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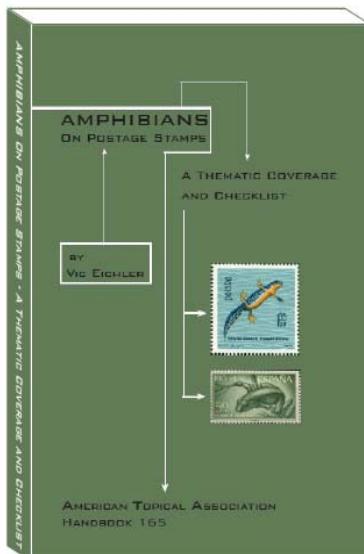
Amphibians On Postage Stamps, published by the ATA, authored by Vic Eichler, is a colorful, contemporary compilation of the amphibians that have been recognized on postage stamps of multiple countries throughout the world.

ORDER YOURS TODAY by mailing a US bank check to ATA or sending an email to americantopical@msn.com and requesting **Amphibians**, ATA HB 165 or the digital **Amphibians**, ATA HB 165-E (on a DVD).

Cost for either print or DVD version is the same—\$35 (\$30 for ATA members—but postage is different).

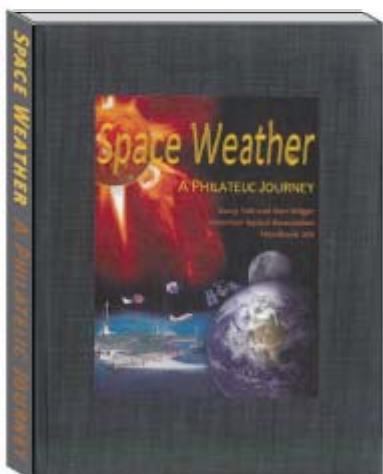
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AMPHIBIANS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Space Weather A PHILATELIC JOURNEY



Space Weather, a beautifully written publication by the ATA, authored by Garry Toth and Don Hillger, discusses in detail the relationship between solar events and their impact on space and earth through text, postage stamp and cover images, and documented with a check list of stamps and covers. The science of space weather analyzes the environmental conditions that occur in the various layers of the atmosphere; the understanding of those interactions and their impacts on people and technology.

ORDER YOURS TODAY by mailing a US bank check to ATA or sending an email to americantopical@msn.com and requesting **Space Weather**, ATA Handbook 166

Cost: \$65 (\$60 for ATA Members) + \$4.00 for shipping within the US, \$26.00 to Canada or \$34.00 to other countries

Digital (166-E): \$35 (\$30 for ATA Members) + \$1.50 for shipping within the US/Canada, \$3.50 to other countries

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DALE'S DIALOGUE

Dale Smith, ATA President

Perfin Passion

There are many different “topics” that collectors are known to pursue. In the past I have written about my collection of the U.S. Pharmacy stamp, Scott No.

1473, on first-day covers. But I’d like to discuss another of my stamp collecting passions that I have collected for years – that is “perfins.” Perfin, in short, stands for “perforated initials.”

I realize that some probably don’t consider perfins a proper topical. It is, however, one of my interests that I have collected for years. I have always been amazed by these “holey” stamps, of which some examples appear with this article. Some consider perfins damaged stamps because they have been punctured with initials or symbols of companies. But I consider them works of art. Perfins served a purpose in the past for a company to show the stamps belonged to it, and also to discourage pilfering by employees. On

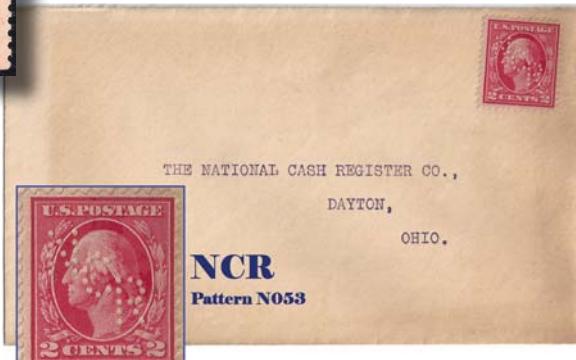


Take a really good look at this block of nine stamps bearing the perfin of the Moline Plow Co. The center two stamps are the 5¢ error!

company covers I also consider them a form of advertising.

I have been a member of the Perfins Stamp Club, an ATA study unit, as long as I have been a member of ATA – for more than 20 years! I have back copies of the club’s newsletter, *The Perfins Bulletin*, lining a whole shelf in my philatelic office at home.

The reason I am writing this article is because I wanted to share my excitement after purchasing the brand new *Catalog of United States Perfins*. I have spent some



Perfin pattern for the National Cash Register Co. of Dayton, Ohio.

hours reading through it. This work of philatelic art is a result of six long years of finite review of the former catalog that was issued in 1998. This new catalog was edited by current Perfins Club President Steve Endicott. He was assisted by seemingly scores of Perfin Club members who proofed every word and reviewed every one of the thousands of examples of perfinned stamps pictured in the catalog.

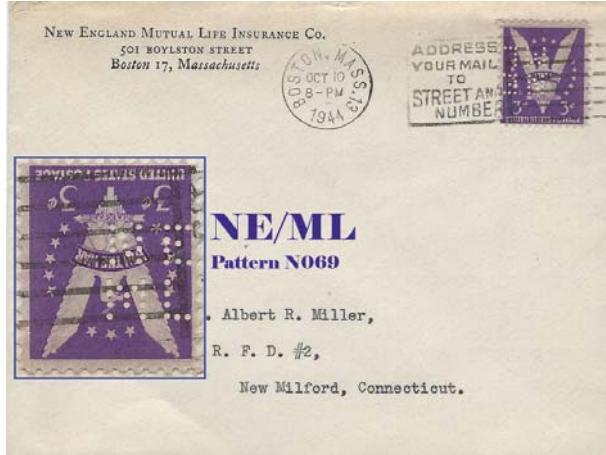
As a result, 92 new patterns have been added; 86 patterns have been deleted; the pattern numbers of 169 perfins have been revised and 164 ratings have been updated.

Each picture is extremely useful in helping to identify seemingly duplicate types of the same perfin. But that is where the wonderful challenge begins. There are many different offices throughout the United States where a company, such as the New York Life Insurance Co., used perfinned stamps for mailing. Each location has a different hole located on the stamp to denote that office.



Slightly differing patterns of perfins for the New York Life Insurance Co., from 1929-44.

Should you or your stamp club acquire a new copy of this catalog, I recommend the following (especially if you are new to collecting perfins): Review the appendix in the back of the catalog first to familiarize yourself with the terminology used in perfin collecting. Then read the introduction, concerning the history of how perfins came about early in the 20th century. It clearly explains how stamps are punched with



with those perfins that had numbers or designs punched into the stamp. The pictures are vivid, showing perfins that would seem the same to our eyes but are different when viewed closely. Each perfin has a catalog number, its rarity rating, the dates and company name that used this perfin and location of each office. The corresponding perfin example is on the opposite page, giving the reader a quick comparison of each identified description.

You had better have a strong back to carry the voluminous loose-leaf edition. I placed mine in a three-inch-thick, three-ring binder. I wanted this format because new information and discoveries are published by the Perfins Club and I can easily add those pages to this catalog. The club also prints a two-volume hardbound edition, especially suitable as a philatelic reference text for philatelic libraries and stamp clubs. For those who are tech savvy, there is an electronic Acrobat PDF edition. There is also an electronic “database” edition presented as an Excel spreadsheet. This gives the collector the ability to search and sort in Excel.

If you or your club is considering purchasing this new catalog, please contact the editor about costs and shipping: Steve Endicott, Editor and Club President, 20 Greensburgh Ln, San Anselmo CA 94960-1000, or by email: perfins@gmail.com.

What else do you collect? Do you buy the literature to research your topic? Did you realize that ATA has published handbooks ever since it was founded 69 years ago? To share your philatelic interests please contact me at thedale.smith48@gmail.com.

specific perfin designs and the mechanics of a perforator. This is a clear, concise history about perfins written in five easy-to-read pages.

Then, turn to the first pages, starting with the letter A and advancing to the letter Z, of wonderful larger-than-life pictures of each of the known 6,450 perfins used by a multitude of U.S. companies for five decades, from 1908 through the 1950s. The catalog ends



About ATA

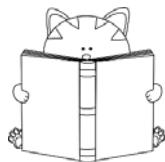
For info about contacting the ATA Office or our leaders – please see Page 4.

See You in Columbus!

This will be a very exciting event for ATA members, as well as for the entire philatelic community. This issue of *Topical Time* has some highlights. For much more information visit both the ATA and APS websites (www.americantopicalassn.org and www.stamps.org).

New Book Will Premiere at NTSS/StampShow

We'll unveil one of the most important books that ATA has ever published at our upcoming show. Written by 40-year ATA member Jack Gray, *What's First?*, describes and shows a photo of the first time a topic appeared on a worldwide stamp. It includes 812 topical firsts and makes fascinating reading. This book will be an invaluable tool for collectors and exhibitors.



ATA Day of Giving

On May 25, we celebrated the birthday and legacy of ATA founder Jerry Husak, who died earlier this year. Money raised that day will go toward new computer equipment for the ATA office. Many thanks to all who participated. Results are updated on the ATA website.

Scented Stamps Checklist

Our ever-creative checklist coordinators, Dominic Sgro and Beth Scully, have compiled a checklist of scented stamps. Scents you can acquire include a variety foods, including many fruits and chocolates and many flowers. The checklist has 114 entries so far. Order yours and have some fun!

Ohio Checklist at the ATA Booth

A new comprehensive Ohio state checklist, with symbols, famous people, events and more, will be for sale at NTSS (or order it from the ATA office). Developed by Mike Vagnetti, Jack Congrove and John Hamman, it is sure to be of interest to Ohio collectors. The ATA booth will have an exhibit of stamps from the checklist, compiled by Carol Costa.

Volunteers Needed

Checklist Helpers. If you have access to a set of Scott catalogs (even older ones), you have the “tools” needed to give our checklist coordinators a hand. There is a lot of checking and proofreading that comes with the territory. If you have a computer with the Excel program installed, that’s even better. A few hours of your time each month would be wonderfully helpful!

Coordinator for Advertising Marketing. We need an enthusiastic volunteer to contact potential advertisers for *Topical Time* and our website. This important position involves contacting current and potential advertisers to expand our advertising base.

International Outreach. ATA has members in 44 countries. We invite our international members to join a committee to develop international relationships and



form a council of ambassadors in other countries to help their philatelic organizations and attract new members to ATA. Please let us know if you would like more information about becoming involved.

Topical Tuesday Every Week on Facebook!

Join in the fun by posting a topical stamp image on the ATA Facebook page. Our members get very creative with their posts. Please take a look and join us!

AmazonSmile Donates to ATA

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon.com with the same products, prices and shopping features. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible



products to the charitable organization of your choice. So far the Foundation has donated more than \$80 million to various charities.

If you are an Amazon shopper, there is a simple way to support ATA – at no cost to you. Instead of logging into Amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit specify American Topical Association as your preferred charity. As of May 2018, thanks to you, ATA has so far received just slightly more than \$220 from AmazonSmile.

Recent Stamp Events and New Members

April 21-22, Plymouth Show, Westland, Mich. **Ambassador: Loraine Stanton.**

New members: 2

May 5-6, Orapex, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. **Ambassador: Larry Davidson.** New member: 1

May 11-13, Pipex, Portland, Ore. **Ambassadors: Jack Congrove, Eric Knapp, Myron Molnau, Norma Nielson.** New members: 4

May 18-19, Ropex, Canandaigua, N.Y. **Ambassadors: Fred Haynes, Dale Smith.** New member: 1

June 1-3, Compex '18, River Grove, Ill. **Ambassador: Susan Jones.**

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June 9, Sunpex, Maitland, Fla. **Ambassador:** Newt Kulp.

June 16-17, Huntspex '18, Huntsville, Ala. **Ambassador:** Vera Felts.

New members: 3.

June 22-24, Royal 2018 Royale, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada. **Ambassadors:** Larry Davidson, Dawn Hamman, John Hamman.

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

July 20-22, Minnesota Stamp Expo, Crystal, Minn. (see Beth Collins)

www.stampsmnnesota.com

July 21-22, Evergreen Stamp Club Summer Exhibition, Kent, Wash. (see Keith Edholm) <https://stamps.org/evergreen-stamp-club>

Aug. 9-13, APS StampShow/National Topical StampShow, Columbus, Ohio
www.stamps.org/stampshow-ss; www.americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2018.shtml

Aug. 11, Strait Stamp Show, Sequim, Wash. (see Keith Edholm) www.straitstamp.org

Aug. 19, Greater Mound City Stampfest, St. Louis, Mo. (see Vera Felts)
<http://stampfest.greatermoundcity.org/>

Aug. 31-Sep. 2, Balpex, Hunt Valley, Md. (see Joe Sullivan) www.balpex.org

Sept. 14-16, Milcopex, Milwaukee, Wis. (see Bob Mather)
www.milwaukeephilatelic.org

Sept. 14-16, Seapex, Tukwila, Wash. (see Keith Edholm) www.seapexshow.org

Oct. 19-21, Nojex/ASDA, East Rutherford, N.J. (see Fred Skvara or Allan Fisk)
www.nojex.org 

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Better Together!

Attending a stamp show really charges your batteries and enthusiasm for our great hobby. Many of us will have the opportunity to do so at our upcoming show with APS in Columbus. Browsing exhibits, meeting friends, attending social events and shopping with dealers reminds us why we love topical collecting.

At ATA, another thing that recharges our batteries and keeps our enthusiasm high is the support of our members. Our recent fund drive showed us your interest in keeping ATA humming along smoothly. Beyond that, we are continually gratified by the hundreds of members who contribute their time and talents to a wide variety of tasks for ATA.

The ATA Day of Giving was an opportunity to recognize the efforts of ATA founder Jerry Husak, and pay tribute following his death on Feb. 22. At deadline date for *Topical Time*, checks are still coming in. We'll report on this special day in a later issue.

Like much of the philatelic community, we face challenges for the future. We are confident that, working together, we will keep topical collecting – and ATA – strong.

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

2018 BTTF Goal:	\$ 40,000
Received and pledged:	
From current and former board members	\$ 18, 225
From general membership	7,416
Total received or pledged to date (31 May 2018)	\$ 25,641
Amount needed to reach BTTF goal	\$ 14,359

ATA's budget depends on your gifts. Every dollar you give helps to reach our goal! You can send your 2018 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 american topical@msn.com – preferable if you pay electronically.
- **Debit/credit card** – At www.paypal.com – send money safely and securely to american topical@msn.com. One can also donate on the Paypal website even without a PayPal account.

If you do not use the Internet, you may supply your credit card information to ATA.

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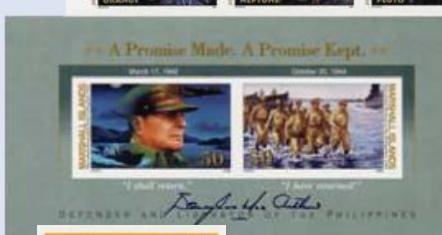
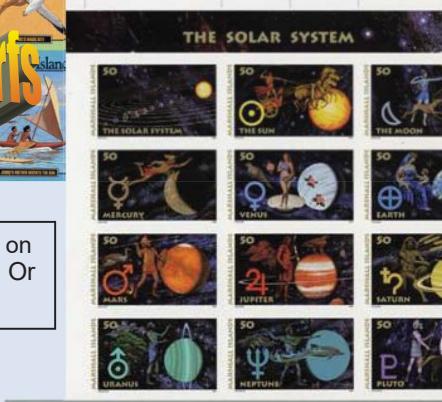
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WWII collectors:
For the 50th Anniversary of WWII, 100 sets were issued depicting events and battles. The stamps were available as singles or with an attached bottom inscription tab. Available perf & Imperf and gutter pairs!



VERA'S VIEWS

Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

Please Adopt a Handbook

APRL Donations: A few books for the American Philatelic Research Library are still in need of “adoption.” We want to present a copy of each of the following to the APRL during APS StampShow/NTSS in August. If we can do that, the APRL will have a complete collection of ATA handbooks. These are the books that are still needed. Please consider making a donation as an individual, a club or as a study unit.

HB 156-R – *Watercraft II* (2013) - \$55

HB 162 – *Disney on Stamps* (2012) - \$75

HB 166 – *Space Weather* (2017) - \$60

If you donate a book by sending a check or PayPal to ATA, the book will be inscribed with your name (or the name of your group) as the donor and we will present it on your behalf. You pay to ATA the member cost for the book; no postage will be incurred. Please help complete the ATA handbooks collection in the Mary Ann Owens Topical Collecting area of APRL. Send your check (or PayPal to american topical@msn.com) no later than July 31.

ATA Loves Visitors: In May, two of our members from Australia spent four days of their holiday at the ATA Office. **Rae** and **Laurence Bryant** live near Bendigo in Victoria, Australia. They spent many helpful hours sorting and organizing covers for us. This was the second visit the Bryants have made to the ATA Office, having come previously in 2015.

Rae and Laurence are active in their local stamp club in Bendigo, where they help to spread the word about thematic collecting (the term for our branch of the hobby that is used worldwide except in the United States).



The Bryants thought they were coming to Carterville to enjoy the first few days of their holiday by volunteering for ATA. Instead, the first two days of their visit were more like a trip to an undeveloped area. Carterville was part of a five-county area that suffered the effects of a major water main break at Illinois’ Rend Lake. Motels and restaurants were closed by health departments, and one needed to drive several miles to use a restroom. The only alternate lodging was less than desirable, and food was available only at Felts Fort, but the Bryants took it all in good stride and with excellent humor. Our thanks to them for all the work and fun!

If you decide to visit the ATA Office for a little “volunteer R&R,” we’ll do our best to have water, comfort facilities and famous southern Illinois barbecue available. Just let us know when you’ll be passing by our area on Interstate 57, 24 or 64. If there’s no time to volunteer, we would, of course, still enjoy seeing you for a brief visit – homemade cookies “on the house.” And, once again, there is now coffee available in downtown Carterville – one no longer has to go more than a mile to find that luxury!

ATA Ambassadoring: ATA Ambassadors set up attractive displays on your behalf at many stamp shows around the country each year. At Pipex in Portland, Ore., in May, **Jack Congrove** made this attractive presentation. **Jack and Eric Knapp** (Eric is pictured in the photo) did yeoman duty with representing the ATA during show hours. Other ATA Ambassadors were **Myron Molnau** and **Norma Nielson**. Our thanks go to all of our Ambassadors, who represent you with some amazing creativity and adaptability to available space.

Showtime! The largest philatelic event in the United States since



NY2016 is coming in early August. As you know, APS StampShow/National Topical Stamp Show will be held in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-12. Your ATA has been very ably represented in the planning, with **John Hamman** serving as show manager for the ATA activities. The show theme, “Here Be Dragons,” is perfect for topics ranging from Maps to Mythology. So many wonderful activities are in the works! When you come, be sure to stop by the ATA booth at the show entrance. See you there! ☺

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WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Wayne L. Youngblood, Topical Time Editor

Due to the amount of important information we need to get into this jam-packed issue, there is little room for me to pontificate this time. Therefore, I'm turning over my space to give prominence to a couple of important announcements...

TopicalsOnLine to Close

Sadly, ATA must discontinue TopicalsOnLine – our online stamp sales outlet – as of Aug. 1. TopicalsOnLine was run by a member volunteer as a service to all ATA members. Unfortunately he is unable to keep up with managing the site. We appreciate his contributions to TopicalsOnLine and his other work on behalf of the ATA. We are sorry that he is unable to continue managing the site.

We would also like to thank the hundreds of members who have supported the site as either buyers or sellers over the past five years.

The Vote is in!

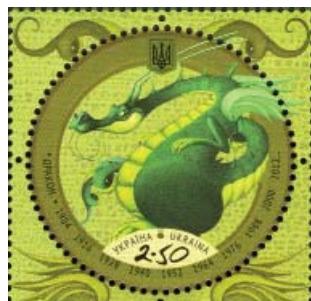
Our incoming board members have been elected to three-year terms. Don Neal, Carol Costa, Tom Broadhead and John Leszak will all be sworn in at the annual ATA meeting on Friday Aug. 10 in Columbus, after having been guests at the board meeting preceding the show. These new board members will be replacing Dennis Dengel, Jack André Denys (who will still be Immediate Past President) and Richard (Dick) Roman, all of whose terms expire this year. Please welcome our new board!

