Britain and the United States, many of the problems faced in developing an efficient and effective pattern to handling mail – and their solutions – have been common to both countries. Looking ahead, we may anticipate similar responses to future challenges and their resolution.

Reference

A useful source of information relating to Royal Mail 500 is contained in the Presentation Pack accompanying the stamps and mini-sheet. It was produced by Chris Taft of the British Postal History Museum and Archive. ☐

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.

Smith Elected President in Record Turnout

A modern record number of ATA members voted in the latest election for the Board of Directors. The uncontested election saw 148 members vote (42 electronically), electing seven incumbent and five new members. Dale Smith was elected president. The complete list of current Board members appears on p. 4.

Thanks to our Committee of Canvassers – Bob Ulatt, chair, and Wayne Redlinger of Wisconsin -for counting the ballots. ☐



Editing With Style

Wayne L. Youngblood

Topical Time Guidelines for Writers

Although this column is written primarily for those who edit other journals, I will devote the next couple of columns (skipping one rotation of Meters) to focus on *Topical Time's Guidelines for Writers*, which has not yet been published in any form. When completed, it is my hope you'll have everything you need to write interesting and entertaining features for *Topical Time* (or, for that matter, other journals as well).

Please take a moment and read *Topical Time's* Mission Statement, published in the box near the bottom of this page. These are the bones upon which our magazine is built. Getting your material published is not just about informing readers, you must also engage them. It matters little how much information you present if it's not interesting enough to read! A reader should be led gently through an article – not pulled or pushed – with the goal of allowing him or her to take something away, in terms of knowledge.

With this in mind (as well as our Mission Statement), let's take a look at writing for *Topical Time*. Special thanks to Susan Jones, who helped to collect some of my disparate writings over the past several years and began to place them in a slightly more cohesive fashion. Because *Topical Time* is a membership journal, we rely heavily on membership contributions, in the form of writing, and every submission is appreciated greatly.

Topical writing is a funny beast, and is somewhat different than many other forms of philatelic writing. At its best, it combines both the elements and history of the topic/theme being represented in print, as well as its philatelic components. In this way, *Topical Time* strives to appeal to our members who maintain traditional philatelic collections or exhibits, those who are building serious topical or thematic collections and those who have no philatelic interests beyond his or her specific topical or thematic interest. Our (simple?) goal, then, is to meet the needs of our varied membership and make *Topical Time* a journal that you don't want to put down because it's just plain good reading.

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.

Still, we must remember that the reason that any of our publications exist is because of the stamp collecting hobby. A topical article about playing cards (one of my favorites) should not be a survey of all the different types of card games and the history of the development of the playing card, punctuated with illustrations of a few stamps or covers that depict cards. Much of that information can be found in multiple non-philatelic sources. While some is desirable and can be included, non-philatelic content should be tied directly to philatelic content. How and what we collect is the primary focus.

Remember, writing about stamps and covers in a philatelic publication is not a concession; it is the very reason we exist. The nature of our branch of the hobby allows a bit more freedom, but we are still collecting stamps, covers and other material, and that's what most collectors want to read about.

The readers of *Topical Time* come in all shapes, sizes and – most importantly – all collecting levels, from enthusiastic beginner to grand-award-winning exhibitors. Articles should be able to appeal to most, without either patronizing, intimidating or talking down. Articles should be written in a clear, personal conversational style and without the third-person collective “we.”

It can never be overstated that – first and foremost – writing is not fine art. It is a craft. Good writing never flows unfettered from pen to finished paper. Writing is a communication tool; nothing more, nothing less. When done well, writing – even in its most mundane form – can transport or move the reader. At its worst, poor writing (and editing) can even alienate those we seek to please.

I've often written that the best writing is the culmination of much hard work, rewriting and reshaping; a finely crafted and polished piece. The final publication of several of these pieces is like a very well-connected patchwork quilt; a quality item assembled with a number of very different components, but with an underlying unity that gives a feeling of comfort. One mistake frequently made by amateur writers is that their work must not be touched or changed in any way. This, of course, is balderdash. No writer – even the best and most well-known – works without the safety net of a capable editor; one who is not afraid to take a strong hand, if necessary, to help a writer communicate more clearly, while maintaining his or her personal style.

As a general rule, preparing an article for publication can be considered along the lines of planning and preparing an exhibit. Know what you want to communicate. The lead of your story should be capable of letting a reader know a bit about what to expect to see or learn (without being too obvious or coy).

When preparing an article I find it is always easier to begin with the illustrations. It is far easier to write about something specific (and to which you have access), than to try running down material at a later date. As a rule, we are unable to provide illustrations if you don't have them.

In the next issue we'll begin looking at some submission specifics. ☺



CINDERELLA CORNER

Arthur H. Groten

Temperance

The concern with overindulgence in alcoholic beverages has been around as long as alcoholic beverages have been available. The concern in the United States began making itself known, at least through Cinderellas, as early as the 1840s.

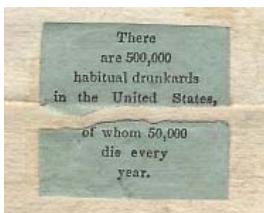


Figure 1.

The label shown in Figure 1 is from a cover datelined Nov. 14, 1841. It is by far the earliest temperance label I have seen from anywhere, certainly from the United



Figure 2.

States. The next, a similar small format text label, was used sometime after 1873, still an early date. The label has been attributed to the National Women's Christian Temperance Union (Figure 2).

A number of square letterpress-printed labels, in various typefaces, were produced in 1888, apparently by the National Prohibition Bureau. A cover bearing two of these labels is shown in Figures 3a&b. As usual, they were placed on the reverse. But occasionally (Figure 4), they appear on the front.

Figure 3.

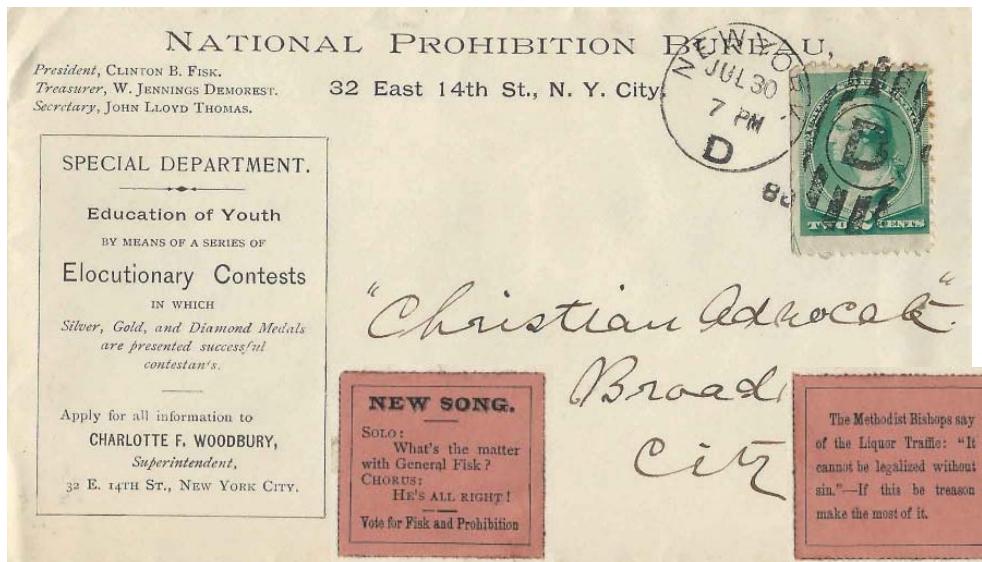


Figure 4.

