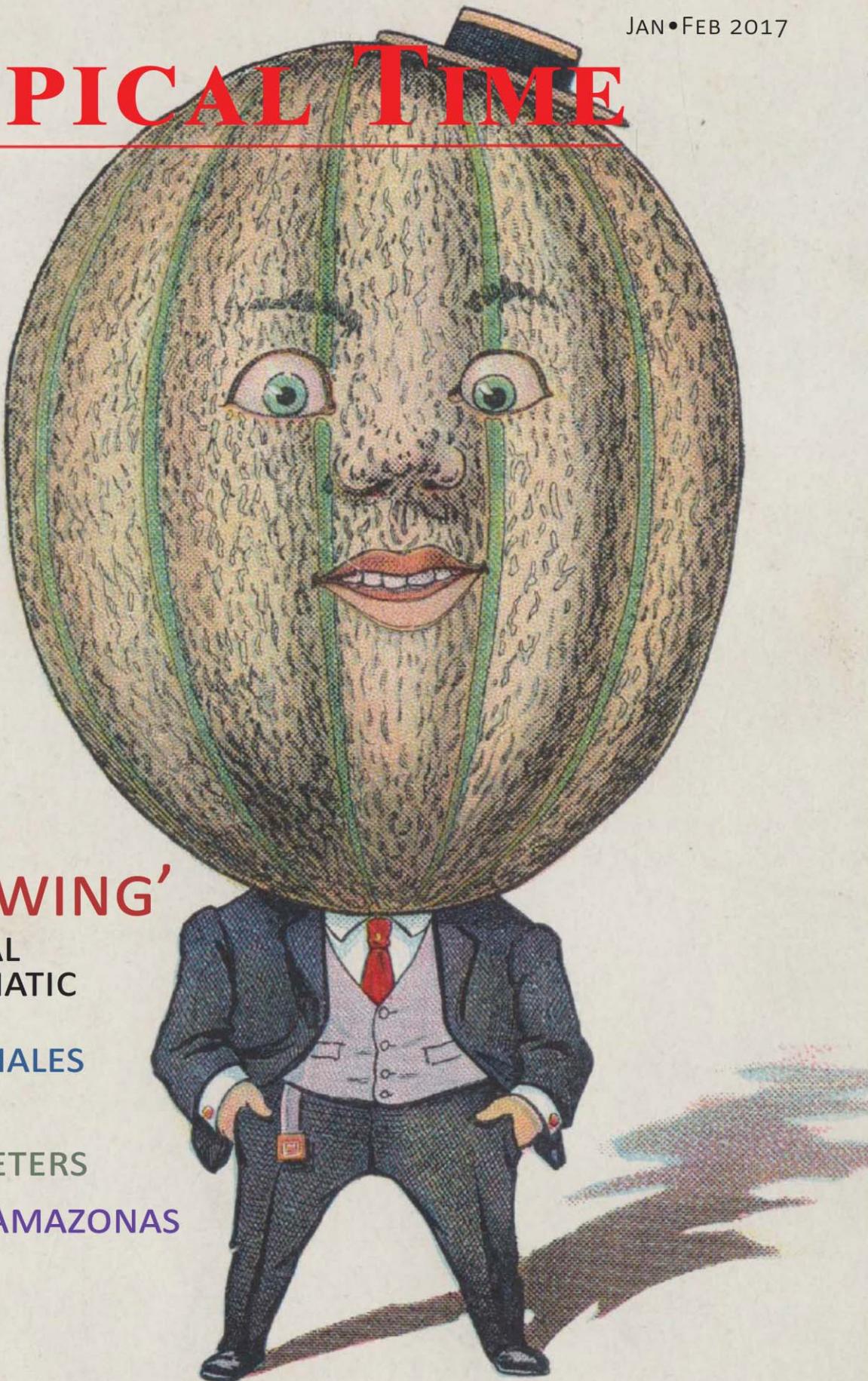


JAN•FEB 2017

# TOPICAL TIME



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ATA received the Second Prize  
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**“Promotion of youth philately and public relations.”**  
The prize was awarded for:

*Topical Tidbits  
and  
Topical Time*

**For more details, see:**  
**Topical Tidbits:**  
**[www.americantopicalassn.org/tidbits.shtml](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/tidbits.shtml)**  
**CG-Awards:**  
**[www.cg-award.com/](http://www.cg-award.com/)**

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



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

## **TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM**

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

**Managing Director Andrew McGavin of Universal Philatelic Auctions explains:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **The Universal Unique Reducing Estimate lot system was born**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# DALE'S DIALOGUE

## Dale Smith, ATA President

On Saturday Oct. 29 I attended the ribbon cutting of the completed American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). It was attended by much of the who's-who in philately from the United States and around the world. It seemed that there were more than 100 participants attending.

I have been to Bellefonte, Pa., on three previous occasions to witness the site as construction was progressing; but to see it in its completed state was an experience of a lifetime. The previous day ATA Second Vice President Jack Congrove and I went on a tour of the facility. The library consists of two levels of probably the largest collection of written philatelic material in the world.

The area was well appointed, with many tables at which you could sit all day reviewing the literature from the earliest articles of any philatelic magazine to the present. Yes, I saw the very first issues of *Topical Time*, two copies each, from 1949 on, all together in one section, along with many other publications on topical subjects. Rolling shelves for compact storage contain copies of most everything ever written about our hobby. Book after book appear on the shelves, journals in order of printing and all written about any philatelic subject about which you could think. It was endless. And there are many more boxes in storage waiting on volunteers to catalog and file. You also can buy duplicate material right there.

This library had the latest in equipment that a library would need for safe storage, yet easy to retrieve by any member wanting to research whatever article or subject you would like. That article you wanted to write – all the information is at hand should you want to do so. There is great lighting, areas where you can copy articles on to paper or a thumb drive and a friendly staff to help you find material you are looking for.

And, as I have done several times, you can check out material from your home for the cost of mailing, review it at your leisure then return it. If you are not a member, it is well worth joining The American Philatelic Society and pay the small fee to become a member of the APRL. And, if you are a dedicated philatelist, it is worth visiting the Match Factory, located in this very historical and picturesque town in Pennsylvania.

The other reason that Jack and I were in Bellefonte was to attend the Summit on the Future of Philately. The American Topical Association was one of the many organizations invited to this first-of-its-kind gathering of philatelic leaders. More than 30 participants were present representing APS, APRL, the American First Day Cover Society, the Collectors Club of New York, the National Postal Museum, the American Stamp Dealers Association, the National Stamp Dealers Association, the Royal Philatelic Society of London, the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, the U.S. Postal Service, World Stamp Show New York 2016, World Stamp Show Boston 2026 and others, all representing collectors and stamp dealers.

It is important to recognize the leadership of APS President Mick Zais and ASDA President Mark Reasoner, working together with APS Executive Director Scott English, who had the foresight to bring together this group of individuals. The theme of this event was “Only by working together can we make an impact on the issues facing everyone in the philatelic arena today.”

I feel this summit effort is critically important because we discussed the very issues that your board of directors has been struggling with for several years; how to keep philately relevant in the 21st century. How do we thrive as an organization in serving you, our members? And, topical collecting was mentioned time and again during these discussions. ATA founder Jerry Husak will be pleased!

The subjects discussed concerned:

- What can be done to grow the hobby?
- How can we improve the image of stamp collecting?
- How can we grow member services and desired programs?
- Marketing strategies for the varied interest of all stamp collectors.
- How to use social media and technology to reach young collectors?
- How can we improve stamp shows to increase attendance?
- Developing new leadership to maintain vitality in smaller stamp shows.
- Attracting new volunteers, the lifeblood of ATA and all organizations.

The discussions were lively, with great participation and lots of positive input.

On Dec. 20 we had a second conference call meeting. Going forward, this committee will be known as the Council of Philatelic Organizations. I was appointed to a committee that will work on getting philatelic articles published in non-philatelic publications. We have discovered that several topical articles have already been published. This effort hopefully will expose readers to the joys of stamp collecting and bring new collectors to our hobby.

There will be future meetings. Your organization, the ATA, will be a permanent member of this summit group. We will be full participants. That means that each and every ATA member can have a voice in the future of philately. I have received input from several of your board members, as well as ATA members. Now, I want to hear from you. My contact information is on page 4 of this wonderful award-winning journal. Don’t be shy about giving your input. I enjoy hearing from you and will respond. ☐

---



## About ATA

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

### Have you ever seen...?

...philatelic articles in magazines or journals that are not affiliated with stamp collecting?

For example, have you seen an article on cats on stamps in *Cat Fancy* magazine? Or, how about one about birds on stamps in a birding magazine? Please contact Dale Smith at (816) 734-4536 or [thedale.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:thedale.smith48@gmail.com). Additionally, if you belong to any nonphilatelic hobby organizations, Dale would like to learn about its magazine or journal for possible philatelic publicity.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

The ATA needs your help in filling these volunteer positions. If you are interested, we will provide you assistance learning the job and support in fulfilling it. Please contact Dale Smith at (816) 734-4536.

### **Grants and Awards Coordinator**

We need your advice. If you have experience in obtaining grants or funding for nonprofits please give Dale a call at the previously given number. We know other philatelic organizations have received small grants recently. We need your help in accomplishing this for ATA.

### **Volunteers with DVD Production Skills**

Do you have experience in producing films or DVDs? We could use your talents at ATA. We have DVDs that need updating: Americana, Fire Service, Maps, Music, National Parks and others. Suggestions for modifications have been made. We want to put together a committee to complete this project. Please contact Dale.

### **Proofreaders**

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

## **Recent Shows and New Members**

**Nov. 18-20:** **Chicagopex**, Itasca, Ill. Ambassadors: **Sue Jones, Jean Stout**. New members: 2.

**Dec. 2-4:** **Florex**, Orlando, Fla. Ambassadors: **Dawn Hamman, John Hamman**. New members: 5.

**Dec. 13:** **Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show**, Renton, Wash. Ambassadors: **Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm**.

## **Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows**

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

**Jan. 27-29:** **Southeastern Stamp Expo**, Norcross, Ga. [www.sefsc.org/](http://www.sefsc.org/) (checklist printing available).