About the Cover

This month's cover features an enlargement of Mongolia Scott 2734, an overprinted version of a 2000 stamp (Scott 2404), created for the China 2011 stamp exhibition, nearly a dozen years after the release of the original stamp!

The design of the stamp itself features a depiction of a dragon as is commonly depicted in China (long, thin body, antlers or horns, whiskers and serpentine body).

A Western dragon, by contrast (shown on the 2013 Ukraine issue at right, Scott 953e), is typically a little fatter, breathes fire and frequently has wings. Chinese dragons are typically good luck; Western dragons, not-so-much... ☺



TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

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

Managing Director Andrew McGavin of Universal Philatelic Auctions explains:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Universal Unique Reducing Estimate lot system was born

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

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

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

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

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**Please contribute to the 2018 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...
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TOPICAL POSTLINE

Letters to the Editor

Jack André Denys provided a nice tribute to the late Ann Triggle in the May-June issue of *Topical Time* (Page 61). There was one error, where he states that she received the APS Luff Award "for outstanding service to philately." The same error occurred in George Griffenhagen's "Jottings from the Editor" column in the March-April 2006 issue and also in a recent issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

To set the record straight, Ann's Luff award in 2005 was in the category of Outstanding Service to the American

Philatelic Society. This can be seen on the APS website under "Awards." The errors do not detract from the fact that Ann contributed in many areas of philately that reflect positively on the APS, ATA and the many other organizations that she served.

Her generous support in so many aspects of the hobby and her wise counsel will be greatly missed.

—Alan Warren
Exton PA

Alan, thank you very much for the clarification! — Wayne

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Here Be Dragons

Notes from the CartoPhilatelic Society

by Miklos Pinther

A peculiarity of many Medieval and Renaissance maps is the incorporation of illustrations that may or may not be of cartographic relevance or value. They take the form of sailing vessels, blocks of descriptions, strange mythical figures and elaborate cartouches. Among them we may find a dragon-like creature (Romania Scott 4669).

The earliest, and probably the only assertion that refers specifically to dragons on maps, is "Here be dragons," or "HC SVNT DRACONES," as inscribed in Latin on a small copper globe. The writing on it is difficult to discern. This is one of the oldest globes, ca. 1510, known today as the Hunt-Lenox Globe (shown nearby). It is one



Hunt-Lenox globe (above-left) and engraved detail (above).
The New York Public Library.
Alas, no stamps have been issued depicting it.

550 YEARS-FROM THE BIRTH OF AMERIGO VESPUCCI (1454-1512)
450 YEARS-MERCATOR PRINTS THE GREAT MAP OF EUROPE 1554
400 YEARS-HONDRIUS PUBLISHES THE MERCATOR HONDRIUS ATLAS - 1604
THE 23rd CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
2004 BUCHAREST-ROMANIA



Romania 4669



Indonesia 477

Close examination will reveal that the note referring to dragons is located on or near Indonesia. Was this a warning of danger on a popular trade route to the Spice Islands? Or just a note that such strange creatures might be found there? Indeed, some historians postulate that it may refer to komodo varan, or the giant lizards of Komodo Island, and not to the mythical dragon (Indonesia 477).

Of course, the unknown was always a great source for the imagination. This image from a marine chart by Olaus Magnus, prepared just 20 years after the Lenox Globe was engraved, illustrates the increased sea traffic by ships from various countries, and the "dragon-like monsters" that sank them. It is perhaps a parody of the dangers of the Age of Explorations (Iceland 681).



Iceland 681

At some point the question arose whether cartographers were just filling empty, unknown places. And we all recall the four lines that satirist Jonathan Swift penned:

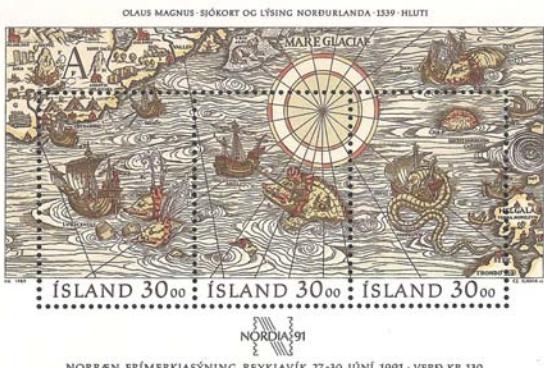
*So geographers, in Afric maps,
With savage pictures fill their gaps,
And o'er uninhabitable downs
Place elephants for wand of towns.*

One example is Martin Waldseemüller's famous 12-sheet map of 1507, which put "America" on the map for the first time. His maps, in particular, contain numerous informative blocks of notes. However, there are no sea monsters or dragons here. Bophuthatswana reproduced one of the Waldseemüller sheets (Scott 269) on which we may note that the elephants are where they are supposed to be! Germany also reproduced it in a different manner on Scott 2439.

Historian Chet Van Duzer recently discussed the notion that some cartographers suffered from horror vacui -- their fear or hesitancy to leave spaces blank on maps that might be filled with decorations. While the premise has never been examined carefully, he noted that

this impulse maybe a factor in the design of 16th- to the early 18th-century maps or, indeed, it could be a response to requests from potential clients. (Ref. Lecture at the New York Map Society on Nov. 15, 2017).

Returning to the image of dragons on maps, we note that there are two distinct perceptions or notions of this creature. Since the 11th century, in most western cultures the dragon has been viewed as a ferocious evil. Many stamps feature St. George defeating the dragon,



Bophuthatswana 269



Germany 2439



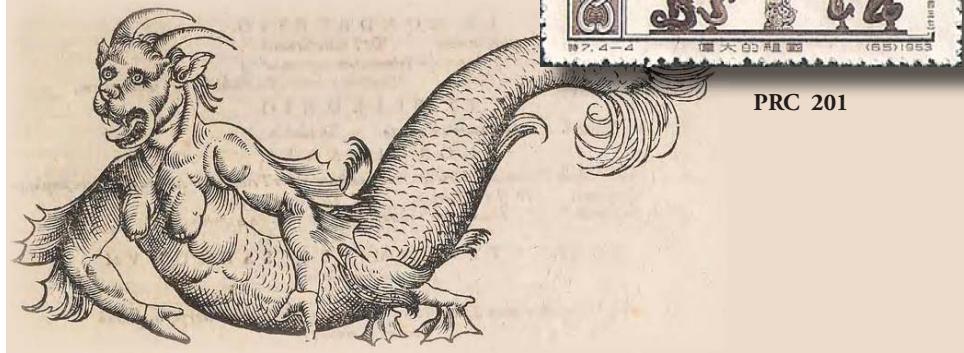
Germany 823

China 10

saving humanity from evil (Germany 823). Not so in the Orient. The myth of the dragon in China dates back to the 14th century BC. It is a magnificent, powerful serpent that could perform feats of magic.

It has long served as China's national symbol, and it has also captivated the imagination of peoples in several other eastern cultures. Thus, it is not a surprise that the first postage stamps of China depict a dragon (China 10).

The munificence of the dragon is appropriately depicted on this stamp where dragons protectively hold up a Ming Dynasty armillary sphere on Peoples Republic of China Scott 201. ■



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TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

Here Be Dragons, Too!

You can feel the excitement in the air; in fact you can almost taste it, touch it and even smell it.

The huge, combined ATA National Topical Stamp Show – APS StampShow scheduled for Aug. 9-12 is just around the corner and it promises to be the philatelic event of the year – on the order of an

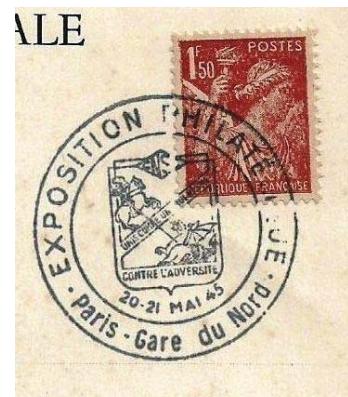
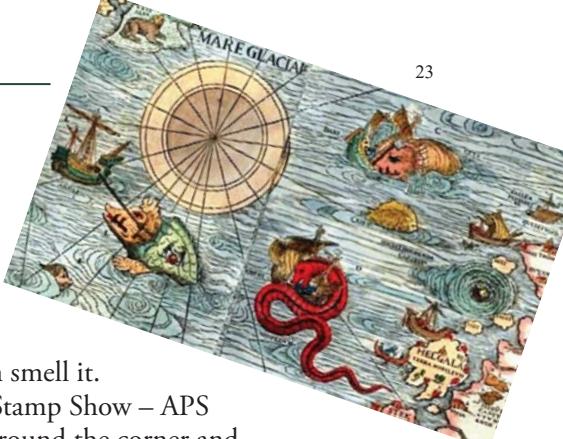
Figure 1.

international show in both size and scope. Your fingers tingle with excitement as you organize your wantlists and checklists and plan your hotel stay. You can almost taste the fried bologna sandwiches and Goetta sausages Ohio is known for, as the show is being held in Columbus. And, as you breathe in the delicious, anticipatory aromas, your nose suddenly picks up some unusual odors mixed in amongst the oh-so-sweet smells. Although familiar, it takes a moment or two for your olfactory center to realize what they are. Is that a hint of sulfur and brimstone? Of smoke? Nah, it couldn't be. Well, actually, it could!

First, a little background: ATA First Vice President Dawn Hamman contacted me awhile back and asked me to pen an article for the APS' *American Philatelist* StampShow edition, the theme being "Here be Dragons," a perfect fit with the set of dragon stamps planned to be issued by the USPS during the show. Yeah, I could do that, and given who my Patron Saint is ... I jumped right in! I showed and discussed various dragon stamps and some really colorful souvenir sheets dating from the classic era up to more recent issues. I even threw in a die proof for effect. What I didn't do was include any pictorial postmarks! My thought was, in keeping with the spirit of our two organizations combining forces, I had the makings of a perfect sister article for *Topical Time*, so here we are and here we go.

The phrase "Here be Dragons" is one that I'm sure the cartographers amongst us find easily recognizable. Back in the old days, when the world was still flat and a large part of it hadn't yet been explored, the common medieval practice was to place an illustration of a dragon, sea monster or other dangerous critter – real or not-so-much – in any uncharted territory to act as a warning to travelers and voyagers. Figure 1 shows us a section of a map of Scandinavia and beyond, drawn in the 1500s by an Italian cartographer, depicting several sea monsters wreaking havoc with some sailing vessels. That red, wingless, dragon-like serpent would have been more than enough to convince me to keep my ship well to the east of those waters!

Appearing in many cultures in various yet similar forms, dragons were first recorded in the



mythology of the Ancient Near East, taking us all the way back to the 4th millennium BC and the so-called Cradle of Civilization. Then depicted as more of a snake-like being, it took the Middle Ages and Western Europe to morph the dragon into the winged, fire-breathing critter with a long, curly tail that we are all now familiar with. Forms of this serpent range from the malevolent, such as those depicting either a form of the devil or those reported to enjoy devouring people (such as the Albanian “Bolla”), to their benevolent counterparts, such as the Japanese “Ryūjin,” a dragon that – like a genie



SIR GARNETT WOLSELEY

Figure 4.

Anyway, one version of the legend has it that a vicious dragon was terrorizing a village but was bought off by the villagers who offered him a pair of sheep to devour each day. Unfortunately, supply couldn't keep up with demand and the village eventually ran out of sheep. So, instead of switching to some other barnyard animal to gift to the dragon, some genius in the village came up with a new plan: let's feed him one of our children each day instead.

For the greater good, the villagers, also apparently geniuses, eagerly

– grants wishes.* To the Chinese, the Imperial Dragon (or “Lung”), is considered to be the dominant of their four benevolent spiritual animals (followed by the Phoenix, the Unicorn and the Tortoise).

When I was growing up, my parents decided it would be a splendid idea to introduce me to my Patron Saint, Saint George the Dragon Slayer. Not satisfied with just telling me the story, they hung a picture of him on one of the walls of my bedroom, sitting on his horse, sticking our main character in his gizzard with his lance. Imagine a little kid trying to fall asleep with this drama playing out overhead. Between that and the bedtime stories that included woodsmen whacking wolves on their heads with their axes and evil witches being stuffed into kitchen

ovens, it's amazing that I ever got any sleep at all during my early days ... but I digress.



Figure 3.



Figure 5.

concurred, so each day a lottery was held and the “lucky winner” was led off to the nearby lake where the dragon lived and was handed over (i.e. became an entrée).

This went well enough until one day the king’s daughter drew the short straw. The king, hysterical at the thought of losing his only daughter, offered up all of his gold and silver for some other child to take her place, but the villagers wouldn’t have it. So, dressed as a bride, off to the dragon’s lake she went. Saint George, perched upon his horse, happened to be riding by and, when he witnessed this scene, despite the girl’s admonitions to go away, decided to wait until the dragon emerged, at which point he wounded it with his lance. Dragging the dragon (draggin’ the dragon?) back to the village, George offered to kill the serpent if the villagers agreed to convert to Christianity, with which – given the circumstances – they all



Figure 7. Figure 2 brings us to our first example, this one from France that, in part, commemorates the philatelic exhibition held at Paris in 1945. Depicting Saint George and the dragon, the crest in the design is of the National Railroad Solidarity Committee, a railway workers’ union, and speaks of their being “united as one man against adversity.”

Next, we’ll hop across The Channel to visit Great Britain to check out a couple of St. George markings. The first was used to commemorate the “General Wolesley Exhibition” held in the Chelsea district of south-west London in 1972 (Figure 3). For reasons unknown, Gen. Garnett Joseph Wolseley’s surname appears spelled Wolesley in all the markings I’ve seen related to this event, so it remains unclear if this is an error in the marking or if there were simply multiple renderings of his name. Field Marshall Wolsley (1833-1913) served



Figure 6.

readily went along. The dragon was then summarily beheaded by Saint George who ended up marrying the king’s daughter ... and they all lived happily ever after. Except, of course, for the dragon.

OK, that’s enough background, let’s start looking at some pictorial postmarks!



Figure 8.

in Burma, the Crimean War, during the India mutiny, in Canada and Africa and served as Commander in Chief of the British military from 1895-1900 (Figure 4). Our marking, with a terrific example of Saint George doing his slaying-thing, was issued at the Duke of York's Headquarters.



Figure 9 (left).

Figure 10 (above).

Our second British pictorial (Figure 5) commemorates the centenary of the First British Open Golf Championship, held at the Royal St. George's Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent. It's unclear from our marking, used in 1994, if Saint George is dispatching our dragon with a lance or a nine iron...

Our final Saint George and the dragon example comes from Gößnitz, Germany.



Figure 11.

pictorials that feature only our main character. Helped in part by the Chinese Zodiac's duodecennial celebration of The Year of the Dragon, there are plenty of pictorials out there, a testament to our serpent's world-wide popularity.

Let's start "down under" in Sydney, Australia, with a first-day marking used in 2000 that showcases one happy-looking dragon (Figure 7). Used to cancel Australia's half of a joint issue with Hong Kong, this pictorial celebrates dragon boat racing, described on a 1985 souvenir sheet, also issued by Hong Kong.

Used in 1947, this one commemorates a stamp exhibition tied to the town's annual meeting of German philatelic clubs, sanctioned by what amounts to the German version of our American Philatelic Society (Figure 6).

We now leave Saint George behind to concentrate on those

Figure 12.



In the past, fishing communities competed each year in dragon boat races to commemorate the patriotism of Chu Yuen, a Chinese Poet who drowned himself in a river in protest against a corrupt government in the 4th Century BC. The dragon boat races of today attract a wide international field and have become one of the most colorful festivals in Asia.

When Qu Yuan (alternate spelling) drowned himself in the Mi Lo River, the townspeople beat drums and threw glutinous rice dumplings called 'zongzi' into the water to dissuade fish from dining on

drums and threw glutinous rice dumplings called 'zongzi' into the water to dissuade fish from dining on his body. Today this event is memorialized by Chinese people around the world who eat zongzi and either go swimming or dip their hands into bodies of water. Known as the 'Tuen Ng Festival,' the Dragon Boat Race, using 30-foot boats with crews of

twenty paddlers, is one of the highlights of this celebration.*

Figure 8 takes us to another dragon boat race pictorial, one from the People's Republic of China that was used in 2003. This one commemorates the first Winter Races held in the Province of Jilin.

From happy-looking we

go to a scary

version of our scaly friend with another first-day pictorial, this one from Klagenfurt, Austria. This marking was used in 1988 and commemorates the local stamp club (Figure 9). Klagenfurt is home to the Lindwurm, a winged dragon that serves as the town's coat of arms. With water instead of fire coming out of his mouth (a much safer alternative), the Lindwurm is part of a large fountain, commissioned in 1583, located in the town's main square (Figure 10). Hundreds of years ago, the Lindwurm is said to have been killed near this Carinthian capital, making the area safe and habitable.



Figure 14.



Figure 13.



Figure 15.



Figure 16.



Figure 17

Figure 11, a 2012 first-day pictorial, commemorates 200 years of Chinese immigration to Brazil. Note the matching stylized dragon silhouette depicted on the cliffs on the stamp on the left: nice concordance! Why is the dragon laughing in the stamp at the right? Hopefully because he's happy... and not hungry...

Another stylized dragon, this one from Montreal, Quebec, Canada – and a really sharp-looking one – is another first-day marking, this one for the Year of the Dragon that, in this case, fell in the year 2000 (Figure 12).

Returning to China, the land of the dragons, let's take a look at two more pictorials, one from 2007 (Figure 13) and the other from 2012 (Figure 14). Both of these are again first-day cancels, the latter also being another Year of



Figure 18

the Dragon issue, with the dragon's body in the shape of a stylized "2012" – a nice touch. The stamps, especially the issues from 2007, are absolutely stunning!



Figure 19.

1977 first-day cancel. Both the stamp and the marking commemorate Saint-Amand-les-Eaux, a spa town located in the Scarpe-Escaut Regional Nature Park. There was an abbey founded there in the 7th century by a friar, Amand of Maastricht, that – over the years – was destroyed a number of times, either by wars or by fire, each time being rebuilt. The village that grew up around it simply took on the name of its patron saint. Today, all that remains of the abbey

The Australian territory of Christmas Island is our next stop. Here we have yet another first-day marking (I'm sensing a trend, here) from the year 2000, which almost automatically makes this another Year of the Dragon (another trend...) item, which it is (Figure 15).

Off to France we go for a pictorial of decent concordance with the stamp it cancels, you guessed it, a

is its architecturally ornate church tower that stands 82-meters tall and now houses a museum. On the fifth floor, there are several statues of dragons that symbolize the evil spirit tamed by Saint Amand (Figure 16).

We'll cross the English Channel again to check out a fairly well-known serpent, the Welsh Red Dragon (Y Ddraig Goch), a symbol used to represent everything Wales going all the way back to King Arthur, who used it as his battle standard. Arthur's father's name was Uther Pendragon ("Pen" = Head plus "Dragon"), which clearly provides one of the most plausible explanations for the origin of the symbol. Our two examples are first-day pictorials used in Cardiff,

the first from 1980 and the second from 1991, both used to cancel Welsh Machin definitive issues (Figures 17 and 18 respectively).

Germany will be our final European stop and

from here we have two dragon pictorial examples as well. The first, used in Berlin in 1972,

commemorates the 500th birthday anniversary of Lucas Cranach the Elder, a German Renaissance painter and printmaker. (Figure 19). Most of his career was spent in Wittenberg as the official court painter for Frederick the Wise of Saxony. He not only

created portraits

of the Royals, but also paintings of religious subjects related both to Catholicism and the Lutheran Reformation (along with the occasional nudie). Around 1515, he painted St. George with the Head of the Dragon, which now hangs in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, Austria (Figure 20).

Our second German example commemorates a competitive Youth Stamp Exhibition held at Oberhausen in 2000, a "Jahr des Drachens" (Year of the Dragon) cancellation (Figure 21).



Figure 20.



Figure 21.

the 500th birthday anniversary of Lucas Cranach the Elder, a German Renaissance painter and printmaker. (Figure 19). Most of his career was spent in Wittenberg as the official court painter for Frederick the Wise of Saxony. He not only

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Around 1515, he painted St. George with the Head of the Dragon, which now hangs in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, Austria (Figure 20).



Figure 22.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.