John Danner of Canton, Ohio, fought for prohibition at the end of the 19th century. His view was that the politicians

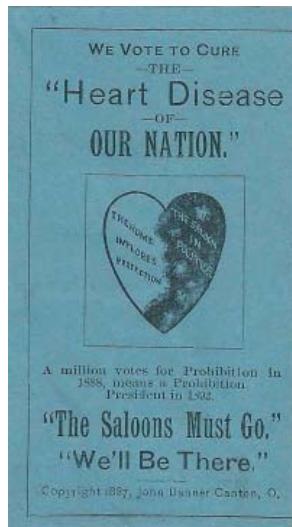


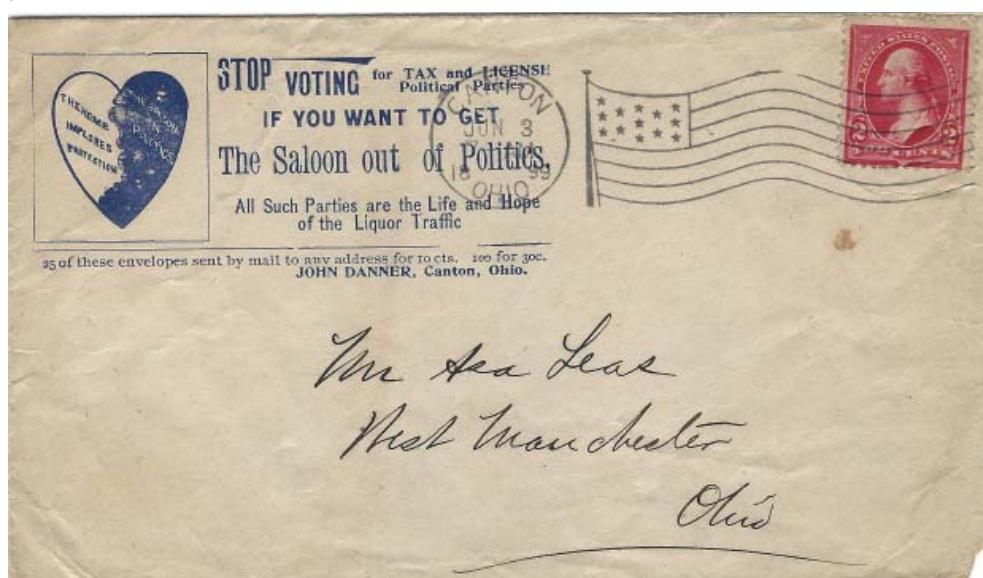
Figure 5 (above).

Figure 6 (below).



were standing in the way and he sought “to cure the heart disease of our nation.” His logo, dated 1887, was used on both a label (Figure 5) and a corner card (1899) (Figure 6).

There are, of course, many more such labels and even more in the 20th century. After Prohibition, there were a number of labels creating seeking the repeal of prohibition. These are topics for future articles. ☐



Arthur H. Grotten, longtime cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA, or by email: agrotten43@icloud.com.

Lonely Onlys...

Can You “Top” These Topicals?

Mark Sommer

[Editor’s Note: This is the third installment of several to be presented throughout the year, 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! ☺

Right: Peru, one of the top world producers of asparagus as a crop, is also quite possibly the only country to value this ancient vegetable enough to picture it on one of the country’s stamps. Since asparagus is specifically known as a spring vegetable, why does it seem available year-round? The stamp was part of a 2007 Export Products series.



Cascading left: The Portugal stamps shown are unique in several ways. They are from a set of five stamps and a souvenir sheet released in 2009 to mark the centennial of Louis Braille’s birth. While the souvenir sheet (not shown) is not unique – there are several Braille-enhanced stamps that have been released – the other five stamps are each designed to stimulate the five senses in unusual ways, including a scratch-n-sniff cup of coffee, vanilla-flavored gum on the ice cream bar stamp, eyeglasses with a holographic image, a tube of paint you can feel and a file you can hear when you scratch the surface of the stamp. There are stamps that have depicted coffee cups, ice cream bars and glasses, but not in this manner. The file and the tube of paint are likely the first and only of their type. Ireland also released a set of five senses stamps in 2015.

Study Unit Spotlight

This Month: Gems-Minerals-Jewelry Study Unit

[Editor's Note: This is the 35th 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 "Salt Through the Ages," from Philagems International, which ran as a series. 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), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]

Salt through the Ages

Josef Charrach

Salt, mineralogically known as halite, is one of the most abundant minerals on earth, but its ability to preserve food made it one of the most valuable and sought-after items throughout much of history. Salt helped found civilizations, sparked wars and assisted empires in achieving greatness. Halite (Figure 1) is a simple, cubic mineral formed from sodium and chlorine ions (Figure 2). The sodium comes from the erosion of rocks by water that flows into rivers and then to the oceans, and the chlorine from volcanic eruptions.

Water has a great capacity to dissolve sodium and chlorine, hence giving the water a salty taste. To form salt deposits, evaporation has to be greater than rainfall (Figure 3), which normally occurs in desert environments (Figure 4).



Figure 1. Blue and white halite.

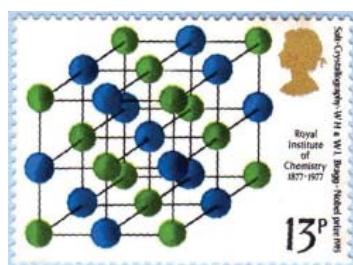


Figure 2. Crystal structure of halite.

To form a deposit, the water body has to be evaporated by solar energy. There is an orderly manner in which the



Figure 3. Evaporation has to exceed rainfall.



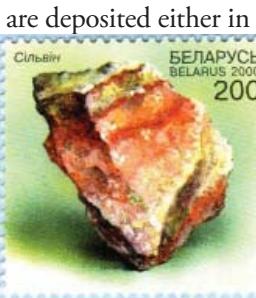
Figure 4. Desert environment.



Figure 5. Aragonite.



Figure 6. Gypsum.



minerals precipitate out of the water that depends on their solubility. Aragonite (CaCO_3) (Figure 5), is the first mineral to precipitate out after 28% of the water has been evaporated, which over time converts to calcite and dolomite. The next mineral to precipitate is gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) (Figure 6). Only when 95% of the water has been evaporated does halite (NaCl) precipitate out of the brine (Figure 7). This is followed by potassium chloride (KCl) minerals (Figure 8).

These evaporitic sediments are deposited either in terminal desert lakes (Figure 9), or along seashores in semi-closed lagoons. For halite to precipitate, the brine depth is generally shallower than five meters. In time, these sediments become buried, forming rock salt deposits and, if potassium minerals precipitated, then potash deposits form (Figure 10). On **Figure 8. Sylvite.** burial at depths greater than 500



Figure 7. Halite.

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UYUNI

Lago de Sal.—Extensión 240 kilómetros.

Figure 9. Salina salt exhibiting tepee structures - a sign of desiccation. Postal stationery card printed in 1943 and issued in 1945 with surcharge of 0.30 Bs (inland rate) and 1.80 Bs for the price of the stationery.

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Figure 10. Subsurface salt and potash deposits. Postal card printing proof.



Figure 11. Salt Lick, Pa., was a gathering place for buffalo, elk and deer, as well as the Indians who hunted them. Early settlers explored for salt and, as late as 1865, a well was drilled to a depth of nearly 200 metres. Salt brines and gas were developed there. Legal folded letter with manuscript cancellation Jan. 31, 1857. The Salt Lick post office was open 1855-89. Manuscript "paid 6" - double rate due to larger legal size.



Figure 12. Hallstatt.

meters salt begins to creep and flow. Salt has a specific gravity of 2.16, which is less than the surrounding rocks (~2.6) and will become buoyant and form salt walls and domes, which can reach the surface, such as Mount Sodom in the Dead Sea region (later we will refer to Lot's Wife!)

Salt is a vitally important basic component for animal and human nutrition.

Along with food, we have to replace the daily loss of salt from our bodies by perspiration. Animals search for brine springs as salt licks (Figure 11).

Legend has it that man's first encounter with salt



Figure 13. Chinese salt production.

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Figure 14. People from Saltcoats – Gaelic for “salt cottages,” produced salt by evaporating sea water in salt kettles for the preservation of fish. Saltcoats in a rectangle cancellation 429 – G, is known from Dec. 10, 1817, to 1824. The postmark is known as a mileage mark and contains the town name, the distance by road to London and the initial of the main post town on the route. G is for Glasgow. The letter was carried from Arran to Saltcoats by hand, then was mailed from there. Postal charge of 7d was for a single letter sheet traveling between 31 to 50 miles plus ½ d for the mail coach tax.



Figure 15. Solar evaporation of salt.

deposits was when a Stone Age hunter searched for deer. Climbing a mountain, he found tracks leading to one particular spring, which he found to be very salty and the surrounding vegetation sparkling with a white mineral – halite. This led to the discovery of the first salt mine in the mountain high above the village of Hallstatt (Figure 12), in the Salzkammergut region of Upper Austria, 7,000 years ago. The mine is still in production. The name of the village of Hallstatt

derives from hall, the Celtic word for salt. The Celts were the first to start the lucrative industry of salt mining in about 4,500 BCE to obtain this “white gold.” The village gave its name to the early Iron Age Hallstatt culture, which lasted from about 1,500 to 500 BCE and spread from Hallstatt throughout Central Europe.

The first reference to salt occurs in the *Bible*, in Genesis 19:1-29: “...two angels of the Lord command Lot, his wife and two daughters to flee the sinful city of Sodom without ever looking back. When Lot’s wife cast a fleeting glance backward (her faith was uncertain), she was immediately transformed into a pillar of salt.” This salt was that of Mount Sodom – a salt “wall” that cropped out on the surface in the southwest part of the Dead Sea. This salt wall has been part of my research for many years. It is composed of a 2 km-thick formation of more than 40 evaporite cycles, each cycle starting with carbonate rocks and many ending with potash mineralization. More than 90% of Mount Sodom is

made up of halite. Mount Sodom is the only known salt deposit that crops out in the Mediterranean area, hence the Romans came to this desert region to quarry the salt and send it back to Rome. These salt routes were fortified and the soldiers were given special salt rations known as “salarium argentum,” the forerunner of the English word “salary.”