**Feb. 3-5:** **Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition**, Sarasota, Fla.  
[www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html](http://www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html)

**Feb. 12:** **Fenwick Stamp Show**, Renton, Wash. [www.nwfedstamps.org/shows.html](http://www.nwfedstamps.org/shows.html)

**Feb. 24-26:** **Texpex**, Grapevine, Texas [www.texpex.org](http://www.texpex.org)

**March 18-19:** **Nashville Stamp Show**, Madison, Tenn.  
[www.nashvillephilatelic.org](http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org) (checklist printing, Saturday only)

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

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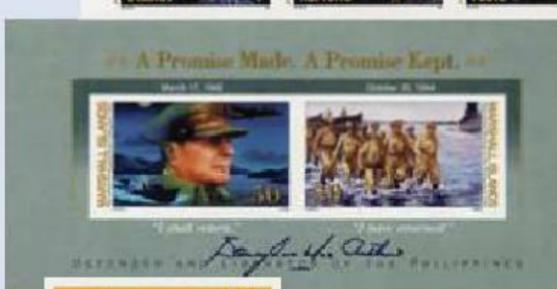
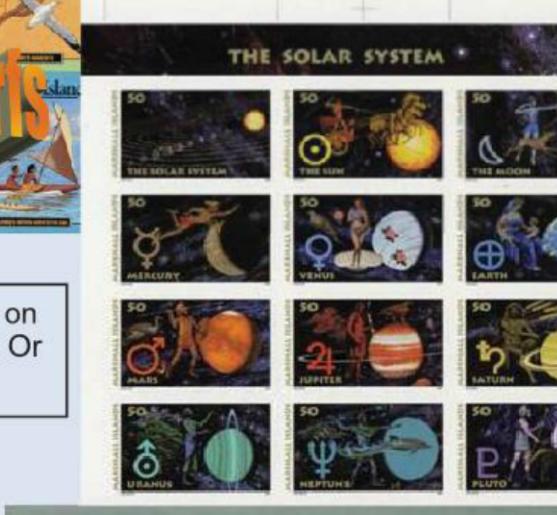
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### WWII collectors:

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!

# ATA meets 2016 goal!

At the end of last year, Dale Smith, as president of the ATA, was asked to be a member of the new Council of Postal Collectors. This small group of philatelic leaders is considering specific measures to strengthen the hobby and is drawing up an action plan for the hobby. This can be an important milestone for the future of philately and we are pleased that the ATA is part of it. It is also recognition of the growing importance of the area of topical collecting.

The ATA can contribute to making our whole hobby stronger. At a time when so much of philately has been retrenching, the ATA has been able to improve and even add to its member services. At the same time, it has been able to stabilize its membership and even to grow a little.

This progress has been possible in large part because of your generous support. The preliminary results of 2016 look very good. The ATA has met its goal for the year – and then some. Lots of you step up to the plate whenever the ATA needs help. You have responded to ATA appeals, you have added a few extra dollars to your dues and you have rounded up the payments for your purchases. All of these measures help.

**Thank you for everything you do to support the ATA.**

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

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

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

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

Together we can continue to advance...



## BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

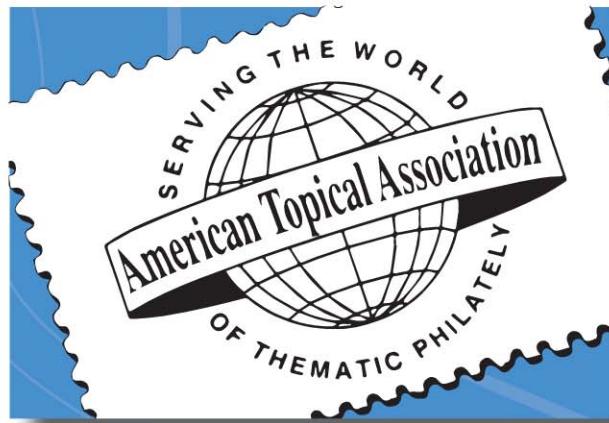


# VERA'S VIEWS

Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

## New Year, New Signage...

Several ATA members through the years have visited our out-of-the way office. They were greeted by a nondescript sign on our front door. Thanks to **Amanda Morgenstern** we now have a spiffy ATA sign that calls attention of the presence of ATA to all folks who pass this community. If you have occasion to be in our area in 2017 (we're in a small town in southern Illinois), don't hesitate to let us know and we will roll out the red carpet for you. A free lunch or coffee/snack is waiting now that a café has opened a few doors away; this is the first time one can purchase coffee in downtown Carterville, Ill., since the ATA Office opened here! We are located just five miles off I-57, which extends from Chicago to New Orleans, and an hour south of I-64 running from Norfolk to beyond St. Louis. Let us know you're going to be in the area, and we'll be here to take your photo by the new ATA sign!



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**membee**. I am so very grateful for the hundreds – perhaps into the thousands! – of volunteer hours donated by ATA Board member **Dick Roman** in spearheading the establishment of a new online membership management system for our organization. The excellent work by **Karen** and **Michael Cartier** in the development of our current system, using Microsoft Access, served us well for the last 15 years. But the availability of new technology makes it optimal to use an online membership management system. After dozens of hours of research, Dick chose – and our board voted – to use membee, an online company from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Long-time board member **Dennis Dengel** contributed monetarily to assist with the new system.

At this writing, Dick Roman is still working diligently to convert and upload many different data files to our new system. Among other features will be an online

store of ATA items and an ATA Dealer Member listing. You will be able to register for NTSS and associated events. When the system is ready, each member with an email address will receive the “scoop” on how to access it.

If you use email but have not supplied ATA with your address, now would be a great time to email us at [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com) so we can establish your access to membee. Stay tuned – we'll supply more details as the system becomes user ready.

**Beginner Collecting Items.** The number of different beginner/youth album pages on the ATA website has increased to 128 – a 10% increase over the past year.



Members of several study units have supplied stamps for *Taste of Topicals* (beginner packets with stamps and album pages). What a wonderful way to support your study unit: send to the ATA Office your spare stamps related to your topic! ATA will assemble them into *Taste of Topicals* beginner packets to be sold at shows; a related card with your study unit information will be included. If we have enough stamps to make several packets, we will also offer them for sale on our website. We have been able to offer *Taste of Topicals* (beginner packets for adults or youth) and now post album pages for the following topics: American Bicentennial, Archaeology, Gems and Minerals, Europa and Petroleum. Additional album pages from recent *Topical Tidbits* include French Colonies

and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Do check out [www.americantopicalassn.org/youth](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/youth) for all the ATA beginner offerings.

**Start with a Smile.** Thanks to all ATA members who signed up at [www.usmile.amazon.com](http://www.usmile.amazon.com) and purchased holiday gifts with a percentage donated to our organization. It's not too late! The next time you log on to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), please sign up to support ATA. It's easy ... painless ... and rewarding to both you and us!

**Candy.** The free ATA holiday checklist (for Candy) is posted on our website until Easter, April 16. You may download/print it for free from the [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org) website or send an addressed, stamped envelope to ATA for your copy. The time it is available has been extended from New Years to Easter.

Thanks for a wonderful 2016! ATA welcomed almost 300 new and reinstating members and promoted topical philately at NY2016 and many other shows. And we met and exceeded our \$35,000 Boldly To The Future goal – thanks to the contributions of many more members than previously. You are the greatest! A New Years' pat on the back to everyone who contributed this past year! We should be able to extend our services without raising membership fees. Thank you for your confidence in ATA; we promise to use your donations wisely. ☺



# WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

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

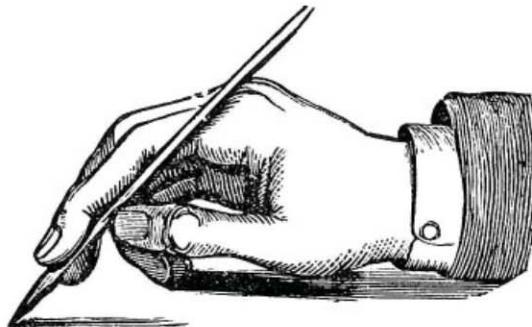
## *Topical Time* Needs You!

Before proceeding further, I need to apologize to you on behalf of ATA and me. This issue – ostensibly the January-February issue of *Topical Time* – will likely reach you somewhere around Feb. 10 – not exactly timely. In addition, due to circumstances beyond our control, there is no “Study Unit Spotlight” in this issue, nor is there a “Units in Action” column. We hope you will enjoy the expanded editorial made possible by their absence – particularly in an issue with much ATA business. Still, we had some “issues” (on several levels) getting this issue out, and we’re sorry.

We have recalibrated, reset and recombobulated (a technical term), and – with a short turnaround – will be much closer to schedule next issue and should be fully back on track with the May-June issue. Also watch for other visible improvements to the magazine throughout the year. The cover of this issue, for example, has been reimaged by Amanda Morgenstern. We very much appreciate your patience with this process as we move forward.

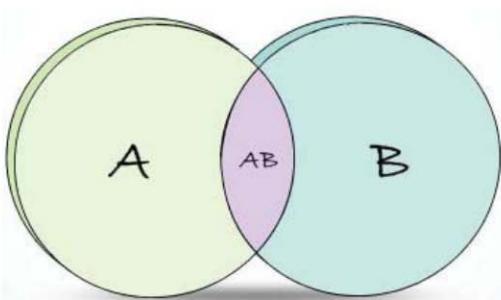
### Articles needed

As I write this, the proverbial editorial ladder is virtually empty. We need features, both long and short. Please consider sharing material from your collection(s), even if it only a description (and image) of a favorite cover or other item. Members enjoy seeing unusual material from other members’ collections. If you need material scanned, we can do that, too, returning your originals promptly.



*Topical Time* is a member-driven publication, meaning we constantly need your input. Letters, features and other contributed material is vital. Please contact me at [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com) (subject *TT* feature) if you are interested. I’m happy to add polish to your piece if you feel you’re “not a writer.” Thank you in advance!

### Collectors vs. Exhibitors



More and more, I find I need to make a clear distinction between collectors and exhibitors – not that the two are mutually exclusive, but a Venn diagram would show only a partial overlap between them. This diagram would show slightly greater overlap than the illustrated example, but the circle sizes would be vastly



different as well. Why is it important to know that the two are different?

First, exhibitors make up a very small percentage of the overall philatelic world (single-digit percentages), yet they are by far the most vocal – and influential – facet of the hobby. While this is not necessarily a bad thing (I'm an exhibitor as well as a collector), it does occasionally prove the old adage that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease." Exhibitors have become such a vocal minority within the hobby that their needs sometimes are placed ahead of those of the average collector, translating into more resources expended on the needs of exhibitors than those of collectors. Perhaps because of this, exhibitors occasionally forget they are the exception, rather than the rule in the overall hobby, which becomes frustrating to collectors.

What are the primary differences between the collectors and exhibitors? Without casting judgement (as both have a very valid and important function within the hobby), the following is a very brief description of each, from my viewpoint.

**Collectors.** For the most part, collectors are far more omnivorous than exhibitors, in that they will add something to their collections if it interests (or even amuses) them. These items – all of which enhance both their collections and their interest level in the hobby – can include stamps, covers, cinderellas and even nonphilatelic forms of paper and other ephemera. The pursuit and the study of a certain country, subject or topic is the primary driver behind acquisition and continuance.

**Exhibitors.** Exhibitors, on the other hand, have an entirely different motivation than most collectors. Because exhibitors must narrow their focus and follow certain guidelines (if they are inclined to aspire to awards), their acquisitions (or even their basic pursuits of material) are frequently limited by either what will enhance their exhibit or will garner a higher medal level. Thus, items these individuals might otherwise obtain are forbidden fruit when it comes to being judged. Those exhibitors who are also collectors will obtain them anyway and simply leave items that don't contribute towards a medal level out of the exhibit. Others feel they cannot stray from guidelines outlining their particular type of exhibit.