Next we'll briefly visit Japan to check out two pictorials, the first from 1987, used to cancel a pair of New Year Greetings stamps on their first day of issue (Figure 22), and the second (Figure 23), used in 2000. The demeanor of both of these critters appears to be quite pleasant, which is typical of the more modern-day Japanese

dragons. Those from their ancient mythology ... not so much, as exemplified by their "poster boy" of mean, the Yamata-no-Orochi, a rather large serpent with eight heads and eight tails that seemed to have developed a taste for little Japanese girls.

Heading west from Japan and across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong, on the southern Chinese coast, lies Macau. A former Portuguese territory, it is now, since 1999, a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.



Figure 26.

dress up in dragon costumes and join parades and other large holiday celebrations, such as New Year's Day, for example. Our 1992 first-day pictorial postmark is, in a nutshell, fabulous!

Along similar lines is a celebration known as The Drunken Dragon Festival, or Tchoi Long, here illustrated in our Figure 26 example, another first-day pictorial, this one of 1997 vintage. This festival kicks off on the evening of the eighth day of the fourth moon of the lunar calendar (in May or June, our example being from May). The festivities, organized by fishmongers, are restricted to the Chinese community associated with the fishing trade. The festival begins next to the São



Figure 25.

As we'll see, these folks know their dragons when it comes to pictorials and postage stamps, regardless of which side of 1999 they're from. Let's start in 1988 with a Year of the Dragon issue with a first-day cancellation where the concordance between the two is pretty much self-evident (Figure 24).

Figure 25 brings us to a strong and widely popular tradition, that of the dragon dance. Here folks

Domingos market in the small temple of Kuan Tai, the warrior god. Only men who work selling fish are allowed to take part. A group leaves the temple in the early morning and parades through the streets of the waterfront portion of the city. They carry the heads and tails of several wooden dragons, drink buckets of sake and beer, and perform a drunken dance accompanied by the sound of drums and the crackle of firecrackers. When one or more become too plastered to continue, they are simply replaced by those less inebriated. They linger next to the fish markets to perform exorcisms and ward off evil spirits. During the parade, which lasts most of the day, the organizers distribute cooked "rice of longevity" and vegetables to spectators, a meal considered to be purifying.

One legend has it that, beset by a plague, the inhabitants of the town decided to sacrifice a sea dragon, known as a "minor dragon," by killing and then cutting it into three pieces. All who drank its blood mixed with seawater were cured. (Gack ... I might have taken my chances on the plague!) Following the sacrifice, the dragon's body disappeared into the sea, but the head and tail were recovered, this probably being why – in the parade – only the head and the tail are used. The dance is symbolic of the search for the dragon's missing body and the alcoholic beverages are the sea water from the area where the dragon was slain (which, beyond a shadow of a doubt, is a way more palatable alternative!).

One last point about this pictorial is that it exemplifies the version of our mythological serpents found in this part of the world: typically wingless and with five-claws per extremity.

Our final marking from Macau, and another beauty, is a first-day pictorial for the 2000 Year of the Dragon celebration (Figure 27).

For those still with me, let's finish up with a set of three home-team markings, the first from Marysville, Calif., that celebrates the 109th Bok Kai Festival. Claimed to include the longest continually held parade in California, the festival is held on the weekend closest to the second day of the second month of the Lunar calendar, and honors Bok Eye, the Chinese Water god

Figure 28.



Figure 27.

that protects Marysville against flooding. The parade's main player is a 175-foot-long dragon, the name and style of which has changed several times over the years. Back in 1989, when our pictorial cancel was used, the serpent, one of the 'Golden Dragon' variety, was named "Kim



Figure 29.

Lung II." He led the parades between 1985-91 (Figure 28).

Figure 29 features the 1994 dragon from Marysville. This one was named "Lung Huang" (Dragon King) and

he served the parade from 1991-2004.

Last but not least, Figure 30 closes us out with a digital color postmark used at San Francisco on a 2012 Year of the Dragon stamp on its first day of issue.

Hopefully this article didn't drag-on too



Figure 30.

long! Have a wonderful summer and, until next time, I'll leave you with this...

Remember with your heart. Go back, go back, and go back. The skies of this world were always meant to have dragons. When they are not there, humans miss them. Some never think of them, of course. But some children, from the time they are small, they look up at a blue summer sky and watch for something that never comes. Because they know. Something that was supposed to be there faded and vanished.
-Robin Hobb

(*) indicates a paragraph taken from my article that appeared in *The American Philatelist*.

PS: In the spirit of equal time, at the end of my APS article I mentioned our American Topical Association, so here I also suggest, for any readers who aren't APS members, take a look-see at our other, venerable national organization. There's strength in numbers plus, with member benefits such as the APS circuit books, it's easy to load up on topicals for one's collections. ☐

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NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW 2018

Aug. 9-12

Fun Awaits in Columbus, Ohio - Cohosted by APS

Are you old enough to remember Sunday evenings when Ed Sullivan would come on television and announce his “really big shew”? We can’t describe our upcoming Stamp Show/National Topical Stamp Show any better than Ed did. How big will this show be? Let’s take a look:

- More than 150 exhibits will fill nearly 1,000 frames. You’ll see all types of exhibits, with those treated thematically in a special section.
- Champion of Champions multi-frame exhibit competition – the best of the best!
- A total of 125 dealers for collectors of topics, countries, covers, cinderellas and much more.
- At least 51 societies, clubs and study units will have booths, programs and meetings.
- ATA members who will be featured speakers include Jeff Lough, Laurie Ryan, Jack André Denys, Mark Thompson and Marci Jarvis.
- ATA will introduce its new book, *What's First?* It pictures and describes the first stamp to show a topic – first train, first bird, first flower and so on. Fascinating reading!
- Visit the ATA Mega-Booth to see the ATA in action. Why not volunteer at the booth and join the fun?
- Visit the APS Mega-Booth to get your free passport to fill with show cinderellas and check out the virtual-reality display.
- The USPS will have a large interactive display in the center of the show, with lots to do, stamps and show cancellations.
- First-day ceremony to introduce colorful dragon-themed stamps.
- ATA Annual Meeting – welcome all (Friday, 1 pm, Room B131)!

That's enough to keep you very busy. But wait, there's more!

- President's Reception Friday evening, Aug. 10, at Schmidt's Sausage Haus.
- Awards Banquet Saturday, Aug. 11. Check APS and ATA websites for availability.
- All-Day tour Monday, Aug. 13: Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, German Village Neighborhood, James Thurber House. Check ATA website for availability. ☎



**What's the most fun of all?
Spending time with other stamp collectors,,,
old friends and new ones.**

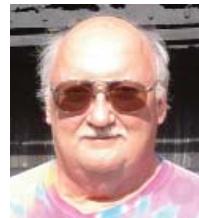
See you in Columbus!

ATA Speakers @ NTSS Columbus 2018

Here be Dragons by Jeff Lough (Thurs. 3pm, Room B232)

A romp through history and a trip around the world with dragons illustrated with a presentation of these creatures on stamps.

Jeff collects about 70 philatelically related things, belongs to 16 different stamp and postal history organizations, including three ATA study units. He is treasurer and membership chair of the Casey Jones Railroad Unit and writes and publishes the newsletter of the Wichita stamp club.



Tolkien, The Hobbit and Other Dragons by Laurie Ryan

(Friday 11am, Room B240)

Come explore the world of myth through the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, as seen on stamps. We'll explore dragons in *The Hobbit*, *Lord of the Rings* and more.

Laurie has been a member of the ATA board for seven years. She has many philatelic interests, and especially has fun collecting stamps picturing fencing, bagpipes, irises, wild cats, newts, hedgehogs and J.R.R. Tolkein.



Women of the Black Heritage Series: From the Fields of Slavery to the Halls of Congress

by Mark Thompson (Friday 3pm, Room B234)

A fascinating look at the remarkable women pictured on stamps in the Black Heritage series.

Mark is active in numerous philatelic organizations including The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER), APS and ATA. *Women of the Black Heritage Series* was his first exhibit, and he is working on a second exhibit on cacheted first-day covers.

A Basic Guide to Looking at Thematic Exhibits

by Jack André Denys (Friday 3pm, Room B230)

Jack, a lifelong philatelist, is the immediate past president of ATA, having served in that role for 10 years. His exhibit on the Bayeux Tapestry has earned numerous national and international awards. He was named the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 2014.



Cats on Stamps from A-Z by Marci Jarvis (Saturday 1pm, Room

B230)

This is Marci's 19th year as editor and writer for *Cat Mews*, the journal of the Cats on Stamps Study Unit. Her collecting interests focus on cats: domestic, wild and heraldic, including postal history. Cats on Stamps meets during many U.S. shows and was also at London 2010 and Melbourne (Australia) 2017. She is a longtime member of ATA and APS and manages the youth area during Westpex in Burlingame, Calif. ☺



MY TOPIC by Dawn Hamman

Esper Hayes

For Esper Hayes, a long philatelic journey began with a childhood love of birds, and a caring father who wanted to expand his daughter's horizons. *"I was just eight years old, but I knew I loved birds. I checked out library books about them, and I sat outside listening to their songs,"* she said.

Esper's father got her started in stamp collecting. They lived next door to the Norfolk, Va., *Clarion*. The staff there would save the envelopes from their mail for her. "I had to search a long time to find a bird!"

she laughed. Her father worked on a train, where he developed friendships. Those friends would bring him stamps for his young daughter.



Esper eventually began compiling albums, and continued to make stamp collecting an important part of her life. She graduated from St. John's University in New York, and went on for a master's from Yeshiva University. A prestigious career in social services followed. Even in retirement, she was active as a volunteer social worker at Seaton Hall, working in the area of human growth and development. In recent years she moved to Charlotte, N.C., to be near her daughter.

"What did I love about stamp collecting, even in childhood? I could learn so much from those beautiful, miniature pieces of art," she said. *"As a busy working mother, I didn't have much time for hobbies. But, I reserved some time each Sunday to work with my stamps. I didn't mind if my non-collecting friends called me, 'nerdy,'"* Esper recalled.

At a first-day ceremony in New York City, Esper met Jesse Owens, who was later pictured on a U.S. postage stamp. He pointed out to her that they were the only black people in the room, and asked her to help get more involved. She promised that she would. When Owens died in 1980, she became determined to fulfill that promise.

While collecting stamps depicting birds was a big part of her life, Esper went on to become



Jesse Owens postage stamp with Esper Hayes, artwork by Higgins Bond.

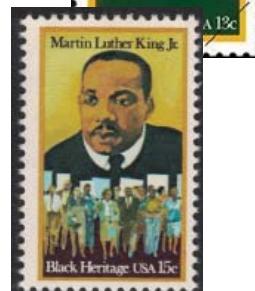
interested in collecting stamps depicting black Americans, "There weren't many back then," she said. Esper became involved with a group interested in the topic, 35 people who called themselves the Black Stamp Collectors.

The group decided to try to expand and increase its activities. Esper sought a mentor from the American Philatelic Society, and Ken Lawrence helped them organize. They produced exhibits depicting various aspects of Black Heritage on stamps, and showed them at New York events. After much deliberation, the group called themselves The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER), which is now a large, diverse and active group, and is this year's featured study unit at the Columbus show.

Esper delights in the number of Black heritage stamps that have been issued since she got involved in the early 1980s.

"We have seen numerous countries beyond the U.S. issue stamps of our heritage. How wonderful!" she said.

Summing up her involvement in topical collecting, Esper said enthusiastically, *"My stamps have been my best friends!"* □

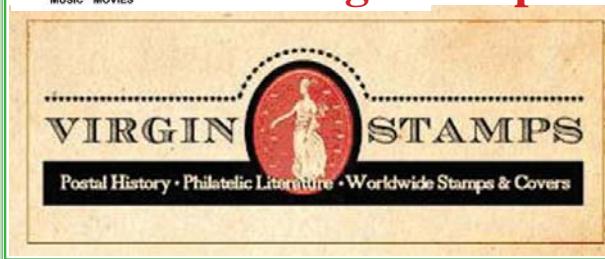


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And the Award Winners Are ... by Lynn H. Vernon

Recent shows and APS events produced the following citations (*denotes ATA member).

***Dawn Hamman** took home first place honors at the Garfield-Perry Show in Cleveland, Ohio, for her exhibit *Backyard Chickens*. In addition, her exhibit, *How to Grow Tomatoes*, received the ATA one-frame award. ***Phil Stager** received the second place ATA medal at the same show for his exhibit, *Cleveland - The Group Plan of 1903*.

Southern Oregon's Sopex merited ***Laurie Anderson** a first place ATA award for her exhibit, *Go For the Gold*. At the same time, ***Cathie Osborne** was honored with the ATA one-frame award for her exhibit, *Bellflowers*.

In Burlingame, Calif., the Westpex show honorees included in the ATA Youth category **Geneva Varga**, for her exhibit on *The Folklore Mysteries of Harry Potter*. In addition, ***Igor Grigorian's Pre-Christian Armenia: From Origins to the Temple of Garni** exhibit took the ATA first place medal, while ***Carol j. Edholm** took a second place award for her exhibit, *The Sacred Peafowl*. ***Hovhannes Koshkakarian** received third place ATA honors for his exhibit, *The Day the Earth Shook*. Lastly, the one-frame award went to ***Jean C. Stout** for her showcase of *Honoring Old Glory! How to Respect, Care for and Display our Nation's Flag*.

The Philatelic show held in Boxborough, Mass., produced the following award winners: ***Van Siegling** took a first place ATA medal with his exhibit on *The Magical World of Harry Potter*, while ***Greg Balagian's Felines in Armenia and Armenian Culture** won the ATA one-frame award at this prestigious show.

Rochester, N.Y.'s Ropex show held in Canandaigua, N.Y., delivered an ATA award to ***George DeKornfeld** for his one-frame exhibit on *Making Whitetail Venison Sausage*.

Back in the West, Portland, Ore.'s Pipex generated the following ATA winners: ***Alistair Watson's** exhibit, *The Blue Whale*, doubled down by taking both the ATA first-place medal and the ATA one-frame award. *Horses: Origin, Breeds and Roles* exhibited by ***Donna Trathen**, took ATA second place medal, while **Janice Brooks** took ATA third place award for her exhibit, *The Evolution of the World Wildlife Fund Logo*. **Amelia Kelbert** was cited by winning the ATA Youth Award for her exhibit, *The World of the Monarch Butterfly*.

Congratulations to all winners. ☐*

Remember: ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. A list of available awards and their criteria can be found on the ATA web page, www.americantopicalassn.org/awardstopicalexhibitions.shtml

The awards can be obtained by completing an ATA Awards Order Form (same website as above) and sending it to Lynn H. Vernon at vscs@embarqmail.com or 8430 Iris Rd, Plymouth IN 46563-9055.

Only those shows submitting a report to the Awards Chairman can be acknowledged in *Topical Time* and can receive future awards.

BASICS AND BEYOND

Jack André Denys



The Topical Write-Up

[Editor's Note: In the last issue, this column encouraged topicalists to write up their collections. Now, this current column follows up by repeating an appropriate classic column from *Topical Time* of long ago. It was written by Donald Beuthel, the first ATA member to earn the topical Grand award and also serve as ATA president. Then it was included in *ATA Handbook No. 153*, *Topical Helpline*, still available for \$5. Most recently it was reprinted in the July-Aug 2009 *Topical Time*. The content is outdated only in its mention of a typewriter. The columnist is interested in knowing what you'd like to read about in this "Basics and Beyond" column. You may contact him: jdenys@verizon.net. His mailing address is found on Page 4.]

The greatest temptation you must avoid is to overwrite the collection. You have this great amount of knowledge that you feel you must share completely and thus lengthy write-ups have a way of happening. This length causes the casual observer to skip that much reading and go on, possibly missing a very important part of your story. Please notice that I just used the word "story." Remember, a good collection tells a story using the philatelic items to provide most of the information. A good topical write-up proceeds from a natural beginning of the collection to a natural conclusion, or end, and supplements the obvious information shown on the philatelic material. The key to good writeups is the **four Cs: Clear, Correct, Complete, Concise**. Let's look at these four keys:

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Clear: While you may have learned a new vocabulary when you did your research, it is most important to forget some of the technical terms you have acquired and put the explanations in simple, nontechnical words that everyone can understand.

Correct: While you are converting your explanations from the technical to the non-technical, be sure that the final statements are correct after the translation. Also, verify your basic data. Hopefully you will have several sources of information so that you don't have to rely on only one source.

Complete: You will want to tell as much of the story as is necessary, but telling the complete story may be more than you need in this situation. Complete can have a way of becoming long and more

than anyone ever needed to know to fully understand and appreciate your collection. This leads to probably the most important part of philatelic write-ups.

Concise: This is the most difficult of the four keys. It is always easier to ramble on and on than it is to be brief. Remember that you are not writing a textbook on the subject. George Guzzio and Mary Ann Owens often used this analogy: "Do the write-ups like you are sending a telegram and are short of money." You say just enough to get the message across and one that can be quickly read and easily understood.

If it appears that the overall write-up for a section of your collection is a little long, spread it out so that there is write-up on each page. The write-ups on a page should tell about the philatelic material on that page. If a write-up for a particular page appears to be long, but necessary, break it up and place it in several well-separated locations on the page. In that manner it does not seem to be as long. The strategic placement of the write-up on a page can help to balance a page, but try to avoid placing the write-up in the same location on every page.

Surely, by now, you are wondering, "How do I do this write-up?" In many of the older collections the write-up, or narrative, was done by hand, either printing or carefully handwritten. Some collectors still use a typewriter and some collectors have discovered that the computer makes beautiful pages. Different fonts can be used to distinguish between thematic write-up and philatelic write-up. Whatever method or fonts you select, it must be easily read. For example, the Old English type may seem to fit a topic on the Queens of England, but few people will take the time to read it because the print is very difficult to read. I recently received a letter from an old friend of mine. I am going to summarize from his comments because he reinforces some of what I have previously said. He says that he started collecting stamps at age 12 and joined the U.S. Navy at age 17. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Naturally his collecting interests turned to ships and the sea. He states, "*Initially, I had the grand ambition to collect all stamps pertaining to the sea, ships, boats, fish and lighthouses. It soon became apparent that my objective was too broad so I settled for watercraft of all types. The title of the collection became 'The Call of the Sea.'*" He continues, "*The point of this bit of personal history is that the theme of my collection came from my way of life.*" He was familiar with the subject. He says, "*Expressing my thoughts on album pages by means of stamps was a pleasure. So it will be for anyone who collects a topic showing something of his way of life.*" He goes on to say that after a selection of a topic is made, much study of the subject will be necessary before an intelligent storyline can be accomplished. He suggests that the philatelic material should be kept on stock pages until you know your subject; then a natural arrangement and the story-line will come. He goes on to say that the article "Luther on the Trail of Gold," by Marian Bowman in the July-Aug. 1996 issue of *Topical Time* should be required reading for all who are starting collections, whether they have aspirations of exhibiting or not. 

MINT, TOPICAL SETS RARELY OFFERED BY OTHER SOURCES.

PLEASE SEE MY EBAY STORE:

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

THANK YOU, PETER MORVILLE



EXHIBITING 101: CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECT

Robert R. Henak

In this article, we start addressing the nitty-gritty of putting together a philatelic exhibit.

Choosing what you want to exhibit would seem to be an easy decision. After all, you know what you collect and how hard can it be to mount those items onto pages and slap them into the frames?

Not so fast! Keep in mind that a thematically organized exhibit is supposed to be an organized showing of philatelic (and other) material that tells a story with a beginning, a middle and an end. (Topical exhibits have a different structure we will discuss in a later article.) Your award level will depend on how well and how completely your exhibit succeeds in telling the story you have chosen to tell. Choosing your subject thus can have a significant impact on the success of your exhibit and its award level.

First and foremost, therefore, choose a subject for your exhibit that truly interests you. If you choose to exhibit a subject simply because you happen to have a lot of philatelic material in that area, but you have no real interest in it, that will come through in the exhibit. If you are bored with the material in your exhibit, the judges and the public likely will be as well. Since exhibiting takes a lot of work in researching the exhibit, locating the material and mounting it, it should at least be on a subject that you enjoy learning about. [See also "Basics and Beyond," Page 38.]

Second, you should choose a subject for which you have – or can get – sufficient philatelic material to tell the story. For instance, if you choose to exhibit the voyages of Christopher Columbus but cannot afford the higher-value U.S. Columbians of

1893, it would be difficult to tell that story and likely would result in a lower award level, if an award level is important to you.