Figure 17. Shipping salt.



Figure 16. The racking of salt crystals.

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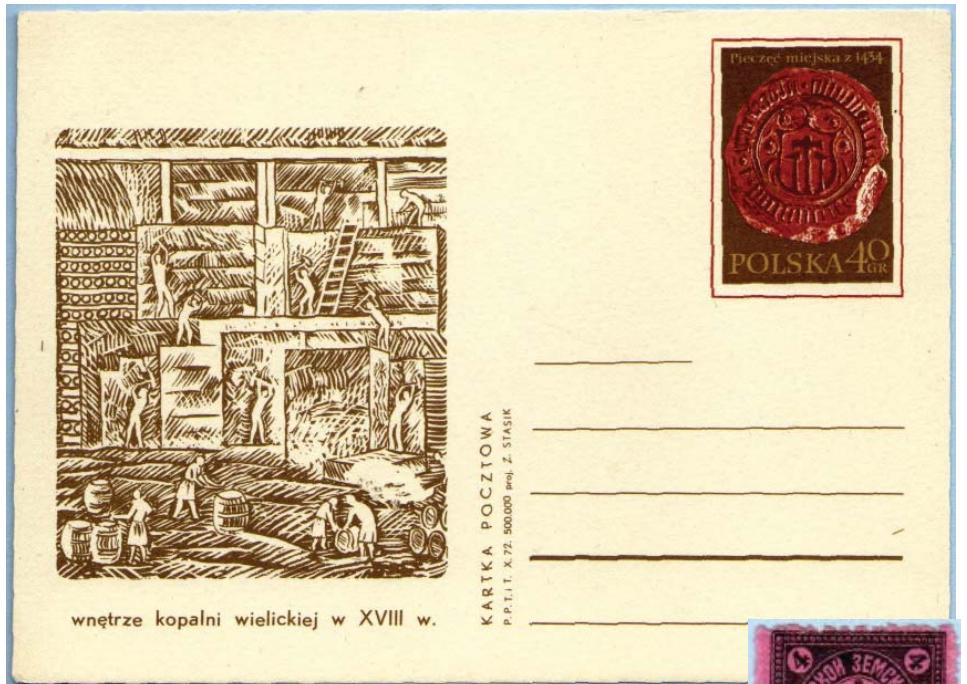


Figure 18. The Wieliczka salt mine near Kracow, Poland. This is now a UNESCO world heritage site where miners have carved a "Salt Cathedral."

Salt was used in Hebrew sacrifices as a meat purifier and came to signify the eternal covenant between God and Israel – Leviticus 2:13: “With all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”

Figure 19 (right). Brines were raised by buckets from wells at Solikamsk. “Soli” is Russian for salt. Zemstvo stamp.



Figure 20. The Royal Prussian Salt Office of Bad Durrenberg supervised salt operations. Free franking was awarded by Postal Contract No. 21.

On the Sabbath, Jewish people dip bread in salt as a remembrance of these sacrifices. Salt's ability to preserve food was a foundation of civilization.

Around 2,700 BCE, the Chinese Peng-Tzao-Kan-Mu published the first treatise on pharmacology, where he discussed more than 40 different kinds of salt. He described two methods for the extraction and processing of salt similar to those used today (Figure 13).

As civilization spread, salt became one of the world's principal trading commodities, salt routes crisscrossed the globe. One of the most traveled led from Morocco, south across the Sahara to Timbuktu. Ships bearing salt from Egypt to Greece traversed the Mediterranean and the Aegean.

Herodotus describes a caravan route that united the salt oases of the Libyan Desert. As early as the 6th century, in the sub-Sahara, Moorish merchants routinely traded salt ounce for ounce for gold. In Ethiopia, slabs of rock salt, called "amôlés," became coin of the realm. Each one was about 25 cm long and 5 cm thick. Cakes of salt were also used as money in other areas of central Africa. Venice's glittering wealth was attributable not so much to exotic spices as to commonplace salt, which Venetians exchanged in Constantinople for the spices from Asia. In 1295, when Marco Polo first returned from Cathay, he delighted the Doge with tales of the prodigious value of salt coins



Figure 21 (left). Industrial salt.

Figure 22 (below). Chlorine is used for the production of PVC. Postalia meter CA3 A, MV, from Israel.

Figure 23 (bottom). The German mining and geological survey of Hannover drafted the legislation for salt repositories. Francotyp meter – Postalia "MS4/MS5" PA3 A, MV.





Figure 24. Large-span, stable rooms can be mined in salt deposits, providing ideal chambers for the long-term storage of hazardous waste. Romania postal card.

bearing the seal of the great Khan.

Salt taxes variously solidified or helped dissolve the power of governments. For centuries the French people were forced to buy all their salt from royal depots. The “gabelle,” or salt tax, was so high during the reign of Louis XVI that it became a major grievance and eventually helped ignite the French Revolution. As late as 1930, in protest against the high British tax on salt in India, Mahatma Gandhi led a mass pilgrimage of his followers to the seaside to gather tax-free salt for the nation’s poor.

Salt production in more temperate climates used open pans. Salt brine was heated in large, shallow open pans and concentrated by the heat of the fire burning underneath. As crystals of salt formed, they would be raked out and more brine added (Figure 14).

In modern times, salt is produced from solar evaporation sea water in artificial evaporation pans (Figures 15-17), or is extracted from underground beds either by mining (Figure 18), or by solution mining using water. In solution mining, the salt reaches the surface as brine (Figure 19), which is then turned into salt crystals by evaporation. Mining operations are supervised by the Ministry of Mines (Figure 20).

The chemical industry uses salt to produce chlorine and caustic soda by electrolysis of salt (Figures 21-22).

In our modern society, we produce considerable hazardous waste, which needs to be disposed. The environmentalist’s motto is: “Don’t produce waste. If you do produce

waste, recycle it and only if you can't, place it in a repository." Government legislation is required to define what – and how – materials can be buried in underground repositories. The German mining and geological survey has led the world by drafting regulations for underground repositories (Figure 23). Old salt mines (Figure 24) provide an ideal location for the disposal of hazardous and even radioactive materials, due to the special geomechanical properties of rock salt, which is dry and has a very low porosity. Salt provides a natural boundary for the enclosure of the wastes. ☐

Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Study unit

The Gems, Minerals & Jewelry Study Unit was formed in 1975 by 27 members and was officially chartered by the ATA in 1976. Karl Case was the first president and editor of its quarterly journal, *Philagems*, which has been published continuously since 1976. The study unit is dedicated to the study of rocks & minerals and their uses, as well as the cultural significance of different types of jewelry and gemstones. There are several checklists available for sale to members, including a checklist of mineral specimens with their chemical formulas. Dues in the United States are \$15, and \$20 elsewhere. For more membership information contact Fred Haynes, 10 Country Club Dr, Rochester NY 14618-3720, USA fredmhaynes55@gmail.com.

Units in Action

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

Americana Unit

Americana Philatelic News

Allan Fisk notes the 80th



anniversary of the maiden voyage "RMS Queen Mary - Long Beach's Living Landmark" in the April-June 2016

issue of *Americana Philatelic News*.

Her maiden voyage to New York began after departing Southampton, England, May 27, 1934. There are apparently 20 stamps that have been issued that show the RMS *Queen Mary*. Several event covers appear in the article in addition to the RMS *Queen Mary* stamps.

Dues are \$6 in the United States,

\$12 elsewhere. Contact Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Road; Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net

Website: www.americanauunit.org

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

Caroline Scannell explores the



UNESCO World Heritage "Site of Palmyra, Syria" in *Old World Archaeologist* for April 2016. This ancient Semitic

city flourished in 6,000 BCE and was recently used by ISIS as its headquarters.

Eighteen archaeology stamps new issues are in the "New Digs" section of the journal.

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

Email: editor@owasu.org

Website: www.owasu.org

Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)

ArpaQuarterly Journal

Jack Kifedjian provides an



extensive guide to “Identifying the Framed Monogram Overprints” used to ‘Armenianize’ Russian arms-type

stamps. Identifying genuine overprints is difficult, as there are many forged monogram overprints.

Four pages of Armenian new issues appear in the March 2016 *ArpaQuarterly Journal*.