As a hobby (and as an organization serving all philatelic hobbyists), we need to remain mindful that there is a difference between collectors and exhibitors, and that not all collectors (or even most) aspire to become exhibitors "when they grow up" – nor should they. The vast majority of collectors wish to remain just that – hobbyists who gather and organize stamps, covers and other items for relaxation and enjoyment. The ATA – and *Topical Time* – both aim to try to meet the needs of all hobbyists, collectors and exhibitors.

We value your input tremendously. Suggestions, comments and even editorial discussion are all welcomed. Please let us hear from you about what you would like to see in *Topical Time*. ☰

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# BACK TO BASICS

*Jack André Denys*

## Beyond the Catalog Items

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

**You asked** (on our recent member survey): Give advice on how to diversify a collection beyond stamps, souvenir sheets and covers. How and where can meter covers and pictorial cancels be obtained? No one in TT advertises these items. I haven't a clue about how to look for and find them! Hence, I never read articles about them – very frustrating.

**Response:** The ATA calls these items “Beyond the Catalog” (BTC) and defines them as basic types of common philatelic items issued by governments but not usually listed in *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, such as booklet covers, meter stamps, postal cards, postal stationery, postmarks and more. We have been asking members to send lists of such items so they may be added to our checklists and make them even more valuable. On our website, [www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml), checklists that include BTC items are marked with an asterisk (\*). BTC items are explained in “Jack’s Journal” in TT Jul-Aug 2012.

There are two major challenges in collecting BTC items. The first is to find out what items exist. The second is to locate the items for sale. “Jack’s Journal” in March-April 2016 TT offers ideas for discovering and obtaining postmarks. Some of those suggestions can be adapted for other BTC items.

A way to use eBay to learn both how to create (or expand) your checklist, including locating BTC items, is in “Jack’s Journal” of Nov-Dec 2013 TT. (This article, and all other TT articles from Jan-Feb 2013 forward are available free online – or send a stamped, addressed envelope to the ATA Office.)

Future columns of “Back to Basics” will include other sources of information for BTC items. Members are strongly encouraged to offer their ideas on this subject – and to send their lists of BTC items to be added to our checklists. Here is a four-column format you may use, for one or many items:

### Postmarks (or other BTC category)

Nation	Date of Issue	City*	Brief Description
Example	May 30, 2011	* for postmarks and meter stamps	

Optional: If using an Excel spreadsheet, please use these letter columns – you will need to widen them:

**Column A**

**Column B**

**Column C**

**Column D**



# TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

## *George DeKornfeld*

### Boys will be boys

“Boys will be boys” was a phrase my mother was forced to utter to my grandparents as I was growing up – more often than I suppose she should have had to. For her, I guess it acted as a pressure release; for me, it translated into the classic “Wait until your Father gets home” threat that immediately placed the transgressor (me) on Murderer’s Row, praying for a stay of execution phone call from the governor that would never come. The clocks in our house somehow sensed all of this and reacted by speeding up their ticking endeavors making a long day slide quickly away right up to the point where one could hear my dad’s Oldsmobile pull into our driveway. At that moment time stood still and it was time to pay the proverbial piper.

The problem was, most of the time any penalties were well worth the temporary inconveniences earned as compared to the actual transgression. One of these events that recently came to mind involved the use of what those clever Chinese folks invented during the Tang Dynasty of the 9th Century, and that’s what we’ll be taking a look at in this issue of *Topical Time: Fireworks*.

Being a youngster in New York State, where fireworks were strictly verboten, and coming across a supplier of things that go boom would always create some



Figure 1.

excitement in our part of Westchester County. Usually these suppliers were neighbors who were already in high school, drove cars and were able to go wherever they had to go to shop for fireworks, be it in-state (Chinatown) or out of state where these things weren't frowned upon. The transgression mentioned here at the outset found me as the proud new owner of an entire brick of 1½-inch firecrackers with, in addition,

here at the outset found me as the proud new owner of an entire brick of 1½-inch firecrackers with, in addition, a plastic



**Figure 3.**

bag holding a considerable quantity of their bigger cousins, known as M-80s and Cherry Bombs. I spent the better part of a morning splicing fuses from the big boys to the firecrackers and the mats of firecrackers to each other until I had

an entire network of explosives that would all go off just by the addition of a single flame to a single fuse. So, I put my creation down in the backyard near the house and added the flame. The



**Figure 4.**

result was glorious! Machine gun-like fire that seemed to go on for an eternity, with louder cannon-like fire mixed in as the bigger charges went off. The house shook and the windows rattled. My mom dropped her cup of coffee and my grandparents turned white as ghosts as a mini-mushroom cloud lifted up towards the roof past



**Figure 2.**



**Figure 5.**

**From top: Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9.**

their bedroom window, the smell of gunpowder permeating the air. The cat wasn't seen for days. Then my dad came home, but as mentioned, it was worth it.

So, let's look at some pictorial postmarks that feature fireworks and the celebrations where they tend to appear. One thing you'll note is that most of these markings are stylized and somewhat spartan in design. Fortunately, many of these have been struck on highly colorful stamps that

feature bursting sky rockets or shells making for a very pleasing visual effect.

Let's start with what could easily be the mother of all covers that include fireworks pictorials (Figure 1). Although clearly philatelically contrived, this 2011 Thai

cover provides us with a bevy of the markings available around the country to celebrate the New Year and the issuance of the stunning stamps shown.



Next up is Austria and a marking used to celebrate the Golser Volksfest, the 49th of which was held in August of this past year. This festival includes nine days of live music, food and wine tasting, along with an amusement park and a trade fair. Our marking was used to commemorate the 1979 event (Figure 2).

Our neighbors to the north are represented by two pictorials used as first-day cancels. Canada issued fireworks stamps in 1990 (Scott 1278) and in 2008 (Scott 2259), each of which sports a nifty cancellation (Figures 3 and 4).

Great Britain used a fireworks pictorial on stamps issued to honor the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on July 29, 1981.

No doubt, there were many celebrations held in England for this major royal event and I'm sure fireworks played a goodly role in the festivities (Figure 5). At the time, no one could



**Figure 11.**

have predicted the tragic event that would take Diana's life in a car wreck in 1997.

It appears that Japan is one of the more prolific entities when it comes to issuing pictorials featuring pyrotechnics, so let's look at a few of these. Figure 6 brings us to a 1989 marking showing some shells bursting high in the sky over Ichinomiya, a city located in the Aichi Prefecture.

A very colorful set of Japanese stamps that rival the visuals of the Macy's fireworks display in New York City are canceled by our next marking shown in Figure 7, this one from 1990.

The final few pictorials we'll enjoy from Japan



**Figure 10.**



**Figure 12.**



**Figure 13.**

performed the best 25-minute display, for which he will get to take home a trophy and €10,000 (which I guess may barely cover the costs of the fireworks they created).



**Figure 14.**

are a 1991 marking (Figure 8), one from 1995 (Figure 9) and the last one of a more recent vintage, 2014 (Figure 10). Both Figures 9 and 10 show fireworks exploding over open water which in real time is always spectacular. Note, too, that the Figure 10 pictorial also shows a high-speed train and a boat, each of which would fit their respective topical enthusiast's collections.

Let's head over to Europe for a bit. In 1966, the Monaco City Council created an annual fireworks competition that is still being held. The winner will have to have

originally strictly a pyrotechnical competition, the requirement of including integrated music to the displays was added in 1996. The competition

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**Figure 15.**

includes four events over the summer, the competitors having been selected by the City Council, with huge sound systems erected on Port Hercules, allowing for many spectators to enjoy the show. Figure 11 shows us the pictorial used to commemorate the 2015 competition.

Over to Portugal we go, but let's start with a marking from Madeira, an autonomous Portuguese archipelago located in the North Atlantic Ocean, lying southwest of Portugal. Our somewhat unusually shaped and "busy" pictorial comes from Funchal, the capital of Madeira, and was used in 1970 to mark the New Year (Figure 12).

Figure 13 brings us to Portugal proper and a pictorial commemorating the Festas Tradicionale held in Lisbon over the summer of 2011. Note that "Festival" is in the plural as these are on-going throughout the summer and include concerts, open-air cinemas, food, dancing and art exhibitions. A major culinary player in all of these festivals is the Sardine, a fish that plays heavily in Portuguese culture, usually served up after being roasted on grills (Figure 14).

Our final example of Portuguese markings comes from the same Festas Tradicionale, this one of 2012 vintage. This pictorial exhibits a splendid concordance with one of the stamps used to frank its envelope, the bursting fireworks nicely mimicking those found on the €0.05 stamp (Figure 15).

Let's take a quick hop over to Spain, where we can enjoy a pictorial used at Altea. This one-day festival honoring San Lorenzo (Saint Lawrence), a Third-Century martyr, is held each year on the second Saturday of August. This is strictly a fireworks show accompanied by a live orchestra, with the pyrotechnics being launched from floating platforms off of the Costa Blanco beach



**Figure 16.**



**Figure 17.**

on the Mediterranean coast. The beach fills up with spectators well before sunset, each bringing his or her own chair, blanket and food and beverages. The beach party continues right up until midnight when the fireworks show begins. Our postmark example was used for the 2007 Castell de L'Olla event (Figure 16).

Our final example comes from the good old United States, a marking used at Lockport, N.Y., to celebrate the 1995 Niagara County Fair (Figure 17). This is a typical county fair that includes amusement rides, food, crafts and critters and is no doubt a wholesome and good time for the entire family – just like the one in my home county of Columbia. Our pictorial would also be of interest to those amongst us who collect birds or amusement park topicals.

Well, that's it for this round of pursuing pictorial postmarks, and thank you for tuning in. I'll leave you with this (Figure 18), and the wish that you all have a healthy and wonderful New Year full of philatelic delights.



**Figure 18.**

**P.S.** After reading Allan Fisk's superb article on 9/11 in the September/October issue, fellow-ATA member Greg Ciesielski chimed in to mention that he had been the designer of several of the pictorials that Allan showed. He would love it if members were to take a look at his website at: [www.navalcovermuseum.org](http://www.navalcovermuseum.org).

Having looked at this well-organized and illustrated site, its well worth a visit for viewing additional markings and a neat batch of naval items. ☐

# Survey Says... Oops!

*Jack André Denys*

This is the fourth installment based on responses to our recent membership survey. Our ATA Board will consider all ideas.

In the initial column of "Survey Says" (*Topical Time* July-August 2016), the results of question 4 were incorrectly reported. The "Usually" and "Never" columns were reversed in most categories. This resulted in distorted results indicating high percentages of respondents who never read most of our columns. The correct numbers, as accurately compiled by ATA's administrative assistant, Jane Eastwood Schemonia, follow this text. My sincere apologies for messing them up in the original column!