This does not mean that you should not try that exhibit. Award level is not everything. As discussed in an earlier article, moreover, exhibiting is a good way to help you find the more elusive (and not necessarily expensive) items needed for your collection. As you gain a reputation as the Columbus exhibitor, for example, dealers and other collectors will be on the lookout for items that may fit into your exhibit.

THE OLIVE—*OLEA EUROPAEA*

This exhibit attempts to describe with varied philatelic material, thousands of years on the origin and evolution of the olive tree, from ancient times to today; its many uses and symbolisms, and its essential relation to man. Mythology tells us of Athena's great gift to mankind: the olive. The Old Testament's olive oil was a divine gift to the Hebrews. The world's oldest olive tree, in the Holy Land, is 6,000 years old. "The Sionite olive tree of Noah," are located in the remote village of Biecheshoh in northern Lebanon, at an elevation of 4,300 ft (1,311 m). Some of those trees are older than 6,000 years, oldest on Earth. Pictured only on a fiscal stamp from Lebanon.



The title page of Vincent De Luca's topical exhibit on olives, showing an effective use of title and scope.

The title page of one of Ray Cartier's exhibits, which shows creative use of thematic storytelling.

Third, in choosing a subject for your exhibit, you must consider its scope. That is, you must have both enough material to fill the frames and tell your story, and not so broad a subject as to be unworkable.

The standard philatelic exhibit frame holds 16 normal-sized (8½- by 11-inch) pages of material in four rows of four pages each. Some local shows use older frames holding four, six or, in the case of the Rockford Stamp Club until recently, almost nine pages with substantial overlap. The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs and some other shows are introducing the concept of four- and eight-page non-competitive exhibits or locally judged, full-frame exhibits. Although it is not always possible to totally fill the frame, judges frown upon exhibits that suddenly end early, leaving a row or two of blank space at the bottom of the frame.

At the same time, the subject must not be so huge that the exhibitor is unable to adequately tell the story in the frames available. For instance, the story of an exhibit on animals likely could not be told adequately in 50 or more frames, let alone in the 10-frame maximum allowed in a World Series of Philately show. More workable would be an exhibit on cougars or wolves, although Fred Ziemann's national gold-medal-winning exhibit on wolves shows how much there is much to tell even on a more limited subject.

In short, it is often necessary to find some natural or logical boundaries for the exhibit so it is neither too broad as to be superficial nor so narrow as to be meaningless.

Finally, although it may seem obvious, the title of your exhibit is very important in defining the story you present. Exhibitors, however, often miss this fact. The judges will take your title as reflecting the intended scope of your exhibit and will assess how well the material and write-up meet that standard. Accordingly, precision in your title is critical.

For instance, the judges will expect an exhibit titled *Bears* to cover all types of bears, not just grizzly bears. Similarly, *Equines* suggests that the exhibit will cover everything about equines. Thus, the judges would penalize an exhibit with that title showing only horse covers or modern equines. If you simply do not have the material to cover the broader topic, adjust your title accordingly, perhaps to something like *Horses in the Modern World*.

In the end, however, keep in mind that your first exhibit will not be perfect. If you wait to start exhibiting until you have every possible philatelic item you would like on snakes or the philosophy of Voltaire, you will never exhibit and, as a result, may miss your chance to obtain those elusive covers or stamps. Exhibiting, like everything else in life, is a work in progress. You cannot progress without starting. ■

HOW WE GOT MEN TO THE MOON



Never Beaten Card depicts the first landing on the moon by Neil Armstrong (1969). All the men involved in the project and 47 rockets mounted. The rocket were 10 (shortened) followed by an explosive and craters. When the smoke cleared, Was the smoke cleared, Was the smoke no longer on Earth.

This exhibit traces the dreams, inventions, scientists, technicians and other factors that led to man's extraneous flights to the moon with the subsequent landing and safe return by six of those crews. The three United States manned projects leading to these achievements were Mercury (6 flights); Gemini (10 flights); and Apollo (11 flights). But there are many other factors that helped lead to the necessary communication, navigation, satellite tests, radiation tests and so on, all of which are characterized here in this chronological, postmarked history of early U.S. space exploration.

There were several ways to begin this exhibit: Endeavor giving Vice Biden approval to design the Saturn V rocket; JFK's inauguration speech; the launch of Sputnik 1 or Explorer 1 etc. This exhibitor believes that the inauguration of John F. Kennedy sparked the beginning of creation and proves that page 1 of this exhibit using the words of Werner von Braun.

Within this Astronautics exhibit are several families of event covers, included are U.S. stratospheric balloon flights, rocket programs, "Coyote" flights, "Crew" flights, International Space Station (ISS), International Space Station (ISS) and "Space" programs, inventors, scientists, NASA VIP Cards, National Space Center (NSC) "Officials", and more. Also it contains the signatures of many American who flew in these programs along with several of the scientists, inventors, managers and others who brought about these tremendous achievements.

Small red dots will be seen near an upper corner of many of the more difficult to acquire covers. Because of the nature of having to explain historical backgrounds or stories of interest, a red triangle will be found at the top of those interesting pages which require excess verbiage explaining the consequences of several events.

A single frame of "PRECURSOR" material is needed to explain how the events led up to the first U.S. satellite. It includes investigation, invention, rocketry experiments, rocket planes, numerous achievements and politics that came together before named flight assignments. This is the story of how *WE* (the United States of America) got man to the moon and safely home again!

State Checklist Project Update

Mike Vagnetti

Beth Scully and Clarence Wagner are to be commended for being at the forefront of this endeavor. They both have been fantastic resources and major contributors. Beth can direct volunteers and answer some of their technical questions about their checklist work. I don't know how Clarence does it, either; his checklists are a lifetime of accumulated information. The ATA is so fortunate to have both of these individuals!

Clarence has compiled a list of issued worldwide stamps for **every** state! He has also sent lists for American Samoa, Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, State Birds, State Wildflowers, Birds, Butterflies, Fruit, Ladybugs and Honeybees. His lists, though, need to be transposed into our database form.

As of June 1, 2018, we have seven states **completed**: Michigan, Ohio, Louisiana, Maryland, Florida, Washington and Arizona.



We have volunteers working on these states: California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin.

So that makes 22 out of the 50 states that are either completed or being worked on. We still could use your help. If you are interested and willing to donate some of your time and talent, please contact the ATA Checklist Coordinator, Mike Vagnetti at atastatechecklistproject@gmail.com for more information on what to do and how to do it.

Here is what is involved in compiling the State specific checklists: You will be emailed all of your chosen state-specific material that we have on file.

What's your collecting passion?

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

You will then work from this list and transfer this information to the template “Form for ATA State Checklist Project,” which you will receive from the ATA. This form is used by the checklist coordinators. This way every state will be submitted in the same format. Please input your state specific material on this form and add items that you feel will fit into the category.

You will also receive an Excel file titled “ATA Stamp IDs” that has the StampID Numbers of all the related U.S. stamps that are in our dATABse. The numbers in the first column are the StampID numbers that are so very helpful to our checklist coordinators who will be adding the state lists to our dATABse. Put the StampID number in the first column from this file next to the corresponding stamp in the “Form for ATA State Checklist Project” sheet.

There is no deadline for this project, so proceed at your own pace. If you need more info, please don’t hesitate to ask. Your contribution will be recognized by the ATA and listed as such. ☐



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FUNTASTIC FILATELY

Jack André Denys

You may have heard of flyspeck philately: the examination of stamps under magnification to detect frequently minute printing varieties. Well, meet its cousin – punctuation philately. Quick: name one U.S. stamp whose design includes a period. A comma. A dash.

Many U.S. stamps contain periods in their design. Two are in the 1960 American Credo set: Franklin (Scott 1140) and Lincoln (Scott 1143). Two periods appear on the six “P.S. Write Soon” tabs in the 1980 Letter Writing issue (Scott 1805-10). And, speaking of quotation marks, they are also on U.S. Scott 1361, issued in 1968, showing Trumbull’s “Battle of Bunker Hill.”

The Franklin Credo gives us a bonus, a comma, in addition to a period. Other issues also have that mark, including the Franklin 300th birth anniversary foursome (4021-4024).

How about dashes and hyphens? Dashes separate two related statements, while hyphens join two or more words together. These two are sometimes confused because they look alike. But they are used differently – dashes have spaces on both sides, while hyphens do not.



Dashes appear, for example, on the Prexies (Scott 803-834), separating the years of the presidents’ terms. Likewise, the 1986 Ameripex “Prexies” (Scott 2216-2219). The Americana definitives of 1975-81 have what appear to be very small dashes – looking like periods, but placed where dashes usually are. Four of them appear on the 1964 JFK Memorial issue (Scott 1246), and five on the 1965 Hoover issue (Scott 1269). Hyphens are included in the wording for Scott 1811, the 1980 Americana Violins. It is a “3.5c,” intended for use by “AUTH. NON-PROFIT ORG.” That’s one hyphen and three periods (and an apostrophe thrown in for good measure)!

U.S. stamps of the bicentennial era are especially rich in quotations, and therefore provide a plethora of punctuation-marked stamps. So, let’s see what we can find ... Oh – that last mark, looking like three periods in a row, is called an ellipsis, used when omitting one or more words while quoting a passage or when ending a phrase as if there is more to it ... Like that! And there is the ellipsis – on all four of the “Contributors to the Cause...” issue of 1975 (Scott 1559-1562) and on three of the 1987 Drafting the Constitution stamps (Scott 2356-2358). It is also found on other issues depicting quotations, including two Jeffersons: the Credo (Scott 1141) and his Memorial (Scott 1510 and 1520).

Ah, was that a colon used in the last sentence? Anybody know of any found on U.S. stamps? Or how about semi-colons? Wanna play detective?

Was that was a question mark? Haven't found any, but are there some? Surely, I thought, there must be one on U.S. Scott 924, the 1944 Telegraph Centennial issue. But the first words communicated on that device, "What hath God wrought," do not conclude with one. Maybe there's one on a postmark!

Apostrophes are probably the most misused punctuation marks. The *Oxford English Dictionary* tells us: "The word *it's* is *always* short for 'it is' (as in *it's raining*), or in informal speech, for 'it has' (as in *it's got six legs*). The word *its* means 'belonging to it' (as in *hold its head still while I jump on its back*). It is a possessive pronoun like *his*." If that sounds confusing, that's probably why it's often used incorrectly!

Apostrophes make plural words possessive, as on U.S. Scott 1543, the Carpenters' Hall stamp in the First Continental Congress block of four from 1974.

Bet you didn't know there is an apostrophe society: www.apostrophe.org.uk. It features "The Correct Use of the Apostrophe in English." Leave it to the Brits!

What about the ampersand (&)? Wikipedia tells us that it is a corruption of the phrase "and per se & (and)," meaning "and by itself and (represented by the symbol &)." There are several ampersands on U.S. issues, including 1975 Lexington & Concord (Scott 1563) and 2004 Lewis & Clark (Scott 3854).

I haven't found any exclamation marks on U.S. stamps, but they do appear on two Danish 1994 conservation stamps (Scott 998-999). A year earlier, Denmark produced a Letter-Writing stamp (Scott 991) which depicted both an exclamation mark and an ellipsis!

There are also interesting combinations of punctuation marks, in addition to those already mentioned. 1961's U.S. Norris & Norris Dam issue (Scott 1184) offers both quote marks and an ellipsis. A hyphen and an apostrophe are on the 1956 Children's Stamp (Scott 1085). But my choice for the all-time U.S. champion of punctuation philately is ... the 1955 U.S. Atoms for Peace issue (Scott 1070). It contains not one ellipse, not two, not three, but four! (And, for good measure, also a pair of quotation marks and a period!)

Any challengers?

What hath "filately" wrought?!

If you have read this far, I predict that you will never again look at stamps the same way as before! You can blame me! Who said "filately" isn't fantastic fun?

Please send your Funtastic Filately comments or stories to the editor. Share the fun! ☺



Same design, two different forms of punctuation, including a hyphen and an ampersand.





CINDERELLA CORNER

Arthur H. Groten

The Imperator

When I learned that my wife's grandmother came to the United States aboard the Hamburg-American Lines *Imperator*, as a collector I had to seek out appropriate ephemera to tell the story. I did so in *Topical Time* a few years ago (Nov-Dec. 2013).



Figure 1.

Cigarette cards were very popular though the 1930s and are very useful collateral to dress up a collection. The Figure 2 card is No. 27 of a pre-World War I series of 36 distributed by Ogden's Polo Cigarettes.

Such was the fascination with these enormous ships,



Figure 3.

I have since found some new *Imperator* material. The Figure 1 May 15, 1914, cover, endorsed "steamer *Imperator* sailing," left New York for Germany on her third return trip that year. It is franked 4¢ for the double steamship rate to Germany.

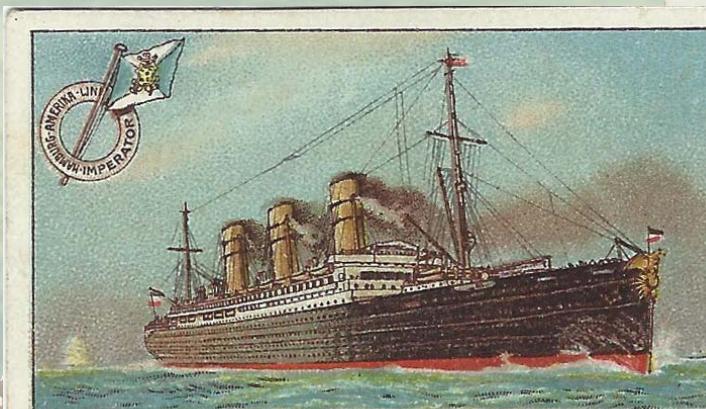


Figure 2.

the *Imperator* being the largest of her day, that the public wanted to see their interiors. Thus, poster stamps (Figure 3, for Occidental rubber products, touting their use on the ship) and company postcards (Figure 4) filled that desire.

With the onset of WWI, she was commissioned as part of the German

navy, serving as a troopship. She was ceded to Britain as part of the war reparations and renamed the *Berengaria* in 1921 after appropriate refitting and refurbishment (Figure 5).

These sorts of personal



Figure 4.

collections are great fun. They give you something to look for at whatever type of collectible show you might attend and to tell a tale in a graphic manner rather than just through the stories our forebears enchanted us with as children. ■

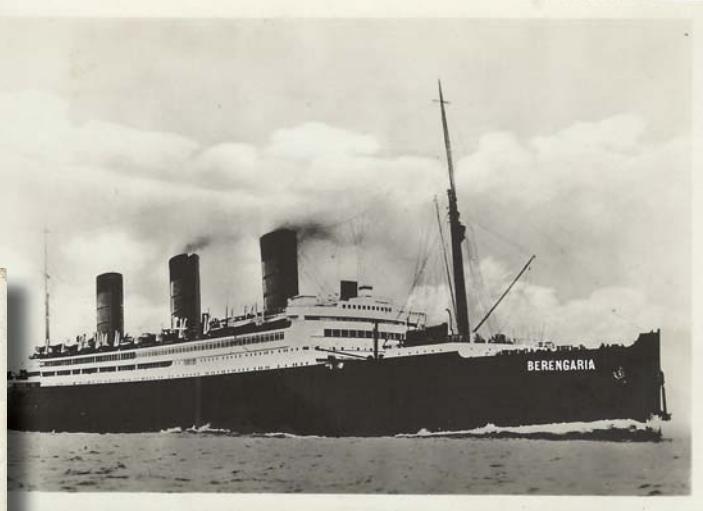


Figure 5.

Arthur H. Groten, longtime cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA, or by email: agroten43@icloud.com.

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.

When it's Time to Settle Your Collection: An Organization's Perspective

[Editor's note: This is part III of a planned series of articles from different perspectives on the ultimate disposal of your collection.]

by Vera Felts

There comes a time in our stamp collecting "life" when we ponder the fate of our collection. Perhaps it begins when we realize our collecting interests are not as broad as they once were, and we think about how best to divest those of our stamps in which we are no longer interested. Sometimes it comes with the realization that no one in our family seems interested in our material. Or, maybe there comes a time when financial needs outweigh our interest in collecting.

Earlier articles in *Topical Time* by President Dale Smith and Editor Wayne Youngblood discussed the merits and "how to" information regarding selling our stamps, when that time comes, to stamp dealers or through auction houses. In this article, we present some thoughts about donating one's stamps to a charitable organization. Surprisingly, it can be more financially rewarding to donate than to sell our stamps!

Background for U.S. Taxpayers

Many philatelic organizations, including ATA and the American Philatelic Society (APS), have qualified as a U.S. Internal Revenue Service charitable organization for donation purposes. Chapter 501(c)3 of the IRS code is the specific law that qualifies a nonprofit organization to receive your donation and allows you to take a charitable deduction for it. Many other stamp societies, including some local stamp clubs, Stamps for the Wounded and Boys Town in Nebraska, also have qualified as IRS chapter 501(c)3 organizations – and thus merit investigation when you consider making a donation.

According to IRS regulations, no organization receiving your charitable donation is allowed to place a valuation on it. One reason for that strict rule is this: a kind of "bidding war" could occur, for instance, if one organization promises you that your collection is worth \$5,000 but another organization says they will write

Protecting Value of a collection

Protect the value of your collection! To maximize the value of your collection and to minimize the needed work by your heirs, place in each album or container a list of the philatelic items therein. If you enjoy using computer database or spreadsheet programs (such as Excel), you probably already have a good start toward accomplishing this goal. If not, now's the time to begin! Having a list of your philatelic items (with catalog value or price paid), will be invaluable to you or your heirs – and to the dealer or organization receiving your material. More value will be realized if the "work" is done by you, the collector, than by someone else. ☐

you a donation letter saying your collection is worth \$6,000.

The onus is on you – the donor – to keep a record of the stamps and other philatelic items you choose to donate to an organization like ATA, and to place a realistic value on those items that is acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service. You should seek advice from your accountant or attorney that is suited to your individual financial situation. In general, it has been acceptable to use the valuation of a recognized stamp catalog, such as the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*. Your financial advisor

might suggest that you eliminate from your valuation all the stamps that are cataloged at minimum value (currently 25¢). Many stamps listed at minimum catalog value would not be “worth” that arbitrarily designated amount.

If you decide to donate stamps totaling more than \$5,000 in catalog value, it would be easier for both you or your heirs (and for the receiving organization) to split your stamps to be donated into smaller lots (any amount less than \$5,000) and donate your lots in separate calendar years. Donations totaling \$5,000 or more during one year require detailed IRS forms (Nos. 8282 and 8283). Additional requirements – meaning “work” – will be imposed on you (or your heirs) and on the organization that is receiving your stamps.

When you donate your stamps to a charitable organization, you may deduct not only the standard valuation of the stamps, but also the cost of shipping the items to the organization. The receiving organization will supply you with a letter listing the items you have donated. It is helpful to the receiver if you enclose a copy of your list of the donated items – the donation letter will probably be more complete if the receiver has the benefit of receiving such a copy. The amount of reduction you will receive in your income tax for that year will depend on your “tax bracket.” Many middle-income collectors are in a tax bracket in the 30-35% range, so they will realize a tax reduction corresponding to 30-35% of the standard valuation they have placed on their stamps.

Donation Information for All

The ATA urgently seeks donations of any kind of philatelic material. We work hard to find the highest and best use for your items. Some of the donated stamps, covers and philatelic literature we receive are put into the philatelic marketplace – to return the items to the collections of active hobby participants and to provide needed income to ATA. Other stamps and covers are used to construct Taste of Topicals beginner packets or youth activities. We do our best to find happy homes for all the stamps and other items in your collection.

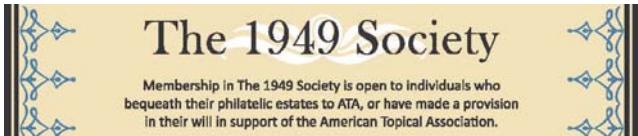
The ATA Office staff is especially pleased when members donate mint U.S. postage in any/all denominations. You have probably received letters from us that are



The ATA, APS and numerous other philatelic organizations are 501(c)(3) non-profits, which means tax deductions are approved by the IRS.

plastered with small-denomination stamps! We have become experts at using all the “real estate” on the cover. Higher-denomination postage (10¢ and more) is especially appreciated, but lower denominations are useful, too. In most years, ATA members supply us with mint postage totaling more than \$1,000. Even just a few dollars

worth of spare or duplicate stamps are helpful to our budget. We take pride in the fact that ATA uses only real stamps, not labels or metered postage, and you can certainly help us do just that.