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

Email: igorgrig@pacbell.net

Website: www.armenianphilatelic.org

Astronomy Study Unit

Astrofax

The June 2016 *Astrofax* begins with “The All-American Solar Eclipse,” which will take place Aug. 21, 2017. For the first time in 40 years a total eclipse of the sun will be visible in the continental United States. The next total eclipse of the sun in the continental United



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States will not take place again until April 2024. *Astrofax* continues with the first part of solar eclipse stamps with 11 different issues illustrated.

Dues are \$8. Contact John W.G. Budd, 728 Sugar Camp Way, Brooksville FL 34604-1501.

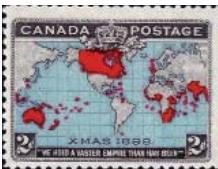
Email: jwgbudd@gmail.com

Website: www.astronomystudyunit.net

Carto-Philatelic Society

The New Carto-Philatelist

Barry Garner concludes the “Routes on Map Stamps”



with stamps depicting sea routes in *The New Carto-Philatelist* April 2016. One of the

stamps shown in the article issued by East Germany in 1979 shows coastal shipping routes around the world, with the exception of North America.

Dues are \$20 in North America, \$25 elsewhere. Electronic membership is \$15 worldwide. Contact Marybeth Sulkowski, 1117 Douglas Ave Unit 209, North Providence RI 02904-5374.

Email: mb37zx@aol.com

Website: www.mapsonstamps.org

Cats on Stamps Study Unit

Cat Mews

Nine different Tiger subspecies are highlighted in the Summer 2016 *Cat Mews*. Of the living subspecies, the South China tiger, is the most critically endangered and is no longer found

in the wild. The South China tiger appeared on a stamp issued by Grenada in 2014. Six pages of cat stamp new issues and postmarks are also listed 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

Website: www.catsonstamps.org

Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Chesstamp Review

"Yet Another Forgery (sigh)," a forged cover for the 1958 World Student's Games Chess issued by Bulgaria is reported in the *Chesstamp Review* January-March 2016.

Author Velislav Gechev reports the cover recently appeared in an online auction and notes five different characteristics that make it a forged cover. The most apparent clue that it is a forgery is that the cover was canceled at 10:00 am in a city 450 km away from Sofia, Bulgaria, the only city that would have had the stamp on the first day.

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

Email: keithfam@embarqmail.com

Website: www.chessonstamps.org

Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society

Discovery

After a new publication provided new information on Queen Isabella I, Leslie Seff provides "Isabella Revisited: A New Biography" in *Discovery* April 2016. New information suggests that after Columbus' first voyage, Ferdinand and not Isabella was considered to be responsible for supporting Columbus and supporting the voyage.



Dues are \$15 in the United States and \$20 elsewhere. Contact Greg Ciesielski, 333 Miller Blvd, Havelock NC 28532-2645.

Email: lilski@ec.rr.com

Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, Inc. (ESPER)

Reflections

Ethel Adams invites ESPER

members to "Meet Terri L. Williams "one of several service members appearing in a photograph was the inspiration for the 32¢ Women in Military Service stamp issued in 1997. Williams served in the U.S. Army and has been awarded

the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal.

Dues are \$25 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Contact Manuel



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Errors, Freaks, and Oddities

Collectors' Club

The EFO Collector

John M. Hotchner continues his



series of collecting EFOs on a budget with "PerfOrations: Not Spending Big Bucks," in the October-December 2015 issue of *The EFO Collector*.

Some of the possible EFO collecting areas discussed in the article are Setoffs, Doctor Blade Lines, Gutter Snipes, Solvent Wash, Coil Leader Strips and design errors.

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

Email: dbhunt@ptdprolog.net

Website: www.efocc.org

Judaica Thematic Society

Judaica News

Seymour Nussenbaum shares a cover from his collection in "Gems From My Collection" in *Judaica News* May 2016. The cover was sent



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by his aunt to his father in the United States from Camp Ridenburg, Salzburg, U.S. Zone, Austria, in 1948. The author provides the history of his aunt's struggle during WWII and her eventual settling in Israel.

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

Lighthouse Stamp Society

The Philatelic Beacon

Many new lighthouse issues



appear in *The Philatelic Beacon* for May-June 2016. One of the new issues highlighted is part of the new U.S. National Park 100th Anniversary series. The stamp shows the Bass Harbor Head Light in Acadia National Park. This lighthouse began operation in 1858 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

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

Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org

Web: www.lighthousestampsociety.org

Masonic Study Unit

Philatelic Freemason

A report of a new masonic stamp



release is reported in *Philatelic Freemason* May-June 2016. The stamps were issued in 2016 by Guinea and show masons George

Washington, Winston Churchill, Ben Franklin, Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, Mark Twain and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Several biographies of masons also appear in this issue.

Dues are \$10 in the United States, \$12 in Canada and Mexico and \$16 elsewhere. Contact Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover MA 01810.

Email: radpm67@gmail.com

or, Gene Fricks

Email: genefricks@comcast.net

Mathematical Study Unit Philamath

"Li Hui" is the lead article in the



October 2015 issue of *Philamath*. This third-century Chinese mathematician is most known for his improvements to the mathematics textbook *Jiuzhang Suanshu*, which was composed by generations of scholars from the 10th-2nd century BCE.

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

Email: montystrauss@gmail.com

Website: www.mathstamps.org

Napoléonic Age Philatelists

Campaign

Twenty nine pages of Napoleon and Napoleonic-related stamps appear in the April-June 2016 *Campaign*. One of the stamps in this issue is a mini-sheet of three, showing Napoleon's first days living in "The Briers Pavilion" in St. Helena, while the cow house called Longwood was repaired and where he was to remain captive. The item was issued by St. Helena in 2009.



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Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

The Rookery Report

A report of two new issues for



the 25th Anniversary of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators leads the Spring 2016

issue of *The Rookery Report*.

The 55p value stamp shows the MV *Lindblad Explorer*, which was the first cruise ship to visit South Georgia. The top stamp shows tourists on zodiac boats viewing a penguin colony. The set of two stamps was issued in May 2016.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Sandra Lingler, 239 Whitman Blvd., Elyria Ohio 44035.

Email: possumember@yahoo.com

Website: www.penguinstamps.org

Ships on Stamps Unit

Watercraft Philately

The March-April 2016 issue of *Watercraft Philately* begins by "Celebrating 75 Years of the Swiss Merchant Fleet." As a result of World



War II and several countries not able to ship goods on the Mediterranean, the Swiss merchant flag was created so that Switzerland

could build its own fleet to keep supplies coming into the country. Collecting tips from the U.S. National Postal Museum also appear in this issue.

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@turbonet.com

Website: www.shipsonstamps.org

Space Unit

Astrophile

Installment No. 41 of "Unmanned



Satellites on Postage Stamps: The Giotto Satellite," is in *Astrophile* for May 2016.

The *Giotto* Satellite was launched in French Guiana on July 2, 1985, to study Halley's Comet on its approach to the sun in 1986. The satellite is named for Giotto di Bondone who painted Haley's comet.

Dues are \$15 in the United States,

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Email: ctorrisi@nyc.rr.com
Website: www.space-unit.com

United Nations Philatelists

Journal of United Nations Philatelists
 B. Clement Jr. begins a four-



part series on the post history of the "League of Nations & United Nations Associations."

The postal history in this first part of the series covers the period before and during

the time of the League of Nations.

UNPI Special Auction #41 with 57 lot also appeared in the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, April 2016.

Dues are \$28 in the United States, \$32 in Canada and \$40 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement, Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.

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World of Engravers Philatelic

Association

Engraver's Burin

Welcome to the World of Engravers

Philatelic Association as the ATA's newest study unit!

The first issue of *Engraver's*

Burin kicks off with "Dueling Burins!" Australia and Sweden issued a joint set of stamps in 2001 to commemorate the botanist Daniel Solander. Both stamps show the same image of Solander and author Matt Hayes explores the differences in each of the two engravers' designs.

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

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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 the Awards Chair Dalene Thomas. Her contact information appears at the end of this column.

Only those shows submiting 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:

***Greg Balagian** received the ATA One Frame Award for his exhibit, *The Lynx*, at Sescal 2015.

ATA award recipients at the Sarasota National Stamp Show include **Sam Chiu**, who received the ATA first medal for *Frogs and Toads, Their Relevance to Humans*. *Jose Marti, His Literary Work and His Struggle for Cuban Independence*, shown by ***Virgil Compain**, was awarded the ATA second medal, while ***Dawn R. Hamman** received the ATA One Frame Award for her *Campanulas: Bells of the Garden*.

Aripex 2016 presented the ATA first award to ***Edwin J. Andrews** for his exhibit, *The Life of Jan Christiaan Smuts, Soldier-Statesman-Scholar*.