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

	Usually	Sometimes	Never
About ATA (ATA news) <b>492 Responses</b>	376 (77%)	105 (21%)	11 (2%)
Youth in Topics <b>460 Responses</b>	122 (27%)	227 (49%)	111 (24%)
Feature stories about topics (various authors) <b>495 Responses</b>	351 (71%)	136 (27%)	8 (2%)
Foreign Thematic Exhibits <b>472 Responses</b>	187 (40%)	197 (42%)	88 (18%)
Publication Reviews <b>476 Responses</b>	193 (40%)	236 (50%)	47 (10%)
Cinderella Corner <b>466 Responses</b>	179 (38%)	195 (42%)	92 (20%)
My Topic (interviews with collectors) <b>483 Responses</b>	297 (61%)	162 (34%)	24 (5%)
Postmark Pursuit <b>474 Responses</b>	198 (41%)	202 (43%)	74 (16%)
Units in Action <b>470 Responses</b>	198 (42%)	223 (48%)	49 (10%)
Chapter Chatter <b>466 Responses</b>	169 (36%)	229 (49%)	68 (15%)
Editing with Style <b>452 Responses</b>	153 (34%)	207 (46%)	92 (20%)
Meters by Topic* <b>384 Responses</b>	103 (27%)	155 (40%)	126 (33%)

\* This was omitted on the surveys published in the March-April issue of *Topical Time*

Future columns of "Survey Says" will feature members' responses about *Topical Time* and our checklist service. ☐



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# TOPICAL POSTLINE

## Letters to the Editor

### **Page-making Tools for Collectors**

I read Jack Denys' article in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *Topical Time* ("Back to Basics," Page 14) with interest and find that I have something to add.

I have been doing my own album pages for my collection of railroad stamps

#### Belgium

1980

Parcel Post and Railway Stamps - 4 wheel boxcars



#### Belgium

1980

Parcel Post and Railway Stamps - 4 wheel boxcars



since I started it in 2009. I use Microsoft *Publisher* to do it. *Publisher* seems easier to use than Microsoft *Word*, because it is easier to move things around on a page than in *Word*. Instead of using rectangles to align the stamp, I

use a horizontal line of stamp (not mount) width. I have used *Publisher* for the few exhibits I have created for our local stamp club. These pages show one page without stamps and one with. I have obtained similar results using *Print Shop*. I even did a page with a greeting card program.

A commercial page generator is EZStamp's *AlbumGen*, which meshes with the *EZ Stamp* inventory program. A trial version is available online.

— Lawrence Pacl  
via email

*Lawrence, thank you very much for this information, which I'm sure a number of members will find helpful. When one stops to think about it, it's amazing how modern technology has given collectors and exhibitors so many wonderful tools with which to work!*

— Wayne

### **All Blacks Jersey stamp**

Can You "Top" These Topicals? recently included a New Zealand 2015 \$15 stamp said by the contributor to be "made of fabric from an All Blacks soccer home replica jersey." This is incorrect, as the sport is for rugby. Published infor-

mation from worldwide reports and the issuing authority New Zealand Post, is otherwise (<https://stamps.nzpost.co.nz/new-zealand/2015/all-blacks>).

This single stamp (Scott 2601) was issued Sept. 2, 2015, as part of our kiwi's national enthusiasm for our team, the All Blacks, supporting the team's pending defense of the 2015 Rugby World Cup – "Back the Boys in Black." And, less than two months later, black was gold! At Twickenham Stadium in London the New Zealand All Blacks, as reigning champions, defeated the Australian team 34-17 in the final to win its third – and the first back-to-back Rugby World Cup Championships (earlier victories were in 1987 and 2011).

To quote NZPost: *this "innovative stamp contains real fabric [plain black] supplied by adidas from the All Blacks 2015 Home Replica Jersey."*

Printing and die-cutting testing fashioned an integrated dual process. The gummed background paper was printed by offset lithography in four process colors; and the jersey official black fabric was die-cut in jersey shape, applied to the background paper and precision printed by offset lithography and screen printing in silver and white. The completed stamp replicated a framed jersey and was printed in sheets of 20.

This innovative stamp, embodying the 112-year international legacy of the All Blacks black jersey, along with a one-ounce silver proof coin in similar jersey-shape, celebrates our iconic National Team, the All Blacks, known by rugby fans at home and around the world as one of the foremost teams in the sport of Rugby Union Football. This is not "soccer," as stated in a recent issue of *Topical Time* (November-December 2016, Page 48).

— Alastair Watson  
via email

*Alastair, thank you very much – both for the correction and additional information about the production of the stamp!*

— Wayne

## Wrong Country...

I'm a new member in ATA. In reviewing the latest issue of *Topical Time*, Nov.-Dec. 2016, I noticed an error in page 19.

The stamps shown in Figure 4 were not issued by Republic of China (Taiwan). They were issued by People's Republic of China (Mainland China) in 1992 (Scott 2393-2396).

— Michael Zhao  
via email

*Michael, thank you very much for the correction; it was simply a careless mistake that should have been caught. ☺*

— Wayne



# Encouraging Exhibiting (but not for exhibitors only!)

*Jack André Denys*

## **Helpful hints and more websites**

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

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

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

### **Helpful Hints**

- When mounting three items next to each other, spacing will be easier if you mount the center item first.
- Help place an item safely into a corner mount by guiding it with a small stiff card.
- Mount items on the page starting from the top – this avoids risk of damaging items lower on the page.
- After you print a page for the final time, before mounting, once again place all items on the page to be sure you like the spacing – and to do a final typo check.
- Be sure pages are aligned at the bottom.

### **More thematic exhibits on the Internet**

Ships on Stamps Study Unit (Thanks to **Myron Molnau** of Washington)

*[www.shipsonstamps.org/Archives](http://www.shipsonstamps.org/Archives)*

**Norma Nielson**, *From Coffee to Commerce: The Story of Lloyds.*

**Jim Hanna**, *Explorers, Navigators, Adventurers and the Exploration of the Pacific.*

Larry Davidson of Stratford, Ontario, writer of *TT*'s regular column "Foreign Thematic Exhibits," wrote an article, "Foreign Thematic Exhibit Websites," in *TT* Sep-Oct 2014. In it he listed 12 websites, most of which have not been listed in this column. If you would like a copy of this article, please send a stamped, addressed envelope to the ATA Office. If you know of any such sites that have not been listed in Larry's article or these EE columns, please let me know.

## Thematic seminar papers

Found at: [www.fipthematicphilately.org/](http://www.fipthematicphilately.org/) :

- *How To Prepare A Thematic Philately Exhibit, Peter Suhadolc* – Taipei 2016
- *How To Prepare a Thematic Exhibit, Bernard Jimenez* – London 2015
- *Material In Thematic Exhibits, Its Rarity And Condition, Peter Suhadolc* - Budapest 2013
- *Thematic Development, Damian Läge* - Essen, 2013
- *Thematic Development, Peter Dunai* – Essen, 2013
- *Thematic Development, Alfred Schmidt* – Essen, 2013
- *The New Thematic SREV: Innovation, Joachim Maas*, 2011
- Joint Seminar Postal History and Thematic Philately, Malmö, 2009
- *Where does international competitive Thematic Philately stand today?, Damian Läge*
- *Judging Postal History and Thematic Philately, My Experiences - Wolf Hess.* 



## Award Winners

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

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

### First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

\***Jean Wang** received the ATA first award at Canpex for her exhibit, *The Story of Blood: From Myth to Medicine*.

Caltapex presented the ATA first award to **Bill Bartlett** for *23rd World Scout Jamboree, Japan*.

The exhibit, *The United Nations and Palestine: 1947-1951*, by \***Fran Adams**, was awarded the ATA first award at Filatelic Fiesta.

**Lewis Bussey**'s exhibit, *A Martian Chronicle* received the ATA first award at the Mid Cities Stamp Club Show, and \***Karen Cartier** was awarded the ATA One Frame award for *Lord of the Rings-The Trilogy*. 

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

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# Teatro Amazonas, Manaus, Brazil

Gregory W. Frux

A 1950 red Brazilian stamp, 60 centavos denomination, honored the centennial of the province of Amazonia (Figure 1). Curiously, the issue was illustrated with a domed building featuring colonnaded facades. The structure is the Teatro Amazonas, or Amazon Opera House, remarkable for both its history and its design. The theater is located in Manaus, a city of more than two million inhabitants, located deep in the Brazilian jungle. This city is at a crucial location, the junction of the Amazon and the Rio Negro, a major tributary (Figure 2). Manaus is accessible by ocean-going ships, although it is 1,000 miles from the ocean. It is reachable by airplane, but

has no road connections to the rest of Brazil.



**Figure 1. Brazil Scott 700, depicting the Teatro Amazonas.**



**Figure 2. A 2016 cancel from Rio Negro.**

From 1888-1912 this remote city was at the center of an economic boom based on harvesting rubber in the jungle. Harvesting wild rubber trees was hugely labor intensive and conditions among the coerced indigenous workers were horrendous. Harvesting was done under slave labor conditions and resulted in death for many harvesters. At the same time, the boom meant immense wealth for a small, privileged class of rubber merchants. Riches poured into Manaus and brought electrification, trams and luxurious buildings. Citizens aspired for Manaus to rival European cities. The Teatro Amazonas was constructed at the apogee of the boom era.

The Amazon Opera House was constructed during the last decade of the 19th century, inaugurated Dec. 31, 1896. Lavishly decorated, this classical structure used many of the latest technical innovations. The dome's structure was cast iron and the building was illuminated by electric lights. Today, the structure is entirely intact and you can fully appreciate the ornaments during a one-hour guided tour available in English, as well as Spanish and Portuguese (Figure 3). The decoration is lavish. Chandeliers are Murano glass, the columns Carrara marble, the



**Figure 3. A tour ticket for the Teatro Amazonas.**



**Figure 4 (top).** Exterior of Theater, photo by Janet Morgan.

**Figure 5 (center).** Interior of the theater, photo by Janet Morgan.

**Figure 6 (above).** Elaborate reception hall ceiling, photo by Janet Morgan.

**Figure 7. Brazil Scott 2570, a souvenir sheet depicting the theater.**

seats are English cast iron and the dome is clad in 36,000 colored and gold tiles imported from Alsace, France (Figure 4). Mural cycles decorate major spaces in the building (Figure 5). The curtain has an allegorical painting of the meeting of the Amazon and Rio Negro, and the ceiling of the concert hall portrays the Eiffel Tower from below. An elaborate reception room is painted with views of the Amazon jungle and scenes from a Brazilian opera set in the jungles (Figure 6).



**Figure 8 (right). A cancellation from the post office nearest the theater.**

**Figure 10 (below). The nearest post office to the Teatro Amazonas.**



Despite the troubling origins of the theater, it has been embraced, in recent years, as a national historic landmark. It has been rehabilitated and maintained in excellent condition.