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

The ATA's 1949 Society recognizes advance estate planning that allows all or part of a collection to be given to the ATA upon the death of a collector, allowing him or her to fully enjoy collecting for a lifetime, while supporting the ATA.

With any philatelic donation or sale, your stamps are

more valuable if they are organized in some manner. Sorting your odds and ends into country or topical lots is very helpful to the receiving organization. If donating to ATA, having your stamps sorted according to topic or theme is especially helpful. But if you have a mish-mash with no time to deal with it, an ATA volunteer may be able to sort it for us. The more organized your stamps are, the more valuable they will be to the dealer who buys them or the organization that receives them.

If you are preparing a list of the items you donate to ATA to give to your accountant or attorney for tax documentation, it will be most helpful to ATA staff if a copy of the list – either paper list or computer file – can be shared with us.

If you plan to attend a stamp show or event where ATA Ambassadors represent us at a society table, you are most welcome to bring donations of mint postage or other philatelic material to the show. By doing so, you will save the postage/shipping cost on your items. If it is inconvenient to attend a show, if you notify ATA that you have a donation, we might be able to arrange a pick-up by an ATA leader or member. Please inquire through the ATA Office.

Several ATA members plan to leave their entire stamp collection – or a portion of it – to ATA. That kind of legacy planning is so appreciated! It means that you have the full enjoyment of your collection for your entire life, but you also have the knowledge that your philatelic items will be put to the best use possible by one of your favorite organizations! Recently, a new member notified the ATA Office within the first week of her membership that her entire collection will be donated to ATA upon her death. ATA's legacy group, The 1949 Society, is growing each year. We will be happy to add your name to those of other society members. Just notify the ATA Office of your intentions.

For further info about donating to ATA, please call (618) 985-5100 or email americantopical@msn.com. ATA appreciates your consideration! ☐

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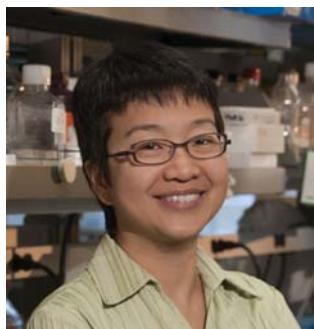
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ATA member appointed to Canada's Stamp Advisory Committee

Jean Wang, a Toronto philatelist and award-winning exhibitor, was recently



appointed to Canada Post's 12-member Stamp Advisory Committee. The committee, which was established in 1969, meets three times a year and members can serve a maximum of two three-year terms. Canada's SAC, like its U.S. counterpart, chooses subjects for new issues based on suggestions from the public, Canada Post Stamp Services and its own members. Serving on the committee, along with artists, historians, business leaders and others is a high honor for any collector. Jean is one of five new appointments, including a new chair, Anthony Wilson-Smith, who is a previous executive of Canada Post and

now president and CEO of Historica Canada. Other appointees include an ethno-historian, an associate professor of history and an illustrator. Topics for the stamp program are based on three criteria: representing a cross-section of Canadian society, being marketable and having a broad appeal. Wang is "overjoyed" and looks forward to the experience of interacting with other committee members, the historians and the commissioned artists.

Wang has been collecting stamps since she was a youngster. Six years ago she started her thematic collection on blood donation and transfusion. The collection has since branched into other areas of medicine, including organ donation, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, cancer, vaccination and other health-related topics. She was awarded a large gold and the Medical Subjects Unit Award for her multi-frame exhibit, *The Story of Blood: Myth to Medicine*, at the National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee in 2017. She has won numerous other awards in Canada for her exhibit.

Jean, a medical doctor, is an affiliate scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto. She and her team are working on finding an effective treatment for acute myeloid leukemia. ☎



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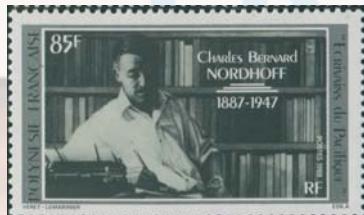
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The Mutiny of Nordhoff and Hall

by Clete Delvaux

Charles Nordhoff (1887-1947) and James Hall (1887-1951), pictured nearby on French Polynesia Scott 476-477 (1988) were writers and journalists each in his own right. The two first met while serving as pilots in



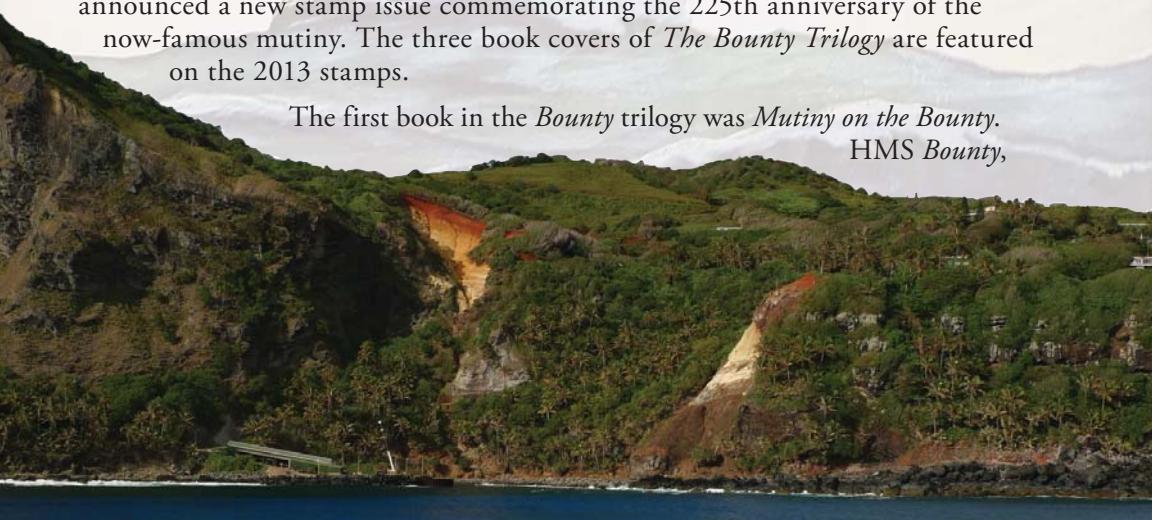
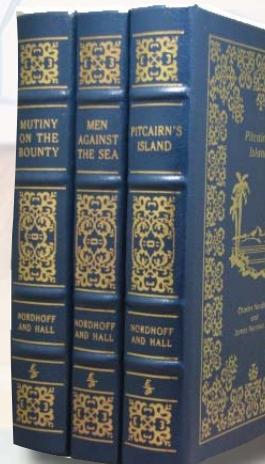
France's Lafayette Flying Corps during World War I. They began "their amazingly productive collaboration" when they were commissioned to write a history of the Lafayette Corps. After completing this history, Nordhoff and Hall returned to the United States, sharing a rented house on Martha's Vineyard,

until given a commission by *Harper's Magazine* to write travel articles set in the South Pacific. They went to Tahiti in the Society Islands for research and inspiration.

There they continued to collaborate in writing travel and adventure articles for *The Atlantic* during the 1920s and early 1930s. But soon they became interested in tales they heard concerning Pitcairn Island. These tales involved a mutiny and other adventures on the high seas. Hall suggested that they begin researching the historical details of these tales, which centered on a ship named HMS *Bounty*. Ellery Sedgewick, the editor of *The Atlantic*, was an old friend of Hall's, who agreed to help them secure the background and historical documents from England. Hall and Nordhoff immediately set to work in providing the fictional element to the fascinating voyage of the *Bounty*.

The end result was their tour de force: *The Bounty Trilogy*. The Trilogy consisted of three books: *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1932), *Men Against the Sea* (1933) and *Pitcairn's Island* (1934). In 2013, Pitcairn Islands announced a new stamp issue commemorating the 225th anniversary of the now-famous mutiny. The three book covers of *The Bounty Trilogy* are featured on the 2013 stamps.

The first book in the *Bounty* trilogy was *Mutiny on the Bounty*.
HMS *Bounty*,



Capt. William Bligh (left).

In 2013, Pitcairn Islands released a set of three stamps and a souvenir sheet marking the 225th anniversary of the actual mutiny. The designs of the stamps featured the covers of the three books (Scott 748-750, below left, bottom and facing page).

under the command of Lieutenant William Bligh, had sailed from England in 1787. Its mission was to sail to Tahiti, take on a load of bread fruit trees and deliver them to the West Indies. There the trees would be transplanted, in the hopes that they would provide cheap food for the slave population.

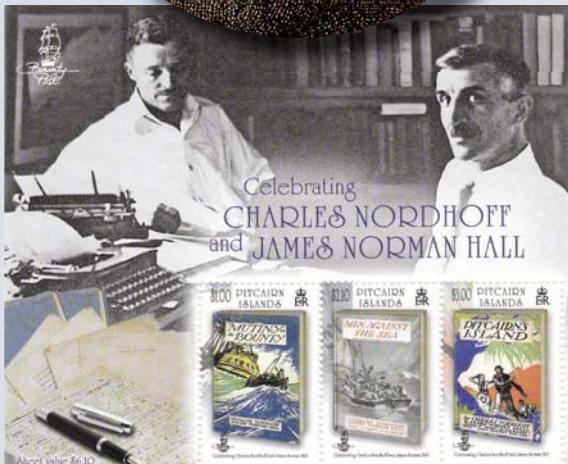
Bligh's shortest route would have been around Cape Horn into the Pacific. However, the rounding of Cape Horn proved so dangerous that Bligh elected to sail east to the Cape of Good Hope, into the Indian Ocean and thence to Tahiti. Another delay occurred in Tahiti when the breadfruit trees were not ready to be shipped.

So it was not until 1789 that the *Bounty*, loaded with its cargo of trees, sailed west on the last leg of its voyage to the West Indies. On April 28, 1789, some 1,300 miles west of Tahiti, near Tonga, the mutiny, led by master's mate Fletcher Christian,

occurred. Of the 42 men on board the *Bounty* (besides Bligh and Christian) 22 joined the mutiny, two were passive and 18 remained loyal to Bligh.

The reasons behind the mutiny are still a subject of debate. Some sources report that commander Bligh was a cruel tyrant whose abuse of the crew left them no choice but to take over the *Bounty*. Other sources argue that Bligh was no worse than the average captain of the era and that the crew – inexperienced and unused to the rigors of the sea – were corrupted by the freedom, idleness and sexual license of their five months in Tahiti.

The mutineers ordered Bligh and his loyal supporters into the *Bounty*'s long boat, or launch. Bligh and his men then



commenced an arduous journey of more than 3,500 nautical miles west, eventually arriving at the Dutch settlement on Timor. Bligh's remarkable voyage to safety resulted in losing only one man – in a skirmish with hostile natives. Their story and its adventures are the subject of Nordhoff and Hall's second book of the trilogy: *Men Against the Sea*.

The mutineers, under Fletcher Christian's command, sailed the *Bounty* for the island of Tubuai, where they tried to settle. After three months of bloody conflict with the natives, they returned to Tahiti, where 16 of the mutineers decided to remain, taking their chances when the Royal Navy caught up with them.

However, Fletcher Christian and eight other crewmen immediately set sail in the *Bounty*, hoping to elude the Royal Navy, which would soon be looking for them. They took with them (some say kidnapped) six Tahitian men and 11 women, one

with a baby. Searching for a safe haven, the mutineers passed through the Fiji and Cook Islands but feared they would be found there.

On Jan. 15, 1790, the mutineers found uninhabited Pitcairn Island, which had been misplaced on the Royal Navy's charts. A 1940 Pitcairn Islands stamp (Scott 7), shown nearby, features a view of Pitcairn Island and an inset of Fletcher Christian.) They decided to settle there.

And, after removing livestock and provisions from the ship, they burned the *Bounty* so that there would be no detection – and no escape! This is the story of Nordhoff and Hall's third book of the Bounty trilogy: *Pitcairn's Island*.

Nordhoff and Hall's *Mutiny on the Bounty* has been made into several movies and a stage musical. Tonga issued a strip of five stamps in 1985 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film version of *Mutiny on the Bounty*, starring Charles Laughton as Captain Bligh and Clark Gable as Fletcher Christian. (Only three of the five stamps, Scott 607a-607c) are shown here.)

Nordhoff and Hall's books, of course, are novels and take some liberties with the facts. Yet without them and the movies and TV shows they inspired, Pitcairn Island would probably be just another remote island in the Pacific rather than the center of history and intrigue it has become. ■



Montenegro's 2008 Flora Issue Error

Miloje Chastven

In 2008, Montenegro Post issued a set of four stamps under the topic "Flora," showing us endemic plants that are protected by law in Montenegro. Each stamp was produced in a sheetlet of five, with a label in the bottom-center position.

On the low-value stamp (0.20 Euro), we have "Prokletijska Prkosnica" (*Draba bertiscea*), species in the genus Draba (family Brassicaceae).

The next value (0.40 Euro) shows "Lovcenski zvoncac"





(*Edraianthus wettsteinii* ssp. *Lovcenicus*), commonly known as rock bells or grassy bells.

Than comes the next stamp (0.50 Euro), with an image of “Tarin zvoncac” (*Protoedraianthus tarae*), a small genus of flowering plants in the bellflower family.

The final stamp in this set, with highest face value (0.60 Euro), has an image of “Lakusicev karanfil” (*Dianthus nitidus* ssp. *Lakusicii*), or Carpathian glossy pink.

As is the case for all Montenegro issues, this stamp set also has first-day covers that were created – actually two different – which have special cancels, dated Feb. 20, 2008.

This set is listed in the Michel catalog (160-163) and by Scott (177-180). The set is also listed in a specialized catalog for Montenegro (Mihailo Radicevic, *Katalog Postanskih Maraka Crne Gore 1874-2011*, Page 57), under numbers 251-254.

The set doesn't have high catalog values. One can even say it is very affordable, with prices ranging between €3.50-€7 per single set in mint, never-hinged condition or used (roughly \$4-\$8 U.S.).

However, there is an error, on two stamps, of which many collectors aren't aware. Both involve the artist's name, which appears vertically in the lower-left corner of the design.



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620-7	800	1211-14	200	1607e	250
621i-7i	2,500	1399	325	1617	150
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Jerry Husak's Final Return to Milwaukee

[Editor's Note: On June 11, ATA Founder Jerry Husak's remains were laid to rest in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wis. ATA President Dale Smith was invited to give a eulogy at the funeral. The following is a slightly abridged version of that tribute to our organization's founder.]

By Dale Smith

Most of us in this room with a philatelic background understand Jerry's greatest accomplishment. He is the founder of the American Topical Association. It is the

largest topical association in the world.



A memory board of photos showing different images of Jerry Husak during his lifetime.

In 1949, Jerry thought he could get perhaps 25 to 100 – maybe even 200 – members to join his new organization. Was he ever wrong! Today ATA has had close to 60,000 members over the past 69 years. We currently have about 2,500 members, with roughly 350 of those in 40 different countries. The word "American" in a way is a misnomer, for this is truly a "Worldwide" Topical Association.

Around the world there were collectors interested in collecting stamps by topic. The only thing that was needed was a leader to bring this group together in a collector's organization.

Jerry started ATA in his bedroom as a teenager. It grew rapidly with the help of his parents, then the woman who later became his wife, Sally, who is here with us today.

It is easy to start an organization with everything in your favor and if it goes well. But topical collecting was looked down upon by the leaders in the philatelic arena of the '50s-'60s and later. Talk on the street and articles in the literature at the time were critical of topical collecting. There were attempts to keep topical collectors in their own world and there was resistance toward us exhibiting in the philatelic mainstream. Comments about topical collecting were frequently rude, condescending and flippant.

But this is where Jerry proved himself a great leader. He was seeing among collectors that – indeed – topical collecting was rapidly becoming a popular hobby. Jerry was executive secretary, editor of *Topical Time*, chief promoter, advertising recruiter and more. He, with Sally's help, did it all to get our organization growing. He persevered. He was successful.

Jerry initiated Topex in 1952 in Johnstown, Pa. It was the very first topical show. There has been one every year since. It is now called National Topical Stamp Show.

For the first time ever this August our stamp show will combine forces with the American Philatelic Society and have a Joint show in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-12.

Jerry recruited dedicated officers into the organization. He traveled to international

stamp shows to promote topical collecting. ATA was his lifelong job and he had an excellent work ethic. Because people believed in Jerry, they became interested in topical collecting. He had an infectious love of the hobby and soon the association had members in 100 countries around the world.

As I studied the history of ATA I found several things about Jerry. Post offices sent topical new issues to him – by the thousands. They knew that ATA would give huge publicity to those new issues. The significance of this is that Jerry's leadership and the ATA association singlehandedly made post offices all over the world realize that topical stamps would sell if they would issue them.

Soon it was published in issue after issue of *Topical Time* the many compliments from all over the world, from philatelic editors, stamp club presidents, organizational leaders and philatelic museum curators praising Jerry for his leadership in starting ATA. Jerry was so widely respected that George Linn, when he was ready to retire, aggressively recruited him as editor of *Linn's Stamp News*. After much consideration, Jerry turned down Linn's offer because he just did not want to take time from his beloved organization.

This man was a great man. He was a leader. His achievements will always be noted in philatelic history. He started an organization from scratch. He had a vision that drove him to create the second-largest stamp organization in the United States, and, as I said before, the largest topical organization in the world. His perseverance built ATA through adversity. That is the true mark of a leader.

I stand before you today as current president of this organization to tell you what I have been hearing from philatelic leaders from around the world. Instead of criticism I am hearing from the most stoic of classic and worldwide stamp collectors "Topical collecting is the future of stamp collecting." Jerry knew that 69 years ago.

Jerry, thank you for your major contribution to the stamp collecting hobby. This gentleman from Milwaukee Wis., has positively impacted many lives. I am certain that God has asked your help in organizing his stamp collection of religion on stamps.

Next year is the 70th anniversary of ATA and we are preparing observe it with a celebration that Jerry would appreciate. ☺



ATA President Dale Smith and Sally Husak share a moment.

UNITS IN ACTION

Jeffrey Hayward, ATA Study Unit Coordinator: jeffhawardata@gmail.com

Americana Unit

Americana Philatelic News

In the Oct.-Dec. 2017 *Americana Philatelic News*, Dawn Hamman writes about “The Jewel City: A look at the Panama Pacific International Exposition,” which was held in San Francisco in 1915 to showcase American ingenuity and technology. Exhibits at the fair featured American innovation in products such as agriculture, mining, metallurgy and transportation. Four pages of Americana new-issue information was also updated in this issue.



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

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net
Website: www.americaunit.org

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

The Oct. 2017 issue of *Old World Archaeologist* included several pages of 16 illustrated new issues, along with some of the latest news in the study of archaeology. The feature article in this issue is written by Christian



Kolker and explores “Angkor Wat and its Philatelic Heritage.” Also in this issue is “A Brief History of Incense,” written by Igor Grigorian from his award-winning exhibit.

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

Email: editor@owasu.org
Website: www.owasu.org

Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)

ArPA Quarterly Journal

In *ArPA Quarterly Journal* December 2017, Ara Baltazar writes about “Recent Romanian Stamps Related to Armenians.” Seven different sets are reported. One recent issue from 2016 commemorates Ana Arslan who was a geriatric physician and the founder of the world’s first geriatrics institute.



Dues are \$35 in the United States, \$45 elsewhere. Contact Igor Grigorian, 2764 Delevan Dr, Los Angeles CA 90065-5134.

Email: armssr@gmail.com
Website: www.armenianphilatelic.org/www

Biology Unit

Biophilately

In addition to the hundreds of new biology stamp issues in the December 2017 *Biophilately*, several articles are provided.

Victor G. Potter explores “Man and Microbes” in an article adapted from a display-class exhibit. Most of the stamps in the article depict people and instrumentation associated with the study of microbes, which do not appear on the majority of the stamps.

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

Email: chris.dahle@biophilately.org
Website: www.biophilately.org

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Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Chesstamp Review

Several chess stamp new issues are presented to members in the Oct.-



Dec. 2017 *Chesstamp Review*. One of the stamps issued was by Uruguay in September 2017 to commemorate the World Youth Chess Championship, held in Montevideo. A rocking horse is used in the design to represent the knight chess piece. COSSU also conducted Auction No. 167 for its members in this issue.