Ameristamp 2016 included several topical exhibits, including these award winners. The ATA first award went to ***Dr. Edwin J. Andrews** for *Hilfer Youth-The Generations of Lost Innocence*. ***Edward Bergan** received the ATA second award for *Walt Disney's First Super Star: Mickey Mouse*, while **Sam Chiu** was awarded the ATA third medal for *Frogs and Toads, Their Relevance to Humans*. The ATA One Frame award went to ***Fran Adams** for *Roosevelt and Churchill at Placida Bay*. **Mia Fillion** received the ATA Youth award for *The USDA "My Plate" – Food Plate-Mapping out the Foods*.

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***Paul Schumacher** received the ATA first award for *The First Century of Vice Presidents*, and **Pete Sarmiento** was given the ATA second award for *Jose Rizal on Stamps* at the Springpex show.

George Alexander received the ATA first award at Canada's Oxpex for his exhibit, *Earth's Endangered Mammals*. He also received the ATA third award for *Great Classical Composers and Their Music*. The ATA second medal was received by ***Betty Thomas** for *Hats Off to the Queen*.

A Trip to the Alps, exhibited by **Bruce Hardsden**, was awarded the ATA first medal at Westpex, and *Bears Repeating*, by **Katelynn Shaw**, was the recipient of the ATA Youth award.

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show gave the ATA first award to **Tony Walker** for *The Naval Battle of Coronel and the Falkland Islands in World War I, 1914*. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Origins, Development, and Ramifications*, shown by ***Christopher Dahle**, received the ATA second award. The ATA third award went to **Daniel**

Chaij for *Argentina's Claim to the South Atlantic Islands and the Antarctic Territory*, and *The Folklore Mysteries of Harry Potter*, by **Geneva Varga**, received the ATA Youth Award.

The ATA Certificate for the Best Topical Exhibit at Wiscopex went to **Clarence Davis** for *Fighting Ships – Battle Ships*.

Frogs & Toads, their Relevance to Humans, by **Sammy Chiu**, received the ATA first award at the Saint Louis Stamp Expo. ☐

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

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Chapter Chatter

By Sandy Strzalkowski

Welcome to Chapter Chatter! I encourage all ATA chapters to add me to your mailing lists. Please send me your ATA publications so we can publicize your efforts here. Newsletters may be sent to Sandy Strzalkowski at 13986 Sarasota, Redford MI 48239-2837, or by email to sandystraz@gmail.com. If you have a list of future club activities, please include that as well. Please keep in mind we can only mention topical-related articles, not chapter-related activities or other philatelic subjects.

Here's a challenge: How about if you ask your program chairperson to schedule something topical at least once a month or every other month? That way your club is sure to be mentioned in Chapter Chatter.

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

Newsletter editor: Harry Winter.

Newsletter topics: April APS Sales Circuit books have been received, some of which have topicals. (Apr 2016).

ATA Chapter 5 Milwaukee (ATA Chapter No. 5) in Milwaukee, Wis.

Newsletter editor: Bob Mather.

Newsletter topics: An article titled "Sanitary Fair Stamps" featured several images of the stamps in the April 2016 issue. Frank Kos was the speaker at the May meeting. The topic was National Parks. The May 2016 newsletter featured a story about Owney the Post Office mascot. Since France and Colonies will be visiting in September, there was a request that members look through their collections for related material to share and discuss at the June meeting. The June 2016 issue included an article, U.S. Stamps Used in Cuba.

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

Newsletter: *Perf-Dispatch*, edited by Phil Schorr.

Newsletter topics: The April meeting program, Sherlock Holmes, was presented by Jerry Schultz. The May program, Fakes and Forgeries, will be presented by Nate Esbeck (April 2016).

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

Newsletter: *Knoxville Philatelic Society News*, edited by Tom Broadhead.

Newsletter topics: The Stamp of the Month is the 1964 U.S. commemorative honoring the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth (Scott 1250). There was actually a stamp hinged over the picture of the stamp. Tom Broadhead also included an article about Shakespeare, which included images of Shakespeare stamps and information from the ATA Shakespeare checklists (May 2016).

Milwaukee Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Milwaukee Wis.

Newsletter: *Milwaukee Philatelist*, edited by Jonathan Kumbera.

Newsletter topics: "Child Star Shirley Temple Honored," article and stamp image.

The April 5 meeting program was “The Story of the United States Playing Card Company, Through Their Tax Stamps” (April 2016).

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

Newsletter: *On Cover*, edited by **Kurt Romig**.

Newsletter topics: The monthly Cover Corner article featured Harry Houdini (April 2016). A 59th birthday celebration of the club is being planned and the announcement was accompanied by two images of Happy Birthday Stamps. There is also an Albert Einstein first-day cover from 1966 and a Graf Zeppelin cover. The club’s Detroit River Mail Boat covers have begun for 2016 and they are pictured in this issue (May 2016).

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

Newsletter Editor: **Paul Petersen**.

Newsletter topics: The April meeting’s presentation was Charles DiComo’s Pawling (N.Y.) Postal History. The newsletter included a scan of a rather attractive stampless cover. A Happy 90th Birthday wish to Queen Elizabeth II included a Hong Kong stamp with her image (April 2016). Coins on Stamps was the topic of the May meeting (May 2016).

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

Newsletter: *St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by **Louise Graves**.

Newsletter topics: Marc Isaacs was the speaker at the April 20 meeting, and spoke on the topic of Vietnam (April 2015). The June 15 meeting presentation by Dan Culbert provided a review of stamps that honor the president of the Federal Republic of Central America. Dan’s focus was on the 1941 Postal Tax issue of Honduras (June 2016).

Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122), in Venice, Fla.

Newsletter: *Venice Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by **Dawn Hamman**.

Newsletter topics: The recent issue included an image of the 37¢ Spring Flowers stamps (April 2016).

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

Newsletter: *Mayflower Minutes*, edited by **Sandy Strzalkowski**.

Newsletter topics: Featured in the April newsletter were two show cachets that were designed by member Tim Strzalkowski. Both use the newly released year-of-the-monkey stamps (April 2016). May 6 meeting’s program, “World War I Prisoners of War,” was presented by Ed Dubin (May 2016). The July meeting will be an Ice Cream Social, in honor of the recently issued Soda Fountain Favorites stamps (June 2016).

Westfield Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 113) in Edison, N.J.

Newsletter: *The Westfield Philatelist*, edited by **Frederick C. Skvara**.

Newsletter topics: Frederick Skvara’s column highlighted John William Polidori (1795-1821), English writer and physician. Dr. Polidori’s interest in vampires was discussed and there were several images of Dracula on stamps. Skvara also included an article titled “Hubble – 25 Years of Space Exploration,” illustrated with images of eight stamps issued by Jersey, which featured various space images (April 2016).

Canada

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

Newsletter: *Calgary Philatelist*, edited by Dale Speirs.

Newsletter topics: The front cover features the Women's Votes stamp, as well as a cachet including the stamp. Elizabeth Saunaranata's article, "The Centennial of Suffrage in Canada," continues the theme of this month's newsletter. She discusses one of the principal suffragists, Nellie McClung, who lived in Calgary (June 2016).

International

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

Newsletter: *Themescene*, edited by Wendy Buckle.

Newsletter topics: Steven Cross' article, "Hard Boiled Queens," focuses on well-known mystery writer, Agatha Christie. There are several images of stamps issued and cancels created to honor Ms. Christie. The article, "In Search of Early Life on Planet Earth," by Owen Green, discusses how different disciplines have been trying to determine when life first appeared on Earth. The article is accompanied by several stamp images of natural wonders and fossils. Jeff Dugdale's article, "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms by Luo Guanzhong," discusses the historical novel written in the 14th century. The article includes images of attractive stamps that commemorate the novel. John Davis' article, "How I Started," includes pictures of Tin Can Mail (June 2016).

Thematics Queensland (ATA Chapter No. 86) in Queensland, Australia.

Newsletter: *Thematically Speaking*, edited by John Crowsley.

Newsletter topics: Joan Orr continued her article on "Aerophilately: Air Mail Etiquettes, Part 2." The article included images of some really nice covers. Some recent show-and-tell items were pictured (stamps, covers and cancels) (June 2016). ☐



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Nordia 2016, Exphimo 2016, German Championship 2016

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Nordia 2016, Exphimo 2016 and German 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. * denotes ATA member.