On the 100th anniversary of its dedication Brazil issued a 1.23 RS stamp in its honor. The graphic design includes the facade and gold dome, with abstract patterns derived from the dome's tiles. Unfortunately, the issue is visually chaotic and does not do justice to the architecture (Figure 7). In recent decades the building

has been home to many cultural events, film festivals, operas and concerts. During our visit, we were able to attend a free performance celebrating International Women's Day. The plaza out front hosts many restaurants, a museum, shops and art galleries. It is a prime destination for Amazon travelers visiting Manaus.

Manaus today has a small area of historic buildings, including the Opera House and cast iron Municipal Market. The area hovers between restoration and decay. I posted a card from the nearest post office, which was nothing to write home about (Figures 8 and 9). The area has great historic interest and preservation efforts continue. In contrast, the new areas of Manaus are vast, modern and traffic-choked, fueled by a free-trade zone.

The Teatro Amazonas harkens back a century, with its terrible stories and fantastic legends. One tale is the Opera House was built to lure the famous singer Enrico Caruso – whether he ever came or not is still debated. If you want a view of the Opera House, rent Werner Herzog's film, *Fitzcarraldo*, which opens with shots of the theater. The place is astounding, these days very well cared for in its new incarnation. Might we hope for a better depiction on a future stamp? ☐

*Gregory William Frux is realist artist living in Brooklyn, N.Y., painting there as well as in wilderness areas throughout the Americas. He was formerly an architect and also curator of the artworks for the New York City public school system. His stamp collection is worldwide, with strong collections of Bolivia, Greenland, Kyrgyzstan and Poland, as well as a topical collection on mountains and mountain climbing. His other hobby is mountaineering.*

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# “Free-Style” Exhibits at NTSS Again

A special category of exhibits will once again be included in this year's National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee, Wis., June 23-25. ATA members can decide to participate in informal, just-for-fun, free-style exhibits. This type of exhibit is open to everyone, not only first-timers, but it may be especially appealing to those who feel intimidated by the “rules” of thematic exhibiting. At the last NTSS (Portland, Ore., 2015), four free-style exhibits were shown.

Exhibits need to show philatelic material on pages designed by their exhibitors. Commercially printed album pages are not acceptable. Ideally the exhibit will develop an idea or tell a story, such as a person's life and times, an animal's habitat and food or the rules and practice of a sport.

Since only a limited number of frames are available for free-style exhibits, there is a maximum of two frames/exhibit and a maximum of three frames/person. Single-frame exhibits cost \$20; multiple frames are \$15 each. Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be received by April 27, 2017. To apply, use the coupon near the bottom of this page or see our ATA website: [www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/exhibitions/free\\_style\\_exhibiting.pdf](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/exhibitions/free_style_exhibiting.pdf)

The exhibits will be listed in the show program, but will not be judged. Exhibitors will have the option of informally discussing their exhibit at the frames with an experienced exhibitor. All free-style exhibitors will be recognized at the awards banquet and given a certificate of participation.

The ATA Board of Directors has approved this free-style category of exhibiting to encourage members to explore and enjoy something new with their collections. ☐

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# Brewing up Topicals at NTSS 2017

“Brewing Up Topicals” is the theme for the 67th annual National Topical Stamp Show, June 23-25, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport.

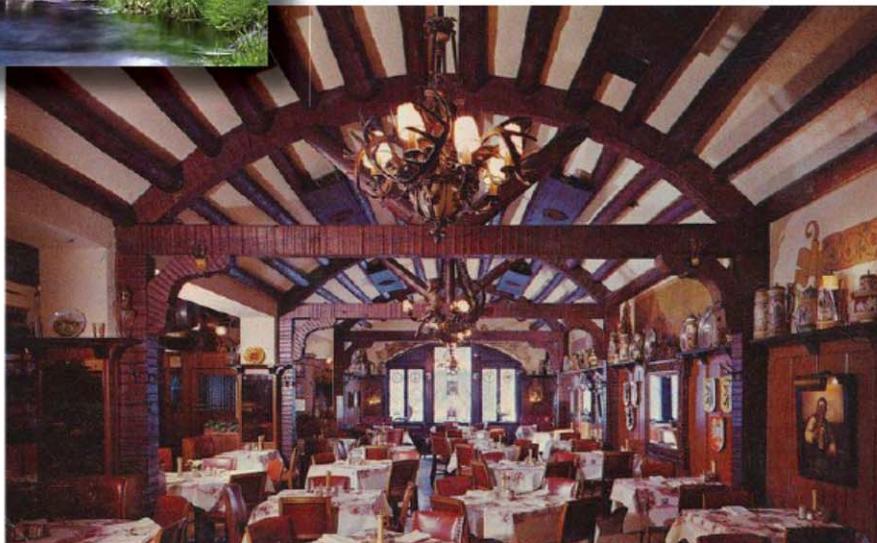
Milwaukee is easily accessible by car or air. No need to rent a car if you fly in; the free airport shuttle will pick you up.

The show will feature an all-thematic philatelic exhibition. The bourse will include dealers specializing in topicals, countries, covers and more. Cachet makers, study unit meetings, free Stamps in Your Attic appraisals, silent auctions, speakers and seminars will fill the days.



*Above: Historic Cedarburg bridge.*

*Right: Karl Ratzsch, a historical restaurant, site of the President's Reception.*



## Annual Meeting

The ATA annual meeting will include a tribute, “Remembering Mary Ann Owens, Pioneer of American Thematic Exhibiting.” Mary Ann, who was a native of Wisconsin, was an accomplished exhibitor, international judge and mentor to many. A sample of her exhibits will be shown and her brother, Paul Aspinwall, will speak at a birthday celebration June 24.



## President's Reception

Our traditional reception and dinner on Friday evening, June 23, will be in a special venue. We'll enjoy German cuisine at Karl Ratzsch, a historic restaurant with old world décor.

**Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts.**

## Tours

On Thursday, June 22, an afternoon tour will take us to the historic village of Cedarburg. The trip includes a visit to the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts. After a docent-led tour, we will have lunch at the museum. Then it's on to the Cedarburg Cultural Center in the heart of the historic downtown. The last stop will be The Cedarburg Art Museum, housed in a grand home, with an option to explore and shop on your own in the village,

On Monday, June 26 (after NTSS), we'll visit New Glarus, Wis., "America's Little Switzerland." The full-day tour includes the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, a traditional Swiss chalet. An authentic Swiss-style lunch will be included in a visit to the New Glarus Hotel Restaurant, which dates to 1853. Then we'll spend the afternoon at The Swiss Historical Village and Museum, a detailed replica of an 1850 Swiss settlement. We have a guided tour, followed by time to explore on your own and shop.

### Watch the ATA website

The exhibit prospectus and entry form, as well as a list of the judges, are posted on the ATA website. Hotel group rates and additional hotel information are also posted. As plans for all events are finalized, details will be added to the website ([www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)).

**From Top: New Glarus Hotel Restaurant, schoolhouse and the New Glarus Swiss Historical Village (where the schoolhouse is located).**



# Blue Whale on New Zealand Stamps

*Alastair Watson*

The largest, the longest, the heaviest, the loudest, the fastest whale alive – what could be a better beast to collect as your philatelic thematic subject – the Blue Whale! Indeed, whales, dolphins and porpoises (the *Cetacea*) are popular topicals around the world with many countries, including some without ocean beach front (and even some without stamp-issuing authority!) creating these delightful postage stamps. I had been collecting stamps of various cetaceans for years without a particular objective – just collect. Recently, however, my aspiration has been to marshal this material into publications and exhibits. A more deliberate focus was needed and I honed this to the largest of the largest, the blue whale. By my reckoning, approximately 150 stamps worldwide portray the blue whale. South Georgia issued the first postage stamp featuring a realistic image of the blue whale in 1963 (Scott 15); New Zealand's first blue whale stamp did not surface until 1988, which was 32 years after its first whale stamp was issued: the giant sperm whale on the 2d green Whalers of Foveaux Strait in 1956 (Southland Centennial issue, Scott 313).

New Zealand has released five postage stamps featuring the Big Blue Whale (1988-2013). The first, in 1988, was a well-proportioned, full-body depiction of the giant blue whale arching underwater, which was based on a multicolour illustration, hand-painted in artist's acrylic paint by Lindy Fisher (Auckland). This was the 85c denomination (Figure 1, Scott 939)

in a set of six Antarctic Whales of the Southern Ocean for the 1988 Ross Dependency issue.

The blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus*, is an impressive marine mammal, lives its entire life beneath the waves in the salty watery realm, yet

**Figure 1. A 1988 Ross Dependency Antarctic Whales 85c value.**



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is tied to the surface for regular breathing-in of life-giving oxygen. Despite its massive size (maximum length taped at 33-34 meters, close to 110 feet), its sleek-slimmed and long streamlined body with an enormous muscle mass to power its broad tail flukes (approximately 6 meters, or 20 feet wide) fashions one the fastest whales in the ocean, capable of racing for short bursts at 35-50 km/h – well shown in a photograph by Doc White (San Diego, Calif.) of a blue whale swimming at the ocean's surface on the high value \$2.90 stamp (Figure 2, Scott L133)

from the 2013 Ross Dependency Antarctic Food Web issue of five values. The whale is showing its characteristic full exhalation – that she blows! – a tall baseball bat-shaped blow 8-9 m high (more than 25 feet). This photograph captures a blue whale immediately after completing a feeding gulp – its distended throat grooves are visible between the tip of the rostrum and the flipper (blue whale in eastern Pacific Ocean off the northern coast off Baja Peninsula, Mexico).

Blue whales are still found in all oceans of the world, with a total number estimated at more than 300,000 in the early 1900s, prior to the massive industrial slaughter that befell them in the following few decades. Currently it is estimated

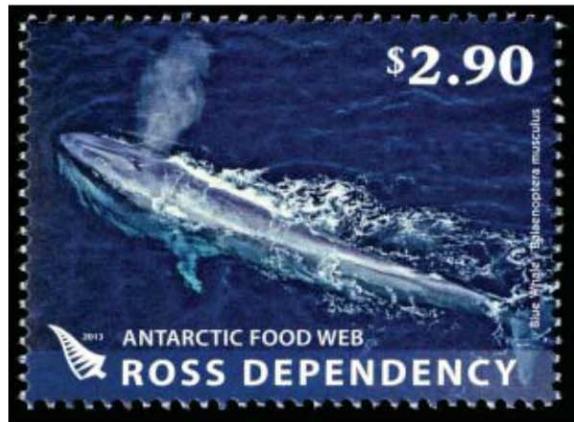
there are only 6,000-10,000 remaining – and they are listed as an endangered species worldwide. And, speaking of the last whale, this was the title of a book read by 12-yr-old Hee Su Kim of Glendowie Primary School, Auckland, whose painting “The Last Whale” (Figure 3, Scott 790) was one winning design chosen from the 2002 New Zealand Post Children’s Book Festival “Design a Stamp” competition. Ten different 40c stamps were issued as tribute to young readers / artists who designed a stamp translating their reading experience. Hee



**Figure 3.** The 2002 40c New Zealand Post Children's Book Festival issue.

Su Kim’s book of inspiration was written by Renee Hapimarika van de Weert and published in December 2001.