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

Christmas Philatelic Club

Yule Log

Christine Sanders continues her Collecting Christmas series with "Postmarks" in the Oct.-Dec. 2017 *Yule Log*. Sanders explores the types of postmarks, including standard postmarks, which have dates associated with the Christmas holiday. She includes special postmarks that have city or station names or pictorial cancellations related to Christmas. Sanders also shares member experiences requesting some of these special cancels in 2016 and their results for more than 20 different requests for cancels.

Dues are \$25 in the United States and Canada, \$35 elsewhere. Contact Jim Balog, PO Box 744, Geneva OH 44041-0744.

Email: jp4stamps@windstream.net
Web: www.christmasphilatelicclub.org/



Disneyana on Stamps Society

Disnemation

Ginny Sylvester continues with part two of "The Year of the Car," in which she explores different cars depicted in four additional sets of Disney stamps. One of the stamps in the sets shown in part two (issued by Tanzania) shows *Herbie The Love Bug* which is easily identified as a Volkswagen Beetle. The Disney Films on Stamps series continues in *Disnemation* No. 80, with the years 1990-91 and includes *Dick Tracy*, *Ducktales the Movie*, *Treasure of the Lost Lamp* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Membership is free. Members receive *Disnemation* online six times a year; site access is password controlled.
Email: disnemation@yahoo.ca
Website: disnemation.wixsite.com/doss

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

Reflections

In the Oct. 2017 issue of *Reflections*, Don Neal explores the life of botanist and inventor George Washington Carver, who has been commemorated on two different stamps issued by the USPS. Neal also writes about the two ships named in Carver's honor and supplies ship covers in the article highlighting events for the ships and autographs from crews that served on them.

Dues are \$25 in the United States and \$35 elsewhere. Contact Manuel Gilyard, PO Box 1757, Lincoln Station, New York NY 10037-1757.
Email: esperstamps@esperstamps.org
or, Earnest Shinault Sr, 3523 Douglass Ave, Memphis TN 38111-5721.
Email: eshinaultsr@yahoo.com
Website: www.esperstamps.org



Europa Study Unit

Europa News

Eight fully illustrated pages of Europa new issues covering 2017 themes of



“Castles,” “Trees of the Mediterranean” and “European Anniversaries and Events” were featured in *Europa News* for Nov.-Dec. 2017. Dana Roper also writes about Belgian Proofs as an interesting and affordable collecting option when collecting Europa.

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

Email: tvanloij@gmail.com

Website: www.europastudyunit.org

Fire Service in Philately

Fire Stamp News



Ed Flory continues his series on “Foreign Made Fire Apparatus on Stamps” with

several stamp issues showing different fire wagons and pumps. One of the stamps shown in this edition of the series is from Great Britain and was issued to commemorate a 1766 manual pump for the parish of Denham, Bucks, England. The pump used two rocking rods on both sides of an air vessel that had pump barrels on each side. Don Alford also provides part two of his article on offshore oil and gas well fires in the Oct.-Dec. 2017 *Fire Stamp News*.

Dues are \$15 in the United States. Contact Ed Flory, 149 Sopher St, East Stroudsburg PA 18301-2209. Email: eflory@ptd.net

Journalists, Authors, & Poets on Stamps (JAPOS)

In the Autumn 2017 *JAPOS Bulletin*, Clete Delvaux pens “A Dickens of a Christmas Carol,” in which he illustrates with various stamps how Dickens



exposed his feelings about social concerns such as poverty and injustice. Dickens felt using a Christmas narrative was a better way to express these concerns to the public rather than writing a political pamphlet. Also in this issue is an article on John F. Kennedy, the author and journalist.

Dues are \$9.00 in the United States and \$12 elsewhere. Contact Clete Delvaux, 800 E River Dr Unit B, De Pere WI 54115-4159.

Email: codelvaux@msn.com

or, Mark Winnegrad, 1450 Parkchester Rd, Bronx NY 10462-7622

Judaica Thematic Society

Judaica News

Member Seymour Nussenbaum shares three covers in “Gems from my Collection” in the January 2018 *Judaica News*. The three covers are all related to the German businessman Albert Ballin, who is credited with creating the concept of luxury liners and cruise ships. Germany issued a stamp in 1957 to commemorate the life of Albert Ballin.



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



Paul Longcrier writes about “The Neuwerk Lighthouse” and an illustrated postcard of the Neuwerk Lighthouse with a rubber stamp showing a rocket flying past the lighthouse in the

Jan.-Feb. 2018 issue of *The Philatelic Beacon*. The postcard was created by

Gerhard Zucker, a rocket engineer who unsuccessfully worked on transporting mail via rockets. The Neuwerk Lighthouse is located on the island of Neuwerk in Hamburg.

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 per year. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood, CO 80232-6778.

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

Masonic Study Unit Philatelic Freemason

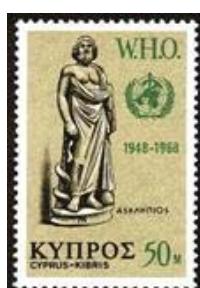


The featured Freemason biography in the Jan.-Feb. 2018 *Philatelic Freemason* is of famous painter Norman Rockwell. Rockwell was known for his illustrations in the *Saturday Evening Post* and in Boy Scouts of America publications. Four of his paintings, the "Four Freedoms," appear on a miniature sheet issued by the USPS in 1994.

Dues are \$10 in the United States, \$12 in Canada and Mexico and \$16 elsewhere. Contact Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Rd, Andover MA 01810-3311.

Email: radpm67@gmail.com
or, Gene Fricks
Email: genefricks@comcast.net

Medical Subjects Unit *Scalpel & Tongs*



Several biographies were written for stamp issues depicting people in the medical field in the Oct.-Dec. 2017 *Scalpel & Tongs*. One of the biographies is of Australian World War I nurse Ella McLean. Australia

Post issued the stamp during October 2017 as part of its Women in War series.

McLean served during WWI in India and Egypt, returning to Australia after being discharged in 1919. Twenty-eight new medical-related stamp issues were also provided in this edition of *Scalpel & Tongs*.

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

Email: fskvara@optonline.net

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

A biography of Austrian inventor, musician and singer Peter Mitterhofer is one of many biographies appearing in the December 2017 *Der Musikus*.

Mitterhofer is most well-known for having invented the typewriter. He also built many musical instruments including the "Glachter," which

had hammers that strike wooden discs that produce sounds similar to human laughter. Eighteen fully illustrated pages of music-related new issues are also included in the December 2017 issue.

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

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

Napoléonic Age Philatelists *Campaign*

The lead highlight from *Campaign* Oct.-Dec. 2017 is a stamp issued by Manama in 1972 showing a scene from the Battle of Leipzig. This year is the 204th Anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig, the largest of the



Napoleonic wars. Depleted ammunition forced Napoleon and his army to retreat after the fourth day of the battle.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$20 elsewhere. Contact Ken Berry, 4117 NW 146th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73134-1746
Email: krb2@earthlink.net
Website: www.nap-stamps.org

Petroleum Philatelic Society International *Petro-Philatelist*

In the Autumn 2017 *Petro-Philatelist*, Hugo Vargas writes about the "Ancon Oil Field: First Oil Field



of Ecuador." The first oil well, Ancon 1, was drilled in the Santa Elena peninsula after award of a contract for exploration and exploitation of oil and natural gas in 1911. In Nov. 2016 Ecuador issued a stamp to honor the Santa Elena Province where oil was first discovered in Ecuador.

Electronic membership only available worldwide. Contact Feitze Papa, 922 Meander Dr, Walnut Creek CA 94598-4239.

Email: oildad@astound.net

Railroad Unit, Casey Jones *The Dispatcher*

The lead announcement in the Nov.-Dec. 2017 issue was that Whitney McMahon, a director-at-large, had taken over editorship



Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

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

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

Lynn Vernon
8430 Iris Rd
Plymouth IN 46563-9055

Email: gento0172@yahoo.com

of *The Dispatcher* starting in 2018. Florence Wright shares highlights from her recent trip to Gouldsboro, Penn., visiting the Delaware, Lackawana and Western Railroad train station that was just recently restored. Seven pages of train new issues were also provided.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$17 in Canada and Mexico, and \$20 elsewhere. Junior (21 years old or less, United States only) memberships are \$10. Contact Roy W. Menninger, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, CJRRU-ATA, PO Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511.
Email: roymenn@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.uqp.de/cjr

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship *The ROS Bulletin*

Seven new Rotary stamp issues and covers have been reported in *The ROS Bulletin* for December 2017. One of the covers issued in June promotes a project to construct toilets in rural homes that do not have indoor toilets and is part of the "Clean India" government project. A pictorial cancel was used on this cover showing a toilet, along with the words "1000 Plus Toilets."



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

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

Ships on Stamps Unit *Watercraft Philately*

Dan Rodlie explores the different Christmas seals and labels showing ships on stamps in the Nov.-Dec. 2017 *Watercraft Philately*. Rodlie shares the different types of labels and seals that are collected and also includes some Christmas seals that are often confused and used as stamps. Several illustrated pages of new-issue information, along with descriptions

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

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

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

Lynn Vernon
8430 Iris Rd
Plymouth IN 46563-9055

Email: gento0172@yahoo.com



of the ship depicted on the stamps was also included in this issue.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$22 elsewhere, and \$10 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Erik Th. Matzinger, Voorste Havervelden 30, Breda 4822-AL, Netherlands
Email: secretary@shipsonstamps.org
Website: www.shipsonstamps.org

United Nations Philatelists

Journal of United Nations Philatelists

The October 2017 *Journal of United Nations Philatelists* was issued as a guide to collecting United Nations stamps and postal history. The guide offers

information about collecting U.N. issues, errors, U.N. postal stationery, UPU topical stamps, postal history, ephemera and several other ways to collect U.N. material. The UNPI also conducted

Auction No. 2 with 123 items available for members to bid on.

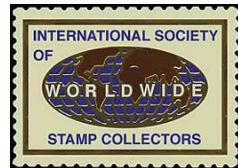


Dues are \$28 in the United States, \$35 in Canada and \$50 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.

Email: bclemjr@yahoo.com
or, Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr,
 Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724.
Email: chrisdahle8@gmail.com
Website: www.unpi.com

Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of *The Circuit*

Bushire, an Iranian port in the Persian Gulf is the 21st installment of John Seidl's Dead Country series. It was occupied by the British during WWI for its oil reserves and strategic location. Iranian stamps were overprinted for use from Bushire. James E. Lee offers his thoughts on philately and how our hobby is changing in *The Circuit* Nov.-Dec. 2017.



Dues are \$15 worldwide. Contact Joanne Berkowitz, Executive Director, PO Box 19006, Sacramento CA 95819-0006.
Email: joannebe@pacbell.net
Website: www.iswsc.org

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STUDY UNIT SPOTLIGHT

This month: Lighthouse Stamp Society

Editor's note: This is the 43nd 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 “Stampways Coast Community Document Exchange,” from the Sept.-Oct. 2017 issue of *The Philatelic Beacon*. To be considered for “Study Unit Spotlight,” please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal recently (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it via email to the *Topical Time* editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or to Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward, stamps@jeffhayward.com. *We hope you enjoy this fine feature.*

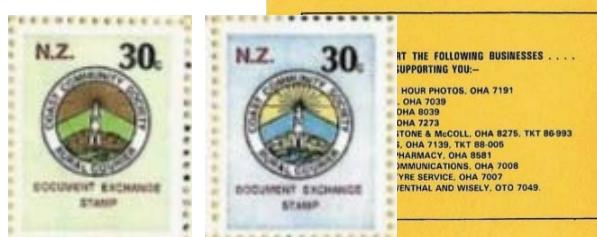
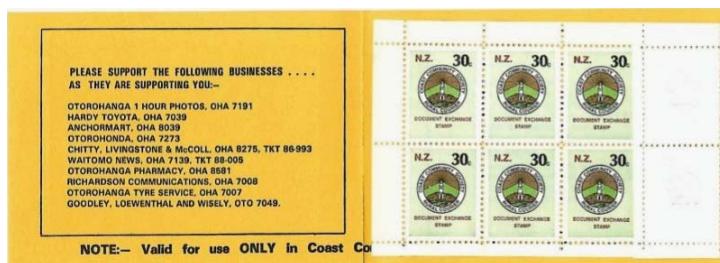
Stampways Coast Community Document Exchange

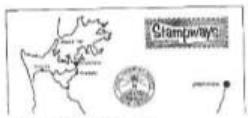
Ross Marshall

The geographical area involved is in New Zealand, west from Waitomo Caves to Te Anga, Taharoa and Marokopa. This area is known to those who live there as “The Coast.” The total population of The Coast is only about 600. It is isolated with access off the main road at Hangatiki through Waitomo Caves. Taharoa is an iron and mining village with the other areas being farming, mainly sheep. The Coast had a number of post offices opened in the past. The district had been served by the RD4 Te Kuiti rural contractor, Perry Buses, who had the mail contract for some 17 years. Perry Buses operated more than just a mail run. A bus is used on the run, providing a passenger service daily from The Coast to Te Kuiti, as well as an extensive freight service to the farming community. Following the transformation of the New Zealand Post Office into the state-owned Enterprise of NZ Post, changes in postal operations occurred throughout the country, being obliged by legislation to produce a profit (with little or no regard to social costs). Faced with the loss of these essential services, The Coast people were angry. They held public meetings arranged by the local branch of Federated Farmers. A Coast Community Society was

formed with power to make decisions. The committee had

Two different booklets of Document Exchange stamps, as well as enlargements of the stamp design.



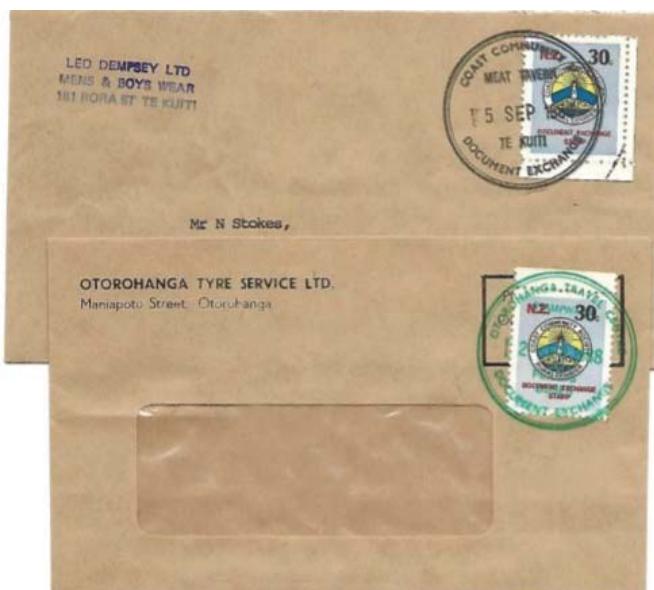
First Day Cover**First Day Cover****First Day Cover****First Day Cover****First Day Cover**

1st September, 1988

Community Society Rural Courier stickers were produced featuring the Marokopa lighthouse. This was the emblem chosen as a symbol of The Coast.

Mail redirection orders were put into NZ Post at Te Kuiti, all members having their address as "c/- Perry Buses, P.O. Counter, Te Kuiti." NZ Post was not impressed by this mass defection and address change, but it was pointed out to the agency that it was perfectly legal. The agency reluctantly conceded. All members of the Coast

Society had rubber stamps with their new address and notified businesses and friends and family of the new addresses. This was necessary because a redirection order automatically expires after six months; after that NZ Post would have been under no obligation to redirect the incoming mail. The Coast Community Society Rural Document Exchange commenced operations on Dec. 1, 1987. Perry Buses



Two commercial covers bearing Document Exchange stamps.

Several types of Sept. 1, 1988, first-day covers.

meetings with NZ Post but these were unproductive. Investigations by the Coast Community Society showed that under the Postal Services Act of 1987, transfers between Document Exchanges were exempt from the regulations. Legal opinions were obtained that appeared to confirm this view. Accordingly, the society members were each issued a green sticker to attach to his or her mail box declaring it to be a "RURAL DOCUMENT EXCHANGE." A high percentage of the existing RD4 box holders joined the scheme. Levies were fixed, payable quarterly, to enable Perry Buses to continue to operate. Coast



SUPPORT COAST v POST

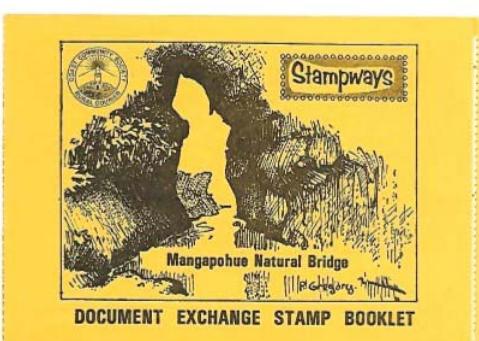
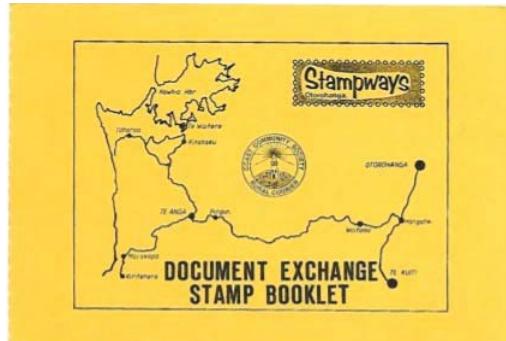
A bumper sticker created to promote Stampways service.

redirected mail from the Te Kuiti Postal Counter,

sorted it and delivered it to the boxes with the green stickers, the "Rural Document Exchanges." Outgoing mail was collected and taken to the Te Kuiti post office and posted. A complete "local post" was established. A "document exchange stamp" was designed. These were to be sold in booklets of 10 (as seen nearby). The value was set by the Coast Community at 30¢ and they were to be used only on "documents" between members. Agencies were appointed at Te Kuiti, Waitomo Caves and Taharoa and rubber date-stamps were prepared for these. The service was now ready to take on NZ Post with the date of introduction of the document exchange stamps set for Sept. 1, 1988, the first day of spring. NZ Post, somewhat surprisingly, appeared to have received no prior warning that the service would be using stamps. Its reaction was swift. Letters from solicitors acting for NZ Post were hand-delivered to Stampways, Perry Buses and the Coast Community Society. These letters requested that the use of stamps be discontinued and the service cease, or legal action would follow. The legal advisors and representatives of the Coast Community Society, Perry Buses and Stampways held a meeting and, after discussions, a decision was made to vigorously defend any legal action. On Oct. 3, 1988, NZ Post went to the High Court in Hamilton requesting injunction orders to close the Document Exchange service. In a hearing in chambers, no injunction was granted and dates were set for a substantive High Court hearing. The dates set were Nov. 9-10.

The judgement was made late on Nov. 10. The injunction orders were decided the next morning. In essence, these were to stop Perry Buses from operating a system of mail delivery. Stampways was not to supply any stamps for use in the system or to any other similar system that may be established in future. Philatelic sales could continue.

The Coast Community Document Exchange service operated by Perry Buses and using the Document Exchange Stamps prepared by Stampways was closed down. It operated for the last time on Friday, Nov. 11, 1988. The Document Exchange stamps used from Nov. 7-11 have been declared to be postage stamps because of their obvious real use. Unused stamps, however, are not considered



The two different booklet designs that were available for the Document Exchange stamps.

postage stamps. Those used between Sept. 1 and Nov. 6 are not technically postage stamps either. Exactly what they are is still open to some question. Probably, they are best described as locals. Certainly, they fall within the accepted definitions of "locals." Stamp catalog editors will have to decide whether to list the various issues made for this service. Collectors will also have to make their own decisions. There is no doubt that the Document Exchange System has created philatelic and legal history in New Zealand. The demand for the various stamp booklets, covers and other items was heavy. The interest should continue for some time.