Nordia 2016

This multinational exhibition was held in Jyväskylä, Finland, April 8-10, 2016. The countries participating were Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Nordia exhibitions are organized in rotation among the Nordic Philatelic Federations. The exhibition was held under the patronage of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). The Central Finland Philatelic Association organized the exhibition in co-operation with the Philatelic Federation of Finland and the Foundation for Promoting Finnish Philately.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Leif W. Rasmussen	<i>Hunting and Fishing</i>	90, G
Olli Viljanen	<i>The Worlds Meet</i>	86, LV
Odd Johansen	<i>Bridges – The Fascinating Link</i>	83, V
Pekka Klemi	<i>The Fight against Cancer through the Years</i>	83, V
•Barry Stagg	<i>Parachuting through the Ages</i>	83, V
Kaido Andres	<i>The University of Tartu 1632-2012 (People and Circumstances)</i>	82, V
Eero Pikkuhookana	<i>Chess - Mate – from its Roots in India to today's Competitive Sport</i>	82, V
Alan Watson	<i>Heraldry, the Gentle Science</i>	80, V
Pauli Ihamäki	<i>100 Years of Scouting in Europe</i>	72, S

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One-frame Exhibits

Antti Roivainen	<i>From Rails to Air</i>	77
Seppo Salonen	<i>Janakkala – My Home Region</i>	76
Marion Strømnes	<i>Alf Prøysen's Blueberry Tour</i>	76

Open/Display Exhibits

Heikki Virtanen	<i>The Presidents of Finland</i>	92, G
Harry Dunkel	<i>Savo's Oldest Trading House: Gust. Ranin – History 1852–1952</i>	90, G
Henning Jarle Mathiassen	<i>Longer, Higher, Faster – Success, Trouble and Disaster</i>	90, G
Johan Snellman	<i>Steaming Helsinki</i>	88, LV
Alexander Walker	<i>A Counterblaste to Tobacco</i>	86, LV
Poul M. Nielsen	<i>No War Anymore</i>	81, V
Klaus Juvas	<i>The Life and Impact of Jean Sibelius</i>	80, V
Kalervo Lappalainen	<i>Jyväskylä – The Market Place in the University Town</i>	80, V
Heikki Salokannel	<i>A Ballad about Tools – A Story about Tools, Equipment and other Devices for Making Things</i>	75, LS
Sven-Erik Hjelt	<i>Antarctic – The Continent for Science</i>	72, S
Poul Andersen	<i>The Works of Slania</i>	70, S

Exphimo 2016

This national exhibition with international participation was held in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, May 14–16, 2016. The theme for the exhibition was "Arts and Culture." It was sponsored by the Federation of Philatelic Societies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (FSPL) and organized by the Philcolux Thematic Association.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Torsten Eckel (Germany)	<i>Albrecht Dürer – Entrepreneur of the Renaissance</i>	91, G
Franz Zehenter (Austria)	<i>Social History of Jazz</i>	90, G
Philippe Ieko (Luxembourg)	<i>Impressionism: A Major Step in Painting</i>	89, G
Peter Stobbelaar (Netherlands)	<i>Spilled the Beans</i>	88, G
Danny Jimmink (Netherlands)	<i>Step by Step to Dancing</i>	88, G
Eva Zehenter (Austria)	<i>Traces of Life. Stories as Life Images</i>	86, G
Willi Schmidt (Austria)	<i>"Say Cheese" – A Journey through the World of Photography</i>	85, G
Hans-Jürg Weber (Switzerland)	<i>Break Dance: "Who are my Relatives?"</i>	76, S

One-frame Exhibits

Danny Jimmink (Netherlands)	<i>Meet on Rings</i>	88, G
Peter Kugler (Austria)	<i>Reading can be Addictive</i>	71, S

General Class Multi-frame Exhibits

Nico F. Helling (Luxembourg)	<i>The Motorcycle: Nostalgia and Use</i>	89, G
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DMTH 2016

(German Championship of Thematic Philately)

This national stamp exhibition was held in Essen, Germany, May 12-14, 2016. The show alternates yearly with the European Championship for Thematic Philately. Every German thematic exhibit may be entered in this exhibition, from regional to international level. All exhibitors were from Germany.

Multi-Frame Exhibits

Arts and Culture

Prof. Dr. Gerd Geburtig	<i>Kosmos Goethe – Fascinating to This Day</i>	88, G
Karl-Heinz Büdding	<i>In the Footsteps of Richard Wagner – His Life, his Works and his Legacy</i>	82, LV
Peter Plüghan	<i>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – The Incredible Genius</i>	80, LV
Peter Schlünzen	<i>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – Life and Work</i>	76, V

History and Organizations

Rainer Erdt	<i>The Sign of the Black Cross – The Rise and Fall of the Teutonic Knights</i>	86, G
Dr. Harald Schultze	<i>Shared Driving Forces in the History of Germans and Frenchmen</i>	82, LV

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	Everyday Life	
Helma Janssen	<i>Our Firefighters – Citizens' Initiative in Uniform</i>	88, G
•Werner Müller	<i>Money</i>	87, G
	Sport and Leisure	
Fritz Rüdiger	<i>Olympic Comeback – the era of Baron de Coubertin</i>	
	<i>1894–1925 and the Games Now</i>	90, LG
Gerd Bethke	<i>WM-Football 1930–1970 – Jules Rimet Trophy</i>	76, V
	Transport and Technology	
Dr. Stephen Lachhein	<i>How Mankind's Dream to Reach the Stars Became True</i>	78, LV
Ernst-Dieter Wendt	<i>A Century of Railroads – The Driving Force of Progress</i>	75, V
	Medicine and Science	
Dr. Gerhard Giso Brosche	<i>There May be Immunity</i>	86, G
Heinrich Welschhoff	<i>The Birth of a New Astronomy – Nicolaus Copernicus and his Heliocentric World View</i>	74, LS
Joachim Lörken	<i>Antarctica – Exploration of the White Continent</i>	73, LS
Dieter Oehrling	<i>Antarctic Research in the DDR</i>	71, LS
	Animals and Plants	
Wilfried Fuchs	<i>The Fox and its Checkered Relationship with Humans</i>	90, LG
Monika Müller	<i>Threatened Hunter – Interesting Facts about Big Cats</i>	71, LS
	Agriculture and Pets	
Hartmut Scholz	<i>The "Biography" of Beer</i>	87, G
Wilfried Fuchs	<i>The Success Story of Wine – From Vine to Enjoyment</i>	85, G

I would like to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for providing the results of Ex-phimo 2016. ☺

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for 59 years and exhibiting for 31 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.

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YOUTH IN TOPICS

MaryAnn Bowman

Beginning at NY2016

World Stamp Show New York 2016 is now history and, although I was unable to attend and experience the event or to see in action how the activities that the planning committee I was involved with actually worked out, my "spies" reported back to me and I can share some of their thoughts.



Visitors to the Youth Area at World Stamp Show NY2016.

Students were asked to write their "Wish for the World" on an airmail envelope sticky note (previously discussed and illustrated in my January-February 2016 column). Upon completion of the activity, youth were given the opportunity to select three United Nations first-day covers, address a large envelope to themselves, frank it with United Nations stamps of their choosing, insert the FDCs and wait for the arrival of mail at their homes. Imagine the thrill of receiving their chosen souvenirs in the mail and postmarked from the U.N. New York headquarters!

Some of the thoughts expressed are fascinating, such as "*All children should have an education*," as written by a 10-year-old. Other wishes included: *cure cancer; everybody can have a home; no more world hunger; that people not be mean; that kids have a mom and dad; no homeless people on the*

By far, the activity that seemed to create the most "buzz" from both youth and adults alike was the "My Wish for the World." You may recall that I wrote about it in the May-June issue of *Topical Time*.



Young family viewing one of the specially selected exhibits.



Many youth visited the special area during the 2016 international show.

street; more rainbows in this world, and Moral Clarity for the world. The number one wish was simply: Peace.

Many adults could be found poring over those messages posted on a board for all to see, read and enjoy. I have been told that this activity was also very popular with the people doing the youth programs in Australia, United Kingdom and Canada who will be taking the ideas home. The UNPA came to look for ideas it can use in an upcoming campaign, and a Shanghai philatelic magazine reporter took loads of photos. The rep from Israel Post said the administration would like to do something like it, too.

The Youth World Pass was another very popular activity in which students were able to select and attach different stamps that they found in a large mixture of stamps into their passport. A stamp identifier was included. Large colorful maps within the youth area helped children determine which continent a stamp was from so it could be placed appropriately in a show passport.

Several exhibits chosen with the thought that they would appeal to beginning and non-collectors alike were well received and attracted many viewers.