These massive blue whales feed on tiny shrimp-like marine crustaceans – krill (maximum length 4-5 cm; shown on 70c 2013 Ross Dependency Antarctic Food Web issue). But the whales require days-on-end gigantic gulps (especially the pregnant and lactating moms) to sustain their large bodies. They are thus most often found in areas of nutrient-rich waters with associated high densities of plankton. Such prey-laden waters are scattered around New Zealand: recent surveys and analyses have observed blue whales feeding along the west and east coasts of our



**Figure 2.** A 2013 Ross Dependency Antarctic Food Web issue \$2.90.



**Figure 4. A blue whale appears in the background of this 2010 Ross Dependency Whales of the Southern Ocean souvenir sheet.**

South Island, South Taranaki Bight and in the Hauraki Gulf. Similar enriched waters abound in the circumpolar waters around Antarctica – the scene of last century's pursuit to kill the last leviathan. The 2010 Ross Dependency issue of Whales of the Southern Ocean included a miniature sheet (\$9) on which a blue whale swimming underwater is featured as a background photographic image behind the five other whales on perforated stamps (Figure 4, Scott L118a). (Image is from blue whale underwater off California; photograph by Doug Perrine, Kailua Kona, Hawaii).

It is of note that although blue whales are known around the coasts of New Zealand from both at-sea observations and beach strandings, the only postage stamps depicting these big whales are from Ross Dependency issues.

Traveling inland, one may encounter the rarest of rare blue whales. One was

spotted last century in Mapua, a small coastal town west of Nelson City. There, fixed at someone's front gate was a large-headed, toothless, blue whale, behaving as a letterbox (Figure 5, Scott 1421). This unique blue whale letterbox was one of 10 Wackiest Letterboxes selected nationwide to be included in a booklet of 10 different self-adhesive 40c stamps, issued in 1997. The Wacky Letterbox stamps were only issued in booklet form, so this is New Zealand's only self-adhesive blue whale stamp, and the only booklet blue whale stamp.



**Figure 5. The 40c value of the self-adhesive 1997 Wackiest Letterboxes booklet.**

Strandings of these enormous whales are rare worldwide and only 20 have been recorded around New Zealand on Aotearoa's beaches since 1893. Even so, the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, curates a complete skeleton of a 26.5 m blue whale, salvaged and prepared by herculean efforts from Okarito Beach, Westland, in 1908. This extraordinary specimen is certainly a rare item for New Zealand's natural history. Equally as rare are blue whales in New Zealand pictorial postmarks, postal meters, postal stationery, CALs, Cinderellas, and other non-stamp philatelic material. This writer has yet to sight such blue whale thematic items. A Sterling silk cachet of a sulphur bottom blue whale, based on a painting by Jack Koch (Adelaide, SA), was used on commemorative whaling-related covers in the 1980s (Riverton 1986, Penrhyn-Northern Cook Islands 1983). I would be delighted to hear from readers about other unusual or little-known philatelic items, including stamps from Alternative Postal Operators, featuring New Zealand's blue whale, the most magnificent of all giants!

*Alastair Watson, New Zealand, enjoys fly-fishing and walking mountain paths. He is also interested in most things cetological, especially the stamps of his homeland's endemic Hector's dolphin – the smallest marine dolphin – and the stamps of the largest animal ever, the Big Blue Whale. Any additional information is welcome. Please contact the author at: hare.copper@yahoo.com.*

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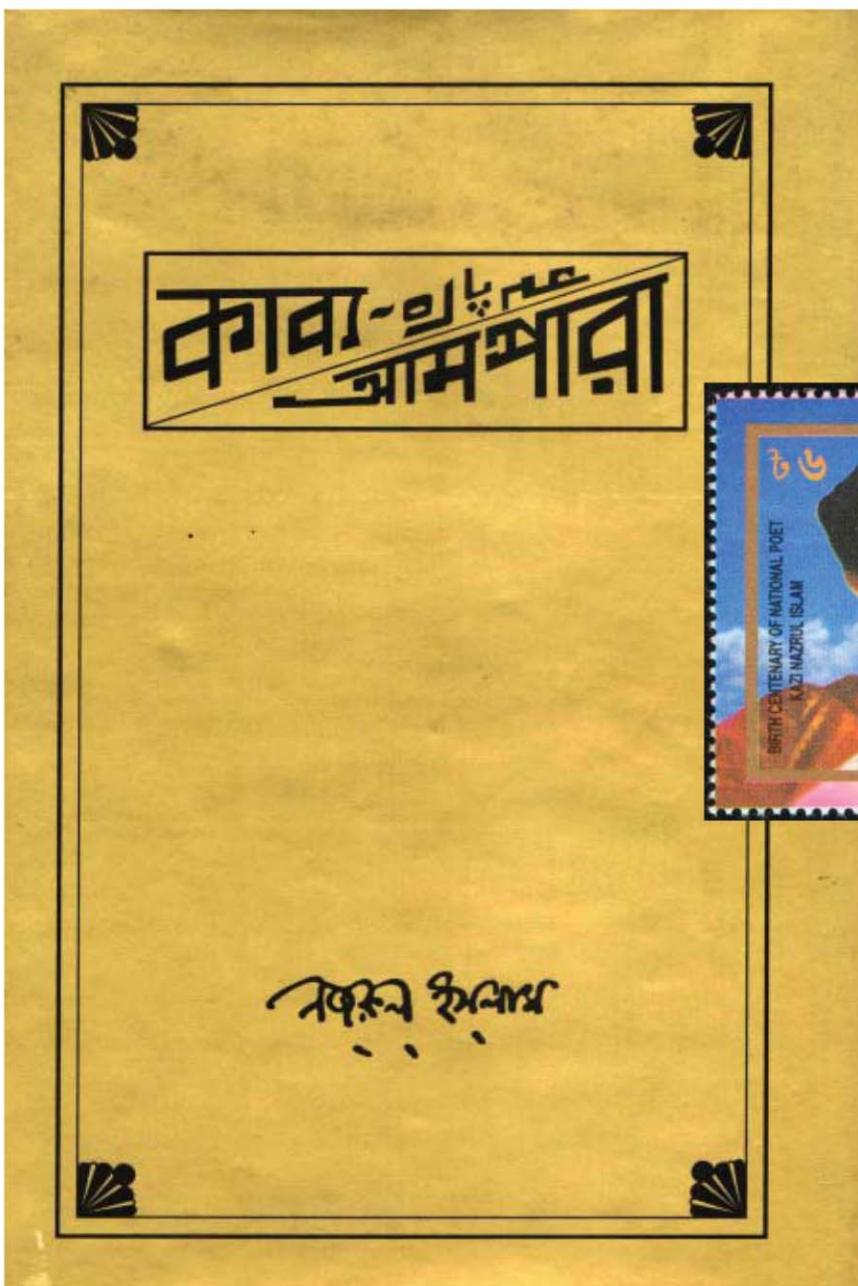
# Interpreters of the Quran

Parvez Ali Anwar Khan

Postage stamps, right from the beginning, have portrayed distinguished personalities. In fact, the very first postage stamp, the Penny Black, issued by Great Britain in 1840, depicts the portrait of Queen Victoria, the then-reigning queen of the British Empire. Since then, many countries have used postage stamps to depict personalities who became successful and earned a name. Kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, revolutionaries and martyrs, novelists and poets, painters and sculptors, architects, philosophers, scientists, astronauts, popes, sportsmen and many other celebrated persons form the subject matter of stamp designs.

This short article focuses on some postage stamps having portraits of personalities

who have a common characteristic in that they are distinguished exegesists and interpreters of the *Quran*. However, there may be many more such stamps that have gone unnoticed.



**Qazi Nazrul Islam**, an eminent poet, translated part of the Quran in Bengali poetic verses. Bangladesh has issued a number of stamps with portrait of the poet. The one shown here (Scott 579) was issued in 1998. Pakistan and India, too, have portrayed him on their stamps.



**Abul Kalam Azad was a social reformer, educationist and noted politician whose role in winning freedom for India is highly acclaimed. He translated and interpreted the Quran. The book shown is an English translation of his original work in Urdu. The image of Abul Kalam Azad has been depicted on a number of stamps. The one shown here (Scott 865) was issued by India in 1996.**

For Muslims, the *Quran* is a holy book just as the *Bible* is for Christians. The *Quran* in its original form is

expressed in Arabic; it has been translated in numerous languages so people living around the world can understand and follow its message. To grasp its meaning more easily, scholars and researchers around the world have interpreted and made exegesis. Portraits of some such persons appeared in postage stamps from time to time.

It is a matter of great interest that the countries issuing the stamps did not portray them as interpreters of the *Quran*; rather they were honored for their achievements in other fields – for remarkable work performed in their respective professions and which in no way was connected to the religion they professed. ☐

# THE TARJUMĀN AL-QUR'ĀN

ترجمان  
القرآن

Volume-1  
AL-FATIHA

**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**

*Edited and rendered into English by  
Syed Abdul Latif*

**The author is a retired Engineer who served with the Government of Bangladesh. Presently he works as a consultant for projects of World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JICA and others. He is a specialist collector of Bangladesh postal materials and nurses a topical collection on Islam.**

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There are no listing fees for sellers. Sellers only pay a small commission if stamps are sold. These low service charges make it possible for members to list inexpensive stamps and sets for your collection.

# TopicalsOnline Survey Response

*Bob Lamb, ToL manager*

Although the site is not yet used by everyone, our online sales website, TopicalsOnline ([www.topicalsonline.com](http://www.topicalsonline.com)) offers much. We appreciate all the ATA members who have used and enjoyed TopicalsOnLine for the last three years. But we would like more ATA members to be able to benefit from ATA's sales site. Here are some of the questions from the recent survey:

**I don't understand the shipping charges.** Although the shipping charge is shown for each item, buyers only pay the shipping charge one time for each order – whether you buy one item or 50 items from the same seller.

Generally, the shipping charge for an order within the United States is \$2, though it can be more or less, based on the item ordered.

**I couldn't log in.** Some members have tried to use their ATA log-in information for TopicalsOnLine. The two systems are on separate servers in different states. Even members have to register for both sites separately.

**Who sets the prices for items on TopicalsOnLine?** Each seller lists his or her own stamps and sets individual prices. The average listing price is about half of catalog, **but** ATA members get a 10% discount off the listing price, which means that most stamps may be purchased for less than half of catalog.

**Can I search for stamps from a particular seller?** Not at this time. We hope to add this feature soon.

More questions? Click "contact us" on the website. Ask your question and a volunteer will respond. We try to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours.