[The Philatelic Beacon editor's note: The previous information comes from a 26-page booklet by Ross Marshall. I was fortunate to meet him at our local stamp show last May. Learning of my interest in lighthouses he offered to share a digital copy of his catalog. He later sent me a quantity of items related to the Stampways story. I have put a copy of the catalog along with one of each different example that he sent into a notebook that now resides in archives of the Lighthouse Stamp Society Library at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver, Colo. I have printed a few copies of the catalog that I will sell for \$5 to anyone interested in more of this fascinating story. The catalog lists all the items that were printed by Stampways. If you order the catalog, I will also send one of the duplicate items Dr. Marshall sent to me as long as they last. All are in limited quantity so I cannot specify any particular item.] ☐

Lighthouse Stamp Society

For thousands of years lighthouses have guided mariners and their ships around hazards and to safety. Lighthouses have become symbols of hope to many. Visiting and collecting lighthouse collectibles is popular, so it should come as no surprise that there are many collectors of lighthouse stamps. The Lighthouse Study Unit was founded in 1973. While the study unit journal, *The Pharos*, was published continuously until 1987, there were no active study unit officers for many years and the last issue was published in 1992. Soon after, the ATA charter was withdrawn.

The current Lighthouse Stamp Society was founded in 1992 and chartered by the ATA in 1994. Dalene Thomas has been the editor of *The Philatelic Beacon* since 1992. *The Philatelic Beacon* is a bimonthly journal containing new issue information, lighthouse cancellations and sometimes members share their travel experiences as they visit different lighthouses. In addition to the journal, the Lighthouse Stamp Society also offers its members the opportunity to participate in a cover circuit, as well as a postcard circuit. Annual dues for regular mail delivery are \$12 for U.S. addresses, \$15 for Canada and \$20 to other countries. The Lighthouse Stamp Society also offers electronic membership and will send *The Philatelic Beacon* to you as a pdf via email. Dues are \$10 for electronic membership.

Membership applications and more information about the Lighthouse Stamp Society can be found at the study unit website, www.lighthousestampsociety.org, or from 1805 S Balsam Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.

CHAPTER CHATTER

By Frederick C. Skvara, ATA Chapter Coordinator

Please send all chapter ATA publications to Frederick C. Skvara,
617 Country Club Rd, Bridgewater NJ 08807, or by email to: fcskvara@optonline.net

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

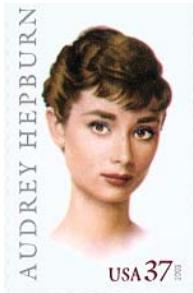
Website: annarborstampclub.org

Newsletter: AASC Newsletter; Harry Winter, editor.

Email: barwin@umich.edu

Newsletter topics: (March) Frank Donahue's presentation "Philately in the Movies" included a clip from *Charade*, the 1963 Universal Pictures film starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. In June he presented the second part with material from *Coyote Waits*, a 2003 television movie.

*Audrey Hepburn, U.S.
2003 (Scott 3786).*



ATA Chapter No. 5, Milwaukee, Wis.

Website: wfscstamps.org/clubs/atachap5.shtml

Newsletter editor: Robert Mather.

Email: burrobob@wi.rr.com

Newsletter topics: (April) Harry K. Charles, Jr. presented "Statue of Liberty: Icon of Freedom and Hope!" at the April meeting and members were asked to bring related material to show after his presentation. Among several articles in the April newsletter is one on "Swiss Army Stamps" that are similar to Christmas or Easter Seals and were issued by the government of Switzerland for use of various armed forces groups. (May) "Introduction to Postal Stationery" was a PowerPoint presentation at the May meeting and was followed by a "Show & Tell" of postal stationery having a topical connection. An article on "The History of International Stamp Exhibitions in the United States" included several examples of material released in connection with the exhibitions.



Paralyzed Veterans stamped envelope, U.S. 1983 (Scott U605).

Buffalo Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 131), Buffalo, N.Y.

Newsletter editor: Alfred Carroccia, **Email:** fuzzy9600@verizon.net

Newsletter topics: (April) At Bufpex Alan Davis won the best topical exhibit award for *The Big 3*. The award for the most popular exhibit was won by Larry Reilly's *U.S. Postal Service and the New York Yankees*. At the April 13 meeting Larry Cherns presented "Mailed Correspondence of Tonga," describing the Tin Can Mail method of transportation. (May) A page in the newsletter is devoted to Monty Wedd's article "The Comstock Lode." It shows the 1959 U.S. Post Office Dept. 4¢ com-



*Silver Centennial, U.S.
1959 (Scott 1130).*

memorative stamp celebrating the centenary of the Comstock Lode, a major vein of silver that was discovered in 1859 on Mount Davidson in the Virginia Range in the Utah Territory (now Nevada). The vein was actually discovered by Patrick McLaughlin and Peter O'Riley, who were searching for gold and didn't realize what they had found. But Henry Comstock recognized the significance of their discovery and laid claim to the land.

Huntsville Philatelic Club (ATA Chapter No. 133), Huntsville, Ala.

Newsletter editor: Arthur Cole, email: artcole@att.net

Newsletter topics: (April) *The Harrie S. Mueller Confederate Collection*, an APS slide program, was shown at the April 3 meeting. (May) At the first May meeting a "Show & Tell" program was devoted to stamp show souvenirs with Sherwood Anderson displaying show handouts, cancels and more, and members showing some of their show collectibles. Huntspex 2018 was held in June and the club had several souvenirs each with a space theme: an award medal for first-time exhibitors and a coffee mug for stamp dealers at the show.



Andrew Jackson,
C.S.A. 1863 (Scott 8).

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

Newsletter: *Philatelic Chatter*, Don Smith, editor.

Email: donsmith32@atlanticbb.net

Newsletter topics: (May/June) Appropriate for 2018, the centenary of United States airmail service, the flag of the newsletter depicts two United States 1923 air mail stamps: Scott C2 (8¢ showing airplane radiator and wooden propeller) and Scott C3 (16¢ showing Air Service Emblem). The article describing the two new United States 50¢ Forever commemorative stamps showing the Curtis Jenny JN-4H airplane



Air Mail Service Centenary, U.S.
2018.

also looks at early airmail service in the United States. Several stamps are illustrated showing "Bridges," the theme of the 2018 Europa issues, including one from Greenland depicting a natural bridge within an iceberg. Also mentioned in the newsletter is the design error on the East German 1956 stamps issued to commemorate the centenary of the death of Robert Schumann (Scott 295-296). But the background music notation on the stamps was from Franz Schubert, a contemporary of Schumann. The stamps were reissued (Scott 303-304) with the correct music. Unfortunately, this newsletter also includes the "Philatelic Chatter" column by editor,



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Don Smith, in which he announces that this is his last newsletter as editor. Under Don's editorship, this newsletter has been interesting and informative. Besides reporting on the club's activities, he always adds some philatelic articles. I am sure he will be missed as editor.

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

Website: www.knoxstamps.com

Newsletter: *Knoxville Philatelic Society News*, Tom Broadhead, editor.

Email: tomwb50@aol.com

Newsletter topics: (March) The stamp of the month, contributed by Dan Hubbard is a precancel on a Canadian 1911 stamp showing King George V. (April) Boy and girl laborers are seen on a 1959 stamp from Bulgaria (Scott 1038), part of a set commemorating the 4th Anniversary of the Congress of Dimitrov's Union of People's Youth. It is the stamp of the month and was a gift from Pat Goebel. KnoxPEX 2018's show cover celebrated the 100 years of United States airmail service and the one illustrated in the newsletter

is franked with the 1946 5¢ airmail stamp showing the DC-4 Skymaster and the 1989 45¢ stamp showing the Space Shuttle. The cachet on the cover appears to be Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis* high-wing monoplane. (May) In 1982 the USPS issued a se-tenant block of four 20¢ stamps to commemorate the Knoxville World's Fair (Scott 2006-2009) representing various forms of energy. The stamp of the month in my copy of the newsletter shows the synthetic fuels stamp from that set and was a gift from Vera Felts. Tom Broadhead's article, "The Politics of Stamps? — BREXIT," looks at some of the cinderellas that have been produced to promote a political agenda. He also shows a genuine BREXIT-themed stamp block of four from the Central African Republic.

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

Website: www.lcps-stamps.org

Newsletter editor: Paul Petersen, email: pcpetersen@comcast.net

Newsletter topics: (April) Editor Paul Petersen has a short article on "The Royal Train of 1939" that carried King George VI and Queen Elizabeth from the East to the West Coast of Canada and then returned through parts of the United States. Canada is-

sued a set of three stamps (Scott 246-248) marking the event and, although the United States did

THE TIGER

Thematic/TOPICAL PHILATELIST

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URGENT CONTACT: tigerphilately@yahoo.com



Knoxville World's Fair – Synthetic Fuels, U.S. 1982 (Scott 2007).



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, Canada 1939 (Scott 248).

not issue a special stamp, Paul mentions there is a lot of collecting memorabilia available from their time in the United States. (May) The show cover for Lancopex 2018 held April 27-28, commemorated the 125th anniversary of the Columbian Exposition. Hal Klein's article, "America's Largest Unknown Stamp Club!" refers to the Voice of America Stamp Club, created in 1952 by Howard Hotchner (John Hotchner's father) and Bill Miller. At the weekly radio stamp program, that was prohibited from broadcasting in the United States, Bill Miller told the stories behind the United States stamps and how "they reflected positively on American history and our society."

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapt. No. 90), Arlington, Irving & Granbury, Texas

Website: www.mid-citiesstampsclub.com

Newsletter: *Stamping Around*, Peter Elias, editor.

Email: editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

Newsletter topics: (April) I find the "Been There, Done That" articles very interesting and congratulate Peter for encouraging members of the club to participate by submitting material about a location, person or event that they can identify with and associate with a stamp. Unfortunately, because of space limitations, I can only select a few for comments in this column. The Byodo-In Temple replica in Oahu, Hawaii, that can be seen on the United States 2018 \$6.70 Priority Mail stamp was the subject of Thomas Cunningham's article. Peter Elias shows the 1971 Bermuda stamp (Scott 280) depicting the building of *Deliverance*, the ship that rescued the survivors of *Sea Venture*, a ship that was wrecked on the Bermuda Islands in 1609. The survivors on *Deliverance* led to the colonization of Bermuda in 1612. Peter honeymooned in Bermuda and visited a replica of that ship. (May) One of Pat & Robert Weidman's "Been there..." articles "Croatia" shows a 1944 stamp depicting General Ante Pavelic, who governed the Independent State of Croatia, a fascist Nazi puppet state formed out of Yugoslavia by the Germans and Italians in 1941. Peter Elias shows some St. Vincent stamps related to the Leeward Islands Air Transport that flew them from Barbados to St. Vincent. He illustrates his article with a 1970 St. Vincent stamp showing the Hawker Siddeley 748 airplane and a 1965 St. Vincent stamp depicting E.T. Joshua airport.



*Gen. Ante Pavelic,
Croatia 1944 (Scott 64).*

Midwest Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 129), Kansas City, Mo.

Website: www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com

Newsletter: *The Messenger*, Amer Hovsepian, editor.

Newsletter topics: (May) At the May meeting President Jim McKinzie presented "It Glows," looking at stamps that glow under ultraviolet light. Tagged stamps were officially introduced in the United States on Aug. 1, 1963, with the 8¢ airmail stamp (C64a) showing "Jet Airliner Over Capitol" and having phosphorescent tagging. Although fluorescent optical brighteners were added to stamp paper as early as 1938, collectors really didn't pay much attention to tagging until the 1960s, with the introduction of phosphor-tagged stamps.



*Jet Airliner Over
Capitol, U.S. 1963
(Scott 64a tagged).*

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

Website: milwaukeephilatelic.org

Newsletter: *Milwaukee Philatelist*, Jonathan Kumbera, editor.

Newsletter topics: (May) This issue leads off with an article about Sally Ride (1951-2012), the first United States woman astronaut, who was honored by the USPS on May 23 with a first-class Forever commemorative postage stamp. She was a crew member of two *Challenger* space flights in 1983 and 1984. She became a professor of physics at the University of California – San Diego in 1989, two years after leaving NASA. Author and coauthor of seven books, she received numerous awards during her lifetime. She died July 23, 2012, from pancreatic cancer.



*Challenger Space
Shuttle, U.S. 1995
(Scott 2544).*

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

Website: www.rpastamps.org

Newsletter: *Hinges & Tongs*, Fred Haynes, editor.

Email: fredmbaynes55@gmail.com

(May-July) Ropex 2018 was held May 18-19 and celebrated the 80th anniversary of airmail service from Canandaigua, N.Y., to Rochester (May 19, 1938) and the 100th anniversary of United States airmail service. Paul Brach presented “Small Stamps” at the May 10 meeting, while an online program, “A Look Through Unusual Stamps,” was shown at the May 24 meeting. The program included stamps that are scented, produced on various materials, have unusual shapes and more. Larry Rausch’s article, “National Woman Suffrage Association,”



*Choco Suisse
Centenary,
Switzerland 2001
(Scott 1100).*

examines an 1875 cover he found in a cover lot in one of the club’s silent auctions. It was sent by the above-named organization to a womens rights advocate, Amy Post, who lived in Rochester. One of the officers listed on the cover was corresponding secretary Susan B.

Anthony and, after comparing Anthony’s handwriting (obtained by a Google search), Larry feels that Anthony addressed the cover. At the April meeting Kelly Armstrong presented a program on how he became a cachetmaker, showing a number of his hand-colored, handmade cachets.

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

Website: www.salemstampsociety.org

Newsletter: *Willamette Stamp & Tongs*, Lucien Klein, editor.

Newsletter topics: (April) At the May meeting, Rodney Stent presented the “Frame of the Month” on Pakistan. (May) Gary Tiffin has a nice article, “How to Attend a Major Stamp Show,” listing a number of things attendees could do at the show.

One of his points, “most dealers do not organize their material by topics...” is certainly true. But

*Shaheen falcon.
Pakistan 1986
(Scott 663).*



it is also true that members of the American Topical Association have access to more than 1,200 checklists on various topics and the stamps in a checklist are organized by country and Scott number. Thus, ATA members can visit any show dealer, checklist in hand, and search the dealer's inventory by country and Scott number for the topical stamps they are looking to obtain. They are not limited to dealers who organize their stock by topic.

Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo (ATA Chapter No. 66), Toledo, Ohio

Website: www.toledostampclub.org

Newsletter: *Frogtown Philatelist*, John Mann, editor, email: john6125@earthlink.net

Newsletter topics: (March) The Gilbert Islands in the Pacific Ocean are the subject of the "Where in the World are..." column, with a number of illustrations. Formerly a colony of the British Empire the islands became the independent nation of Kiribati in 1979. The two highlighted dates in this issue are March 1, 1803, when Ohio was admitted to the Union as the 17th state and March 15, 1767, the birthdate of Andrew Jackson. (April) This issue looks at the Faroe Islands, a group of 22 islands in the North Atlantic Ocean about 200 miles northwest of Shetland Island, Scotland. They are a self-governing unit within the Danish realm with fishing and sheep raising the main occupations. The April dates both related to marriage. On April 5, 1614, Pocahontas, the Native American daughter of Powhatan, married John Rolfe, a tobacco planter. Grace Kelly married Prince Ranier of Monaco on April 19, 1956. (May) The "Where in the World are..." column continues with island nations, this month looking at the Ryukyu Islands, an island chain in the Western Pacific Ocean between Taiwan and Kyushu, Japan. Placed under United States military government in 1945 following World War II, they were eventually returned to Japan in 1972. On May 3, 1936, Joe DiMaggio made his major league debut playing centerfield for the New York Yankees. On May 17, 1673, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette left St. Ignace, Mich., traveling up Lake Michigan eventually entering the Mississippi River in Wisconsin and becoming the first Europeans to explore the northern portion of that river.



Cliffs of Vestmanna, Faroe Islands (Scott 227).

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

Website: www.stamps.org/venice-stamp-club

Newsletter editor, Dawn Hamman.

Email: dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com

Newsletter topics: (March) At the March meeting it was noted that a recent article in the *Herald Tribune* newspaper mentioned that the firefly stamp from the "Bioluminescent Life" stamps issued by the USPS this year is based on a photograph by Gail Shumway, a local wildlife photographer. The stamp shows the Common Eastern firefly (*Photinus pyralis*), the most common



Viking ship in storm, Iceland 1930 (Scott 153).

firefly species in North America. (April) At the April meeting, President John Van Emden gave a program on the USPS marketing activities. As he was the first USPS marketing director, the audience was rewarded with first-hand knowledge of the marketing materials that he helped promote in the early 1970s, such as the "starter" stamp collecting kits, the year sets and the lobby displays in local post offices. At the March and April meetings the club added several new members: Rod Lind, who collects United States and more; Paul Romdahl, who collects Iceland; and Richard Gessner, who collects several Central European countries.

Westfield Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Westfield, N.J.

Website: westfieldstampclub.org

Newsletter: *The Westfield Philatelist*, Frederick C. Skvara, editor.

Email: fcskvara@optonline.net

Newsletter topics: (May/June) There is a short note about the 2017 stamp from France for the centenary of America's entry into World War I. Edward Grabowski's article, "April Fool's Day –French Style," describes how French children try to secretly stick a picture of a fish on the backs of their friends. The day is called Poisson d'Avril (fish of April) and that is the phrase that is shouted when the joke is discovered. In the article "Sphagnum Moss Saved Lives," the editor describes the use of the moss (also known as peat moss) in World War I for treating wounds. The moss has both remarkable absorptive and antiseptic properties. The article is illustrated with a 1981 stamp from Liechtenstein that depicts Sphagnum moss



Sphagnum palustre. *Liechtenstein 1981 (Scott 716)* (Scott 716) with a 1981 stamp from Liechtenstein that depicts Sphagnum moss (Sphagnum palustre), the only one that the editor is aware of that shows this plant. The newsletter also contains a philatelic quiz and the answers to the March/April quiz.

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

Website: www.thewssc.com

Newsletter: *Mayflower Minutes*, Doug Becker, editor.

Email: newsletter@thewssc.com

Newsletter topics: (May) At the May 18 meeting, the second part of "Scouts on Stamps," by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library was presented.

Boy Scouts 8th
World Jamboree,
Canada 1955
(Scott 356).



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

Website: wfcstamps.org

Newsletter: *Across the Fence Post*, Ray Perry, editor, email: fiveperrys@athenet.net

Newsletter topics: (April) Ray Perry, editor of *Across the Fence Post* is retiring as editor and will be succeeded by Alex Gill, who currently is employed by the Philatelic Foundation in New York City. As Ray and his wife are now fully retired, he is looking forward to a number of other endeavors. I have enjoyed this newsletter under his editorship and wish him a fruitful and happy retirement. Wiscopex 2018 was held May 5-6 commemorating the 32nd Red Arrow Infantry Division in World War I with a pictorial show cover and cancel. Formed from the Wisconsin and Michigan units of

the Army National Guard, their origin goes back to the Iron Brigade in the American Civil War. During World War I the Red Arrow Division was the first allied division to break through the German Hindenburg defense line and led to the adoption of its shoulder patch, a line pierced with a red arrow. The group also served in World War II. (May-June) The first-day ceremony for the new Flag Act of 1818 Forever stamp was held in Appleton, Wis., on June 9 and the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs created a first-day cover for the event. The article by James E. Byrne (Northwoods Philatelic Society), "National Airmail Week," tells the story of this celebration of scheduled airmail service in the United States. It was held May 14-21, 1938, and, on May 14 that year, the USPOD issued the 6¢ airmail stamps showing an eagle holding a shield, an olive branch and arrows.



Eagle Holding Shield, Olive Branch & Arrows. U.S. 1938 (Scott C23)

Canada

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

Newsletter: *Calgary Philatelist*, Dale Speirs, editor, email: opuntia57@yahoo.ca

Newsletter topics: (June) "Canadian Women In Sports" by Raymond Villeneuve looks at Stamps issued by Canada honoring Canadian Women in various sports. Depicted in the article

is the 2014 stamp showing Barbara Ann Scott (1928-2012), who won the women's single figure skating gold at the 1948 Olympics held at St. Moritz, Switzerland. Two stamps from Canada's 1996

booklet celebrating

Olympians from the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam depict Ethel Catherwood (1908-87) who won gold in the high jump and Fanny Rosenfeld (1904-69), who

won a silver in the 100m race and was part of the winning team in the 400m relay race that took a gold. On the cover of the *Calgary Philatelist* are two stamps issued by Canada Post on May 1, 2018, depicting two native bees: the rare rusty-patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) and the common metallic green bee (*Agapostemon virescens*). The envelope used to mail my copy of this issue was franked with these two very colorful bee stamps. ☺



Rusty-patched bumblebee and common metallic green bee, Canada, 2018.