Perhaps we will never know how visiting youth used the give-away activity booklets. You may recall that there were several activities that could be completed



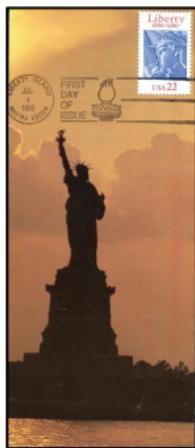


TOPICAL TIDBITS

April-June 2016

Volume 5 Issue 2

Statue of Liberty



The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France. Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi designed the exterior and Gustave Eiffel designed the interior supports. The statue's 350 pieces were packed into 214 crates and arrived in New York Harbor in June of 1885. The statue was placed on Bedloe's Island which was renamed Liberty Island in 1956. Lady Liberty has greeted over 12 million immigrants when they arrived at nearby Ellis Island. The statue is an enduring symbol of freedom and democracy. Here are some more interesting facts about the statue:

- Winds of 50 miles per hour can cause the statue to sway up to three inches and the torch up to six inches.
- The seven points of the crown represent the seven seas and the seven continents.
- The statue has a 35-foot waistline.
- Lady Liberty wears a size 879 shoe.
- There are 25 windows in the crown.
- Approximately 3.5 million people visit the statue every year.
- The cost of building the statue and pedestal amounted to over \$500,000 which is over \$10m in today's money.
- A fundraising drive was organized to collect money for the pedestal. 80% of the donations were less than one dollar. In the end, \$102,000 (equivalent to over \$2.3 million today) was raised.
- In 1944, at the end of World War II, the lights in the crown flashed dot-dot-dot-dash. (Morse code for Victory in Europe).

Cover of the Spring Topical Tidbits issue.

beginner area, I would be interested in your thoughts, comments and suggestions

at the show such as a flag and Machin activity while other pages could be finished at home and did not require the use of actual stamps. It is planned that copies of the two booklets will eventually be placed on the website of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs and be available for a free download.

To complement World Stamp Show New York 2016, the newest *Topical Tidbits* was created around the Statue of Liberty theme. It was my understanding that the ATA Society Booth at the show had a sample of that issue. Youth stopping by the ATA table received free stamps for their *Linn's* passport, as well as a free topical album page of their choice and a special Statue of Liberty checklist of stamps.

Since I was not in attendance, if you were and stopped by to visit the youth/



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for any future large-scale attempts to attract youth to the hobby. Write to me at the address given at the end of this column.

Activities for Contemporary Stamp Issues

Aimée Devine developed several interesting activities to accompany the Summer Harvest booklet stamps issued in July 2015 and the Farmer's Market stamps of 2014. The activities were planned to support a stamp show theme (agriculture) but utilized in the youth/beginner area.

In one activity, enlarged illustrations of the Farmer's Market stamps were used with an accompanying worksheet representing the "shopping list" of three people. Using a magnifying glass, if needed, to see the prices on the stamps for various items, youth were challenged to find the total cost of the purchased items from each person's list.

In another activity, youth were asked to think of fruits and vegetables for each letter of the alphabet and write them on a sheet of paper. The book, *Eating the Alphabet*, by Lois Ehlert, was available for those getting stuck on certain letters of the alphabet.

There was also a Summer Harvest wordsearch puzzle. But the activity that really challenged both adults and kids alike was a matching activity. Reproductions of seed packets, each with a vegetable postage stamp as the illustration, was to be matched with small plastic bags containing examples of the actual seed. Some, such as watermelon and bean seeds, were easy, but others proved to be more difficult. Adults seemed to have the edge on this activity, as many had gardens and had done planting. It was a wonderful learning experience for all ages.

Summer Olympic Stamp Fun

With the Summer Olympics fast approaching, consider making it the theme of one of your programs. Of course, the ATA has its own *Topical Tidbits* issue from July/August 2012 devoted to that theme. Pages could be downloaded, printed out and given to youth. There is even a free Summer Olympic album page to accompany the issue.

It is expected that by the time you read this, the next issue of *Topical Tidbits* will be ready. Plans are that the issue will be devoted to Brazil, the country playing host to the 2016 Summer Olympics.

The Internet is a great source for other philatelic Summer Olympic ideas. Great Britain's Stamp Active website has an activity booklet titled Stamp Fun Sports on Stamps. Within those pages are several that could be used to reinforce the Summer Olympic theme. Some examples include: Name the Olympic City, Team Games where youth are challenged to write the number of players on a team for various sports and an ABC of Sports.

The Australian Philatelic Federation has past issues on its website of a free and downloadable booklet, *The Young Collector*. The Spring 2010 issue is devoted to the Olympic Games. ☐

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.

TopicalsOnLine Offers More Choices

We are pleased to announce that www.TopicalsOnLine.com has many new options for purchasing stamps and other items. Log in and take a look!

The site, as always, offers the option to type in a topic you collect or choose by topic or country from the pull-down screens. If you know the country and Scott number you're looking for, you can search that way too. Click "Apply," and the items for sale will appear.

Now, here are the new options. When you click on “Search Stamps” from the NAVIGATION column on the left, you’ll see (on the right side of the screen) a new pull-down option labeled “Material.” It offers a choice of items in 25 popular categories:

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The ATA Collectibles section has a nice choice of colorful covers/cachets from various ATA events. Add to your collection, or purchase something for a friend.

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55459	ABROMAITIS, Mary Etta	
48186	AIN, Aaron, aaronain@gmail.com	
45399	AKUS, Joseph A., joeakus@msn.com	Christmas, Vatican, Popes, Holidays
57483	ATTURA, Azar	
52525	AZZOPARDI, Paul, pja.frog@gmail.com 84 Colton Ave, Lackawanna NY 14218-1409	Darwin, Insects (Butterflies), Amphibians
55087	AULDS, Cynthia and Donald	
57484-DM	AULETTA, Tom, azusacollectibles@yahoo.com 258 Ushers Rd Ste 203, Clifton Park NY 12065-1428	Amphibians, Reptiles, Dinosaurs
57480	BARZ, Andree, darkandy1969@gmx.de	
48416	BEACHER, Ken	
57472	BENTLEY, Don, sonomadon@hotmail.com 918 Muirfield Ln, Nampa ID 83686-2872	Trains
56479	BLOOM, Michael, mbloom@sinootech.com	
44870	BIENIECKI, Hank, info@biistamp.com	
57485	BOGREN, Michael, mbogren00@gmail.com	Military, Sports
57476	BONET-TIRADO, Bethzaida, bb.dalang@yahoo.com	Puerto Rico, Folklore, Disney, Butterflies, Love
57534	BOWMAN, James R, jamesbwmm@yahoo.com 28 Hillside Dr, Ellington CT 06029-2412	Disney
57486	BUCHANAN, Julie, nickystevens520@gmail.com 133 Pheasant Ln, Branford CT 06405-5926	Art, Children, Nature
54758	BULEBOSH, Beth, horselover68@yahoo.com	Horses, Domestic Cats, Guns, Shooting, Weightlifting, Exercise/Physical Fitness, CPR, Fire Fighting
57487	BURKERT, Tom	
57488	BUSH, Beryl	Dogs, Cats, Birds, Animals, Plants, Insects, Minerals, Horses
57489	CASTILLO, Jorge	
57478	CERRONE, Michael, cerronemc@yahoo.com	Bible, Birds, Heraldry
57212-FM	COOK, BettyAnn	
57490	COOK, Kurt	
57491	CURTIS, Ann, a.curtis45@yahoo.com	Orchids, Textiles, Art
57466	DAVIS, Stuart, stwie1620@gmail.com	
52021	EISEN, David, eisenslc@aol.com 1155 E 2100 South Apt 514, Salt Lake City UT 84106-2846	Ducks/Geese, Europa
57465	EPPS, John B.	
57460	ESCALADA, Guillermo, guillermoescalada@gmail.com	Disney, Star Wars, Freshwater Fish, USA
57492	FAISON, Léon	Africa History, Martial Art
48672-DM	GARVIN, David, ldgstamps@sbcglobal.net 5351 E Thompson Rd Unit 290, Indianapolis IN 46237-4094	
57493-DM	GEHRET, Wayne, stamps1@ptd.net PO Box 686, Ephrata PA 17522-0686	
57494	GHOSH, Samiran	



57495	GOPAL, Madan C. A., madan.achuthan@gmail.com	Crystals, Birds, Caricature, Musical Instruments, Heart 526 Rudraksha, D Road, Ideal Homes P-2, R R Nagar, Bangalore 560098 INDIA	Butterflies, French Paintings
57496	GORANSSON, Irene, newfland@ptd.net		
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57497	GRABECK, Robert		
57469	HAMILTON, Bart		
57474	HARTSHORN, Kenneth, kenneth.hartshorn@att.net		Space, Space Travel
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53025	HERRAL, Peter, 15 Monush St, South River NJ 08882-1109		Disney, Watercraft, Whales
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	12607 Franklin Farm Rd, Oak Hill VA 20171-1912		
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57467	SCRUTON, Susan	Parrots, Children's Books, Conservation, International Theme Years 24F Castlebrook Ln, Nepean ON K2G 5G2, CANADA	
57520	SHARP, John		
57521	SHOOTER, David		
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57523	SONDHI, Satish, sksondi1@gmail.com	15382 Palomino Mesa Rd, San Diego CA 92127-4443	Astronomy, AIDS Awareness, Butterflies, Health Care, Cardiology Blood Donations, Road Safety, World Seven Wonders