*What's your passion?*

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# Lonely Onlys...

## Can You “Top” These Topicals?

*Mark Sommer*

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

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

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

**Below:** *The Curta calculator, shown on Liechtenstein Scott 1363 (2006), was invented by Austrian Curt Herzstark, who was imprisoned by the Nazis in 1943. He completed detailed drawings of it while imprisoned at Buchenwald, and it entered production shortly after the war. The devices were in use 1947-72.*

**Bottom:** *Coloring stamps. Hong Kong’s Children’s Day stamps for 2001 (Scott 955a) feature designs intended to be colored. The stamps (also Hong Kong’s first self-adhesives feature) each show figures in costumes with colored faces and backgrounds, but bodies waiting to be colored. Presumably the coloring doesn’t count as a cancellation.*



955a) feature designs intended to be colored. The stamps (also Hong Kong’s first self-adhesives feature) each show figures in costumes with colored faces and backgrounds, but bodies waiting to be colored. Presumably the coloring doesn’t count as a cancellation.



# PUBLICATION REVIEWS

## *Wayne L. Youngblood*

### *Tales by Mail: Book 2*

*Tales by Mail Book 2; A collection of childrens stories illustrated by postage stamps, by Karen Cartier, 140 pages, 5½ by 8½ inches, softcover, Legend Lady Press, Arlington, Texas, 2016, ISBN 978-0-692-76385- 8, \$12.95 plus shipping from Legend Lady Press, 2509 Buffalo Dr, Arlington TX 76013. Email: talesbymailbook@gmail.com.*

*Tales by Mail Book 2*, the refreshing companion piece to the first volume published a decade ago (2006), contains 25 fairy tales from 24 different countries, ranging from Asia and the Pacific Islands to Europe and even North America! Of these, some will be familiar, such as “Tall Tales of Pecos Bill,” but others are more shrouded in mystery, their origins unclear, but kept alive through the oral tradition. Here, Cartier interprets each lovingly and – usually – within a few pages, making them easy to read to your favorite small fry. Each story is also illustrated with an appropriate stamp – enlarged and in full color.

A helpful feature for navigating the diverse cultures represented is a map showing the point of origin for each story.

Because the book is not “written down to” the level of small children, the stories can be enjoyed by anyone and would be an appropriate gift to parents, grandparents, storytellers or yourself! ■

### **Tales by Mail**

\* Book 2 \*



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Karen Cartier

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## CINDERELLA CORNER

### *Arthur H. Grotel*

# Darwin: An Evolving Collection

I have had the Figure 1 poster stamp picturing Charles Darwin (1809-82) for many years but have never found another. Consultation with Charles Kiddle, the doyen of poster stamps in England, reveals that he has never seen another either. So my idea of showing poster stamps related to Darwin has to be abandoned.

So, using that lone poster stamp as a jumping-off point, I'll segue into a look at a few stamps issued in his honor. Most come from – not surprisingly – Ecuador

**Figure 1. The only Darwin poster stamp known to the author.**



# Great Gift Idea!



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Figure 2.

and England. In 1935, Ecuador marked the centenary of Darwin's visit to the Galapagos. The 20c value pictures Darwin and the ship that carried him there, the *Beagle* (Figure 2).

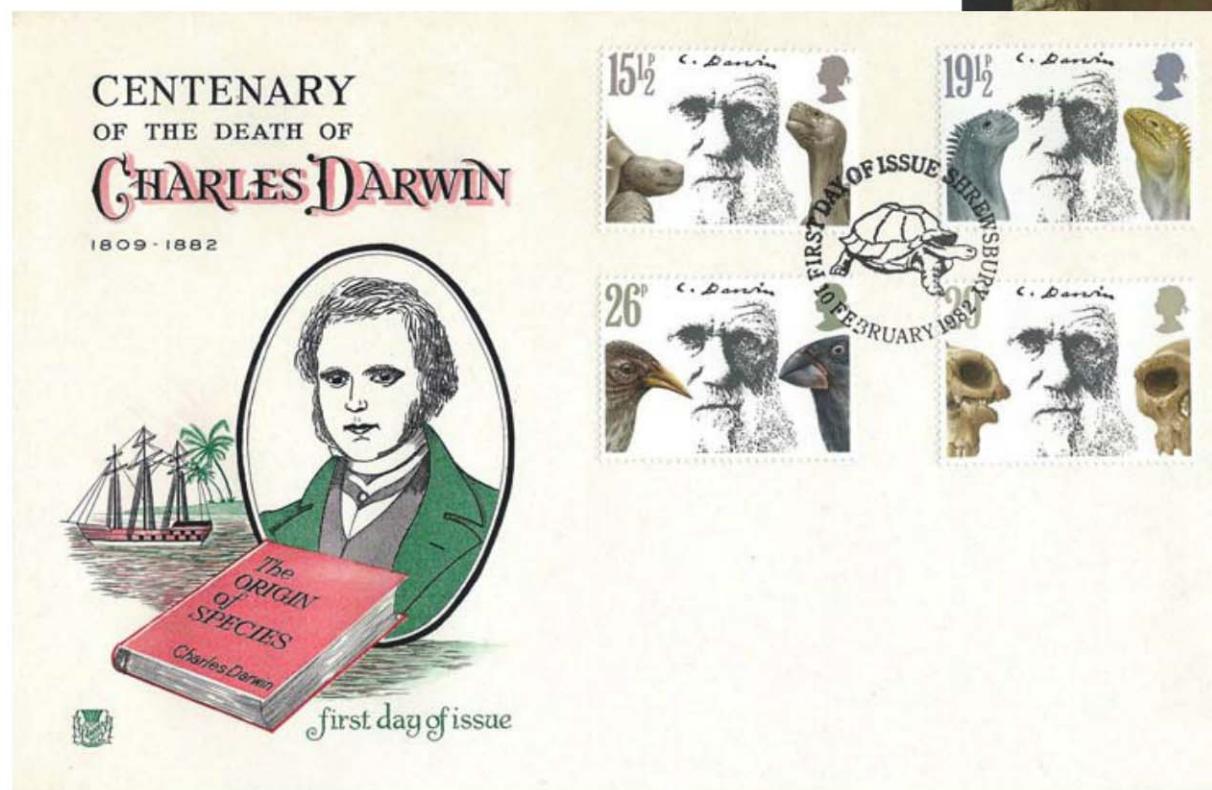
Ecuador also commemorated the centenary of Darwin's death in 1982 with a lovely stamp depicting flamingos. What the stamp doesn't tell you is that just over the ridge from the marshy habitat of the flamingos dwell myriads of penguins, cavorting on the rocks by the ocean (Figure 3).

Great Britain also marked the centenary with a set of four stamps, here tied to a first-day cover with a Galapagos tortoise handstamp (Figure 4).



Figure 3.

Figure 4.



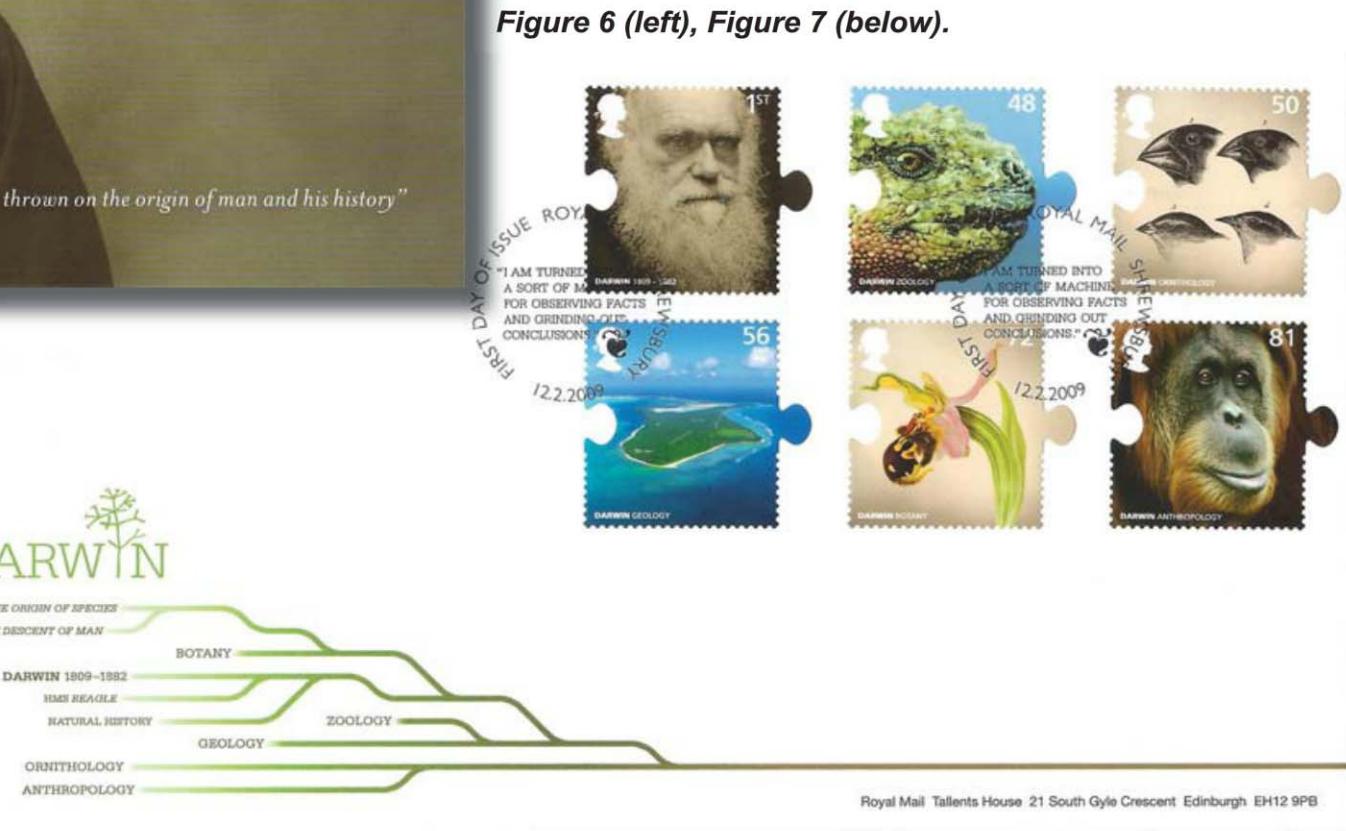
"Light wil

**Figure 5.**

During a trip to the Galapagos a number of years ago, Marge and I went to the Charles Darwin Foundation to visit George, the famous 140+-year-old Galapagos tortoise, the last of his species (he died recently). I was able to buy a first-day cover of the 1999 Ecuadorian issue for the establishment of that Foundation showing many of the iconic creatures on the islands (Figure 5).

And, to celebrate the 2009 bicentenary of Darwin's birth, Great Britain released a special booklet (Figure 6) with a set of six stamps. The cachet of the first-day cover cites the important aspects of his work (Figure 7).