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Canberra Stampshow 2018, Birdpex 2018

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Autumn Stampex 2017, Nordia 2017, and gsiBRIA 2017. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed. * indicates ATA member. Legend: **LG** – large gold, **G** – gold, **LV** – large vermeil, **V** – vermeil, **LS** – large silver, **S** – silver.

Canberra Stampshow 2018

This exhibition was held in Canberra, Australia, March 16-18, 2018. It was hosted by the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The main theme of the show was a celebration of nursing in Australia..

Multi-frame Exhibits

*Wendy Buckle	<i>Paper: Past and Present</i>	81, LV
Michael Blinman	<i>American World Fairs 1939-1940</i>	80, LV
Ed Wolf	<i>Crossing the South Atlantic by Air 1922-1940</i>	77, V
Anne Stammers	<i>Rocks to Riches</i>	77, V

***Vera Radnell**

One-frame Exhibits

<i>Introducing Falconry</i>	76, LV
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Gary Diffen

Open/Display Exhibits

<i>Preparation for War and the Australian Light Horse</i>	
<i>Campaign Egypt to Syria 1914-1918</i>	92, LG
<i>In Pursuit of the North Pole</i>	85, G
<i>Honey</i>	85, G
<i>Bees</i>	82, LV
<i>Supreme Valor</i>	82, LV
<i>The Battle of HMAS Sydney and the SMS Emden 9th November 1914, Cocos Islands, Indian Ocean</i>	80, LV
<i>Aubrey Gotley and the ANARE Base Heard Island 1947-1955</i>	80, LV
<i>An Alphabetical Journey through the Engravings of Czeslaw Slania</i>	78, V
<i>Coconut – The Palm of Life</i>	77, V

Kevin W. Dwyer

Terry Wagg

John Moore



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Mark Diserio
***Marilyn Gendek**
***Marilyn Gendek**

<i>A Philatelic History of the Snowy Mountains Scheme</i>	75, V
<i>Florence Nightingale: The Path to a Legend</i>	75, V
<i>A Timeline of Nursing in Australia</i>	72, V

Birdpex 8, 2018

Birdpex 2018, the eighth bird-only stamp show, was held in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, May 19-20, 2018. It is an international stamp exhibition that is held every four years. Previous shows were held in New Zealand, Germany, London, the Netherlands, Denmark, France and Belgium.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Peter Van Nies	<i>The Family Life of Birds</i>	92, G
Harald Friemann	<i>Birds in their Habitat</i>	90, G
J.J.J.M. Van der Sanden	<i>Kruui Krro, Kruui, Krro... Cranes!!!!</i>	90, G
Erna Streit	<i>Birds: We Present Ourselves Brilliantly and Inspire your Imagination</i>	88, G
Peter Stobbelaar	<i>Stories about School</i>	88, G
Manfred Heiland	<i>Passerine Birds in the European Habitat</i>	86, G
Noel Pattyn	<i>Birds of Prey – Elegant Hunters of the Sky</i>	83, LV
Thomas P.J. Loorij	<i>Birds in Nature, from Endangered to Protected</i>	81, LV
Mykytyuk Oksana	<i>Night Bird: Owl: Philatelic, Biologic and Cultural Aspects</i>	80, LV
*Roger Van Laere	<i>Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean</i>	78, V
Dieter Warncke	<i>Birds of Paradise: Discovery, Presentation and Use in Jewelry</i>	77, V
*Wolfgang Beyer	<i>Coraciiformes</i>	75, V
Bernd Wirthmann	<i>Ireland and its Relation to Birdlife</i>	75, V
Walter Stöpper	<i>Duckbills from all over the World</i>	73, LS
Karl-Heinz Kühn	<i>Penguins: Survival Artists with Fascinating Skills</i>	70, S

One-frame Exhibits

Peter Van Nies	<i>Magpies: Black but Colorful</i>	90, G
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>Andean Condor: Flying Symbol of South America</i>	85, G

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Niko van Wassenhove	<i>Pink Flamingos</i>	82, LV
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>Falconry</i>	82, LV
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>The Family of Tetraonines</i>	81, LV
Thomas P.J. Loorij	<i>The Hague Bird Protection Society</i>	80, LV
Walter Stöpper	<i>Birds in Shoreline and Siltation Zones</i>	80, LV
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>The Royal Eagle</i>	80, LV
Paramasivasan Srinivasan	<i>The World of Flamingos</i>	79, V
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>Sternes</i>	77, V
*Roger van Laere	<i>Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean</i>	76, V
Daniel de Smedt	<i>Birds in the Nest</i>	76, V
Klaus Thormann	<i>Nestling: From an Egg to Out of the Nest</i>	75, V
Paramasivasan Srinivasan	<i>Magpies in Nature and Myth</i>	75, V
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>The Peregrine Falcon</i>	75, V
Paramasivasan Srinivasan	<i>The National Pride of India: Peacock – A Bird and Symbol</i>	73, LS
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>Graceful Elements</i>	73, LS
Niko van Wassenhove	<i>The Eagle: Precursors</i>	72, LS
Peter Oelke	<i>Feathers of Seduction</i>	72, LS
Klaus Thormann	<i>Who is Knocking? We, the Woodpeckers</i>	71, LS

Open/Display Exhibits

Thomas P.J. Loorij	<i>The Stork – Full of Nature and Symbolism</i>	72, LS
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I would like to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for providing the results of Birdpex 2018. ☺

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

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YOUTH IN TOPICS

MaryAnn Bowman

Dragons and More: 2018 NTSS

It is always exciting to me when I discover a new children's book that incorporates the idea of stamps, letter writing and/or the post office. My newest find is a colorful

picture book aimed at children from preschool age to second grade. *Can I Be Your Dog?*, written by Troy Cummings and published this year, is my latest discovery.

The following review appeared in the *School Library Journal*: "Arfy, a floppy-eared mutt on Butternut Street, is on a mission to find his forever home. He writes a letter listing all of his admirable attributes (he is potty-trained and has his own squeaky toy) to the people in the yellow house. The mail lady delivers Arfy's letter. Unfortunately, the people turn him down. Arfy keeps trying, writing more letters delivered by the mail lady. All write

him back and decline his offer. Feeling sad and dejected, Arfy cries himself to sleep in his soggy box. When he wakes he finds a letter from the mail lady asking to be Arfy's person. Arfy, full of glee, sprints to the mail lady with his reply letter. Vibrantly colored digital illustrations, with no white space, captivate readers from the first page. Loosely placed shapes and textures artfully create Butternut Street. The story is told in illustrated, personalized letters. Arfy's are written in crayon and signed with a paw print. Readers will be cheering Arfy on and feel relief when he finds a person to love. The last page lists ways readers can help a homeless animal. Verdict: No bones about it; this humorous picture book will be a hit with storytime audiences and emergent readers."

APS/ATA StampShow/NTSS

By now, you are aware of StampShow being jointly sponsored by the APS and ATA. Although I am unable to be there this year, input was offered and I am pleased to announce that one of the activities that youth will be engaged with during the show is something that I arranged with Dave Bennett, a member of the American First Day Cover Society.

Dave Bennett is a graphic and digital artist who is employed by Walt Disney Television Studios Production Co. His cartoon-style drawings have appeal to youngsters of all ages. You may recall that he designed the cachets for the 2011 National Topical Stamp Show.

As the USPS will be issuing four Dragon stamps, each in a dramatic setting, Dave Bennett is creating a black-and-white cartoon-style line drawing that will be reproduced on envelopes. Youth attending the show will have an opportunity to enhance the drawing by coloring in the design and personalizing their cachets. The



January–March 2016

Volume 5 Issue 1

Dragons

Stories and legends about dragons have been around for thousands of years. People used to think that dragons were dragons because they didn't know of any creature large enough to fit such bodies. Legends and myths were told about these fantastical creatures who often had magical powers.

In the East, dragons symbolized strength, power, and good fortune. They were more as a protectors of villages. In fact, often they are often portrayed as good and intelligent. Instead of being hated, people worship them in shrines and temples. Chinese believe they are descendants of the dragon who is the god of rain. Children who are born in the year of the dragon are said to be natural leaders who are unfearful of challenges and willing to take risks.

Dragons in the West have a different meaning. They are often seen as fierce, bloodthirsty, fire-breathing creatures who hoard gold and rocks toward. Western dragons are often called upon to fight these dragons and rescue captives. Western dragons often live in dry places like deserts and caves while the ones in the East tend to live near water.

You might like to start a collection of Eastern and Western dragons. Below is an example of one from the East. Enjoy this issue about dragons!



cachets will be collected and then sent to me. I will then affix the stamps and submit the covers for first-day canceling during the grace period. Each child will receive his or her own colored cachet in the mail. Inside each will be a stuffer with directions on how they can add additional FDCs to their collection.

Dragons fascinate young people. When you share the new stamps with a budding collector, consider also using some of the other resources that incorporate dragon stamps. *Topical Tidbits* had a dragon theme for the January–March 2016 issue. It explores some dragons featured in literature and also offers a maze and an album page for collecting both Eastern and Western dragons. Another resource is the *Dragons on*

Stamps video created by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Society. Approximately 15 minutes in length, the program shares the stories and folklore of dragons on postage stamps from around the world. The video can be found at www.stampsmarter.com. Look in the library tab under "Topical Collecting."

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I am also pleased to announce that *The Magical World of Stamp Collecting* will be given to youth attending the show. This 24-page booklet has now been published and is packed with youth-friendly activities. It is available by mail and was printed due to a generous donation from the Midwest Philatelic Society of Kansas City, Mo. Copies are available from the ATA Office (please see Page 92).

Getting Ready for the Fall Stamp Collecting Season

Summer is the perfect time to plan programs to use with youth during the upcoming fall and winter seasons. Not everyone is able to devote extended periods of time for the organization that is needed to maintain and sustain an active youth stamp collecting program. Other people are uncomfortable presenting programs and/or planning activities. Here is an idea that will allow you to share your hobby but not have to make a long-term commitment.

I call this program “Sample Stamp Collecting.” Easy to set up in a library or as an after-school session, it consists of several tables with a few activities. Little to no adult guidance is needed but is recommended. Signage with directions of what to do might be used. At one table, set up a number of different magnifying glasses and have children look for small details on stamps – for example: microprinting, small objects on stamps, the hidden words on each of the Harry Potter stamps, Canadian secret marks and more.

At another station, have stamps from foreign countries and let children try their hand at using a stamp identifier to learn the country name of each stamp. At still another table, make available individual album pages from U.S. albums. Have a large mixture of off-paper U.S. stamps. Challenge your visitors to complete an album page by looking for the individual stamps that are depicted on their chosen album page.

Another option: create a small collection of topical stamps that might be placed in a stock card. This would eliminate the need for showing children how to hinge stamps.

There are many other ideas that might be tried. Even just a few displays or having free stamps that can be taken home is a start at making young people aware of the hobby. What can you do to share your knowledge and love of stamp collecting? Let me know if you or your club has any special plans for October, traditionally National Stamp Collecting Month.

I have had several responses to previous columns that featured the insights of adults who have been working with youth through schools, clubs and on a one-on-one basis. I am looking forward to featuring more of these in a future issue of *Topical Time*. I am still interested in your input, so if you have a story or experience to share, please write to me or send an email.

You can contact me through writing to PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187-1451 or by email at maryann15b@mac.com. I look forward to hearing from you! 

MaryAnn Bowman is a youth activist, director of ATA Youth Activities, was named as the 2005 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist and previously served on the Smithsonian's Council of Philatelists.

New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with similar collecting interests, are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited. This list includes new membership numbers 57974-58005 and recent reinstatements (membership through June 1, 2018).

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48410 CHAUVET, Alain	Orchids, Pharmacy, Medicine, Sciences
59796-YM CROSBY, Emily	Disney, Girl Scouts
59795 CROSBY, Tom, philatelytom@centurylink.net	Christmas Seals
57981 DESAI, Samir	Streetcars, Trains, Famous People
57990 DUCHARME, Denis	Sailing Ships, Elephants, Camels, Stamps on Stamps, Maps, Boy Scouts, Soccer, Olympics
58000 FINDLAY, Bill, billfindlay74@gmail.com	Wine, Canoes, Lord of the Rings
54139 FRAGASZY, William J., magyarbill@gmail.com	United Nations, Flora, Railroads, Revolutionary
65 Greenland Cir, Yarmouth Port MA 02675-2176	
52838 FREEMAN, James	Mathematics, Physics, Einstein, Astronomy
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53661 HAYES, Esper	Birds, Black History, Butterflies
56549 HIEHLE, Charles, pennsy4@comcast.net	Darwin, Einstein, Astrophysics, Astronomers
57999 HOGAN, Vera	
57984 HORNE, Fred	Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Baden-Powell
57998 HOUSER, Janet	
58002 HÜBNER, Dušan, dusan@hubner.sk	Space, Unmanned Solar System Probes, 1st Satellites of World Countries
57980 HUNTSVILLE Philatelic Club, ATA Ch. 133, artcole@att.net	
PO Box 4384, Huntsville AL 35815-4384	
57991 KAM, Glenda	Animals
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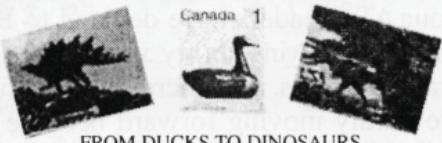
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57997	PAQUET, John	Christmas
52929	PEDERSON, William D., william.pederson@lsus.edu	Abraham Lincoln (especially on foreign stamps)
	5734 Roma Dr, Shreveport LA 71105-4225	
57974	REES, Calvin, calvinok@cox.net	Duck Stamps
57982	RITZENHEIM, Donald, donaldritz@gmail.com	Kennedy, John F.
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57977	TODD, Libanus, libanum@aol.com	Lighthouses, Golf, Stained Glass, Military Medals, U.S. Stamps on Stamps
57987	TUCKER, Patricia, patucker44@gmail.com	Christmas, Christmas Seals
57979	VALERIO, Fernando, fvalerio@mail.colostate.edu 1727 Azalea Dr Apt 4, Fort Collins CO 80526-5745	Animals, Food, Axolotls, Latin America
57976	VINCENT GRAVES GREENE Philatelic Research Foundation Library 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto, ON M4T 1A8 Canada	
57994	WATSON, Angela, bleumoon3@gmail.com	International Women's Year, Chickens

Deceased

48421	CRUM, James (Ore.)
50235	McCOY, Raymond (Va.)
315	RIDGELY, Beverly S (R.I.)

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ATA Membership Recruiters

The following ATA members have recruited these new members from Jan. 1 through June 1, 2018. Individual members receive \$5 in ATA Bucks credit for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.

2018 Recruiters: ATA Dealer Members shown in red.

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

ATA Mission Statement

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

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

Providing for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.

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

Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.

Assisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.

Editorial Content

All editorial inquiries or comment for *Topical Time* should be directed to Editor Wayne L. Youngblood. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ATA, its officers or staff. Neither the ATA nor its officers assume responsibility for individual dealings with or between members.

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

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For ATA membership information, change of address, ATA publication orders, back issues of *Topical Time* or ATA handbooks, contact the ATA Office. The *2015-17 ATA Membership Directory* is available from the ATA Office for \$5, plus postage (\$3 U.S., \$6 Canada and \$13 international).

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(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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 American Philatelic Society
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www.stamps.org

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bret@trajan.ca; www.canadianstampnews.ca

Filacap: José Maurício do Prado, editor,
 Caixa Postal 06, Cachoeira Paulista SP,
 12630-970, Brazil
ac.filacap@uol.com.br; www.filacap.com.br

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

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

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

Linn's Stamp News: Jay Bigalke, editor-in-chief, PO Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
jaybigalke@amosmedia.com; www.linns.com

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

Philatelic Exporter: Graham Phillips, editor, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom
exportereditor@aol.com
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Philatelic Exhibitor: Randy L. Neil, editor, PO Box 8512, Shawnee Mission KS 66208-8512 USA
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Setempe: Suzie Khumalo, editor, Private Bag X505, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

South African Philatelist: Chris Mobsby, editor, PO Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504, South Africa
saphilatelist@iafrica.com
www.philatelysa.co.za

Stamp Insider: Albert W. Starkweather, editor, 5668 Tranquility Oaks Dr Unit 208, Tampa FL 33624-5849 USA
astarkweather@stampinsider.org
www.stampinsider.org

Stamp Lover: Michael M. Goodman, editor, The National Philatelic Society, c/o The British Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, United Kingdom
stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk
www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm

Stamp Magazine: Guy Thomas, editor, Eden House, Suite 25S, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HF, United Kingdom
guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com
www.stampmagazine.co.uk

Stamp News Australasia: Kevin Morgan, editor, PO Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia
kevinmorgan2@live.com
www.stampnews.com.au

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

SHOW CALENDAR

July 20-22, 2018, Minnesota. Minnesota Stamp Expo, sponsored by the Twin City Philatelic Society and various local clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis, Minn. Contact Randy A. Smith, (952) 431-3273.

Email: rasmery4@frontiernet.net

Website: [www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20](http://www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm)

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July 30 - Aug 4, 2018, Ohio. The Perfins Club 75th and the Precancel Stamp Society 97th Combined Annual Conventions, Crowne Plaza Columbus North, Worthington, Ohio. ATA members with an interest in collecting Perfins and/or Precancels should come to Columbus, Ohio, the week before the NTSS in the same city. Contact Dan Baugher (636) 537-5365

Email: dbaugherr@charter.net

Websites: www.perfins.org and/or

www.precancels.com

Aug. 3-5, 2018, Georgia. Americover 2018, sponsored by American First Day Cover Society, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Peachtree Corners (Norcross), Ga. Contact Chris Lazaroff.

Email: showinfo@afdc.org

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To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, wystamps@gmail.com or by mail to 705 Forest Glen Cir, Prairie du Sac WI 53578-1077. Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show if at all possible.

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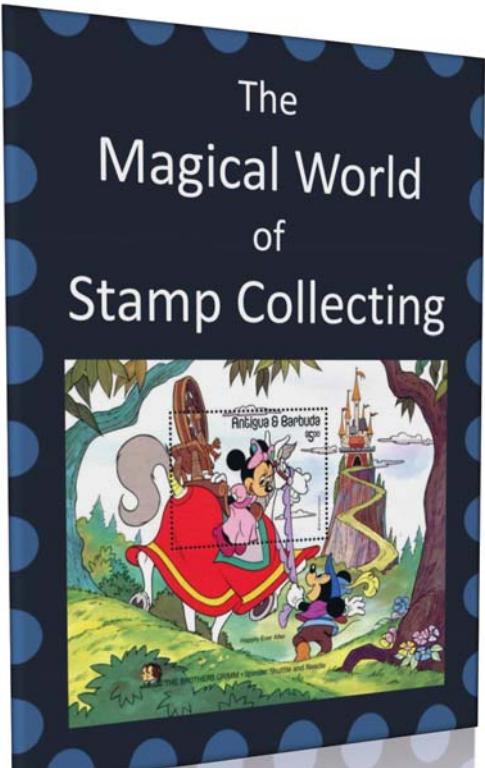
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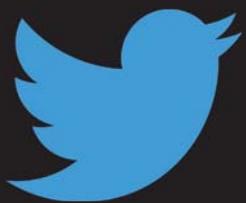
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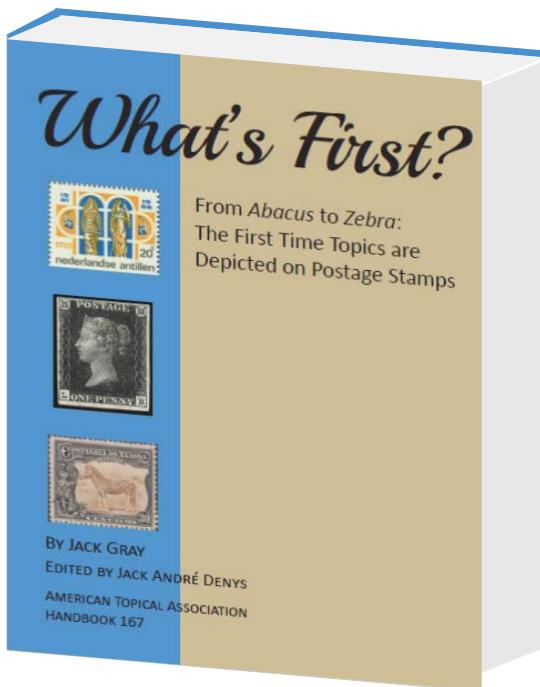
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