51094	SORACI JENNINGS, Sherri, <i>cwllibrary@aol.com</i> PO Box 1076, Longmont CO 80502-1076	Lincoln, Buffalo and Bison, Rainbows, Chess, Trains, Fictional Murder
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57529	WAGNER, Jon	
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57531	WEST, Neil	
57463	WOJAN, Steven, <i>swojan@pressenter.com</i>	Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sports
43493	WHIFFEN, Ronald, 2016 126th St, New Richmond WI 54017-6049	
57532	WHYNOT, Jim	
57533	ZELENAK, Michael	Titanic, Birds

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45204 GRAVELL, Kenneth James (NH)

Deceased Members

16694	JOHNSON, Sfc M H (Calif.)
19626-LM 1420	REIF, Lib-Mary (Ohio)
52975	ROSWELL, Robert G (Fla.)

ATA Membership Recruiters 2016

The following ATA members have recruited new members from Jan. 1 to June 15, 2016. Their accounts in the ATA Bucks Bank will receive \$5 for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.**ATA Dealer Members shown in red**

New Members			
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Hayward, Jeffrey	7	Cassidy, Jared	1
Fisk, Allan	6	Chun, Steve	1
Curiale, Tony	4	Crain, Lawrence Roy	1
Winnegrad, Mark H	4	Denys, Jack André	1
Stanton, Loraine	3	Edholm, Keith	1
Cartier, Karen	2	Homel, Michael	1
Davidson, Larry	2	Owen, John W	1
Morgenstern, Amanda	2	Ryan, Laurie	1
Scannell, Caroline	2	Smith, Dale E	1
Balagian, Greg	1	Stout, Jean	1
Bruce, Susan	1		

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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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www.stanleygibbons.com

Israel Philatelist: Donald A. Chafetz, editor,
1943 Altonzano Dr, El Cajon CA 92020-
1002 USA
sipeditor@gmail.com; www.israelstamps.com

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www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com

Linn's Stamp News: Donna Houseman,
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45365-0029 USA
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editor, 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack NH
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Stamp Lover: Michael M. Goodman, editor,
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Stamp Magazine: Guy Thomas and Julia Lee, editors, Hadlow House, 9 High Street, Green Street Green, Kent BR6 6BG, United Kingdom.

julia.lee@mytimemedia.com
www.stampmagazine.co.uk

Stamp News Australasia: Kevin Morgan,
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3158, Australia

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Email: rasmuary4@frontiernet.net
Website: www.stampsmnnesota.com

Aug. 19-21, Virginia. Americover, American First Day Cover Society, Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Va. Contact: Chris Lazaroff
Email: showinfo@afdc.org
Website: www.afdc.org/show

Sept. 9-10, Arkansas. 39th Annual Stamp & Postcard Show, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Hwy B62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home, Ark. Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-4, 14 dealers. Contact: Craig Grothaus (870) 424-2957
Email: grot@centurytel.net

Sept. 9-11, Washington. Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (WSP), Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave. S., Tukwila, Wash. Exhibits, Boy Scout Merit Badge, youth Activities, dealers, free parking. Contact Jack Congrove.
Email: seapex@comcast.net
Website: www.seapexshow.org



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Sept. 16-18, Texas. Greater Houston Stamp Show, sponsored by the Houston Philatelic Society, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX. Contact: Ron Strawser
Email: info@houstonstampclub.org
Website: www.houstonstampclub.org

Oct. 7-9, Indiana. Indypex, Hamilton County Fairground & Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street. Hours are 10-5 on Friday, 10-5 Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday, 26 dealers will attend. Contact Rick Nelson.
Email: janelsonncp@comcast.net
Website: www.indianastampclub.org

Nov. 5-6, 2016, Michigan. AAPEX 2016, sponsored by Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Mich. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4, 28 dealers, exhibits, ATA table, youth area, free parking and admission. Contact Harry & Dottie Winter (734) 761-5859.
Email: harwin@umich.edu
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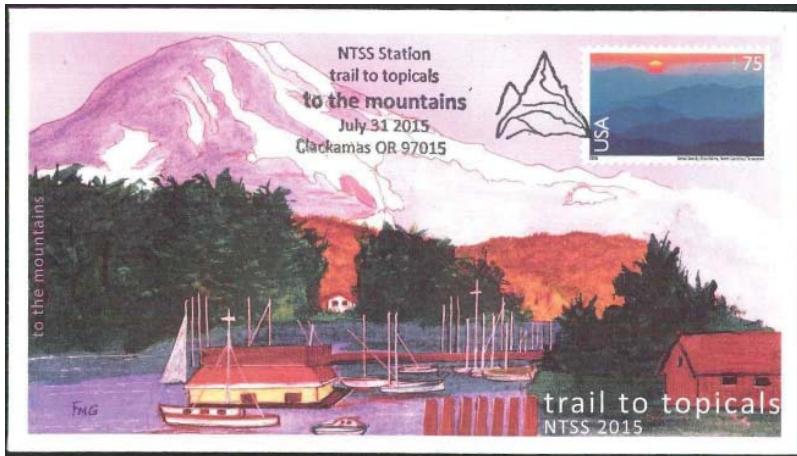
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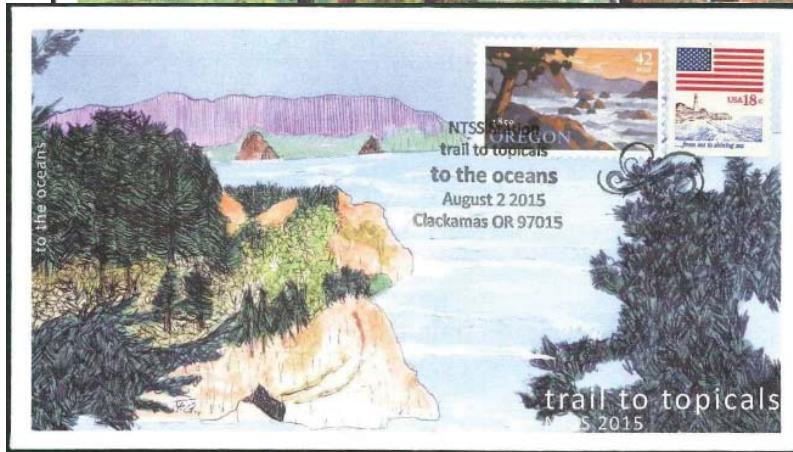
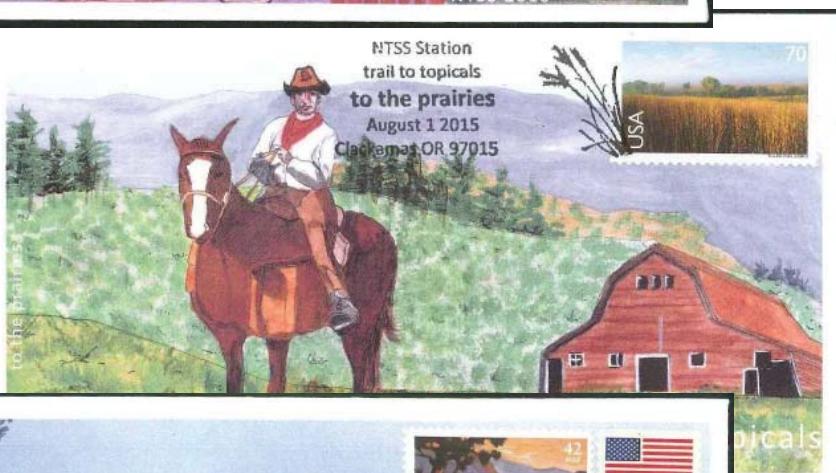
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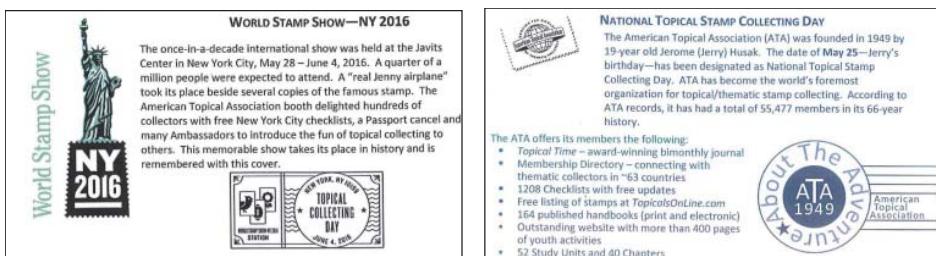
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