I daresay someone out there is building a thematic collection about Darwin. If so, I'd love to know if you have any other poster stamps! ☺

**Figure 6 (left), Figure 7 (below).**

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



## METERS BY TOPIC

### Wayne L. Youngblood

# I'd Walk a Mile for a Meter...

Although the marketing of tobacco products is now one of the most heavily regulated forms of all advertising, it wasn't always that way. Highway billboards shouted that "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should," TV ads belted out "You've come a long way, Baby" and black-eyed magazine models proclaimed they'd rather fight than switch.

Once the true health hazards of smoking became widely known (there were murmurs as early as the 1930s but the 1964 Surgeon General's Report laid all doubt aside), the United States became the first country in the world to require a health warning on all cigarette packaging (in 1966). Advertising cigarettes on television and the radio soon became prohibited, with a Virginia Slims ad airing at 11:59 p.m. Dec. 31, 1970, as the last one – ever – in this country. The ad aired on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*.

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But, back in the good old days, cigarette ads were found in every form of media, including postage meters. Many of these ad meters are found from the 1930s through mid-1960s, with the tone eventually transforming from raw enthusiasm for smoking to "better filters" and "cooler smoke." An interesting study could be assembled on this evolution. This month, however, we'll simply explore a few interesting examples of cigarette marketing on meters from a general standpoint.

Most cigarette meter advertising proclaimed the benefits of using each brand's particular product, but there was some level of politicizing as well. The meter shown in Figure 1 is from the Tobacco Tax Council, Inc., a lobbying group based in Richmond, Va. Formed in 1949 "to combat unconscionable, inequitable and discriminatory taxes on cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco products," the council was funded primarily by the tobacco industry. Go figure. This meter, from 1961,



**Figure 1.** The more political side of illustrated advertising meters is shown by this 1961 example.

features a graphic of a torn pack of cigarettes, with the notation that “half your packs go for tax!”

Chesterfield cigarettes were very proactively engaged in meter advertising. Those shown in Figure 2 (a combination of pictorial and slogan types) all tout the qualities

**Figure 2.** Examples of several of the many approaches taken by Chesterfield to court smokers.





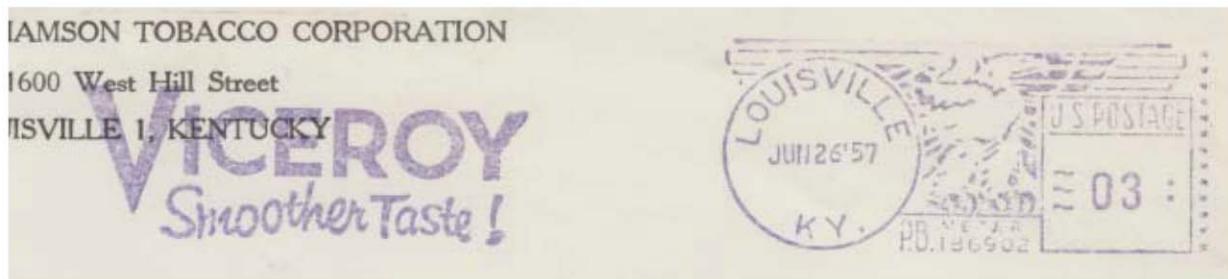
**Figure 3.** This particular slogan meter wins the advertising irony award.

of that brand, but the Figure 3 meter gets the irony award, with a bold graphic, proclaiming that Chesterfield is the best for you!

Similarly, Viceroy plied potential smokers with smoother taste, better filters and closed the deal, noting that Viceroy has “a thinking man’s filter... a smoking man’s taste!,” as shown in Figure 4.

Many brands, including Marlboro and Parliament, simply used their logos, such as those shown in Figure 5.

Perhaps the most visually interesting meter advertising as a group was produced by the Philip Morris Co., which sold its first cigarette in London in 1854, establishing a foothold in the United States in 1902. A thematic of this company could be formed utilizing the product names of Marlboro, Miller Brewing,



**Figure 4.** Viceroy tried several approaches to win smokers over, including an appeal to their intelligence.



**Figure 5.** Many cigarette brands saw little need to promote themselves any further on meters than to simply reproduce their logos.

General Foods, Kraft and others – all companies absorbed by the tobacco giant – but I digress.

For more than 40 years (1933-74), Johnny Roventini, shown in Figure 6 (from a 1940 ad), was the advertising spokesman for Philip Morris, with his trademark page of “Call for Philip Morris.”

His image ran in numerous print

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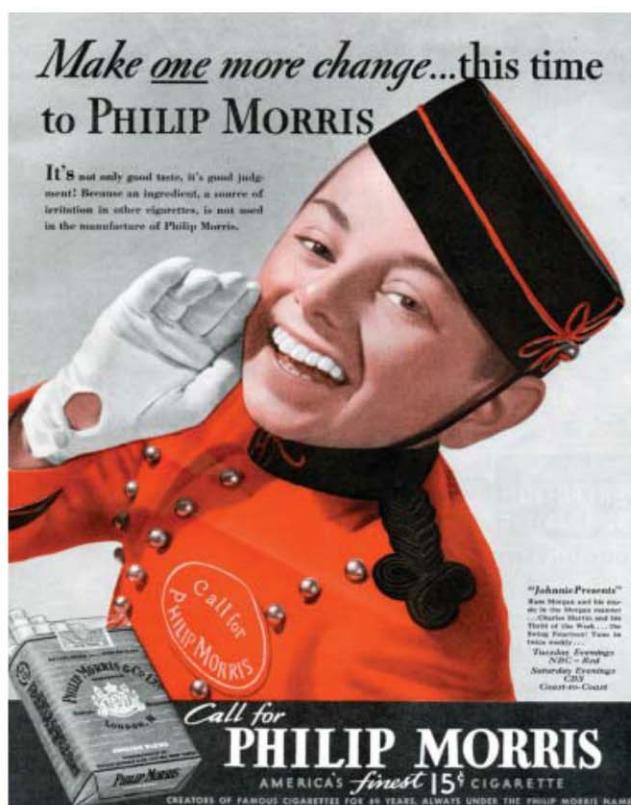
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**Figure 6.** Johnny Roventini, the diminutive bellboy who served as Philip Morris spokesman for more than 40 years.



**Figure 7.** Johnny Roventini as the Philip Morris bellboy, in his classic pose.

titles, he was on the radio and also was seen in numerous television ads. A 1954 meter showing his classic pose is shown in Figure 7. Roventini was discovered by accident in 1933, working as a bellboy in the New Yorker Hotel (he was shorter than four feet tall).

As a publicity stunt, two ad agents offered Johnny \$1 to locate a Mr. Philip Morris in the hotel. "I just went around the lobby yelling my head off," said Johnny, in a later interview, "but I disappointingly couldn't get Philip Morris to answer my call." He was a natural.

There were many other pictorial meters depicting Roventini as well, such as the somewhat generic "Season's Greetings" example from 1952, shown in Figure 8.

As somewhat of a side note, but historically significant for the television industry and Lucille Ball in particular, the Jan. 30, 1953, meter shown in Figure 9 tells a story. That image features Johnny in his classic pose, with the notation "Hear and See Johnny..." The schedule mentions Mondays on CBS-TV. That was the spot for *I Love Lucy*, which debuted Oct. 15, 1951. The show had been created with General Foods in mind as primary sponsor, but was turned down cold by General Foods, amid fears of America's reception to a "mixed" marriage between a redhead and a Cuban. Never fear, Philip Morris stepped in as exclusive sponsor



**Figure 8.** A holiday greeting from Philip Morris.

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**Figure 9.** *Johnny the bellboy was a popular fixture on both television and radio. The “MON. CBS-TV” reference here specifically refers to the I Love Lucy show, for which Philip Morris was the exclusive sponsor.*

from 1951-54, then sharing sponsorship with Proctor & Gamble through June 1955. Each show opened and closed with “Call forr Phil-ip Morray-isss!” Lucy likely wouldn’t have happened without Philip Morris, and Roventini may not have been as popular without Lucy.

Pitney Bowes and other meter companies regularly prepared samples of advertising for various companies they hoped to woo into advertising contracts for meters. The Figure 10 “SPECIMEN” example, prepared April 7, 1938, for the Brown Williamson Co., features Kool cigarettes as that year’s potential sponsor for the Kentucky Derby (May 7), scoring a topical trifecta for tobacciana, horse racing and penguins!



**Figure 10.** *A specimen pictorial cigarette meter (Kool), which also features a racehorse and a penguin.*

**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.**



**Figure 11.** One could almost imagine the happy cow in this meter chewing Mail Pouch tobacco instead of cud.

Finally, cigarettes weren't the only tobacco products hawked on pictorial meters. The 1954 meter in Figure 11 shows an ad for the ever-popular Mail Pouch tobacco, and the three illustrated in Figure 12 show three different Red Man chewing tobacco ads that also fit well into an American Indian topical or thematic.



**Figure 12.** Three different approaches to appealing to customers are revealed in these pictorial meters for Red Man tobacco.

It is interesting to note that the promotion angle for two of these includes renewing one's energy and thinking better because of tobacco. ☺

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# Growing a Topical or Thematic

Wayne L. Youngblood

Whether you are forming a completely new collection or adding to a current interest, there is a wealth of material available for most anything you may wish to collect – and a large part of the fun is in the pursuit of both the known and the unknown material that awaits. All you need are the tools to help you know what to look for.

Certainly, for stamps of most topics, your first line of defense is to contact the ATA Office for any pertinent checklists that may exist for your area(s). However, if you are open to seeking out “beyond the catalog” material, there are many serendipitous discoveries to be made, allowing you to venture far beyond simply filling spaces and allowing you to enjoy your hobby even more.

The bottom-line guiding principle regarding philately – of any type – is the very real fact that this is *your* collection. You decide what belongs or does not belong in it and you don't have to acquire anything you don't wish. Similarly, if your aesthetic or topical interest guides you to non-philatelic items, they, too, can find a place in your collection without fear of reprisal. No one can or should attempt to tell you how or what to collect. This is our hobby – something we do for relaxation and enjoyment – and it's your own fulfillment you are seeking, not someone else's.

Now, that having been said, if you wish to exhibit your material, you will have to follow the guidelines that are set out in the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, which can be found and downloaded from the American Philatelic Society's website: [www.stamps.org/userfiles/file/judges/JudgingManual2016.pdf](http://www.stamps.org/userfiles/file/judges/JudgingManual2016.pdf)

Even this doesn't have to be followed if you are not seeking hardware. If, however, you do wish to win awards along the way, then you'll need to heed the guidelines presented and follow advice from judges as you progress.

Either way, you can still maintain your collection in the manner that gives you the greatest enjoyment.

I thought it might be a good thing to take a look at some of the types of material you may wish to add to your collection as it grows, as well as different ways to think about material you seek.

The general assumption is that you will primarily want philatelic items. These include stamps, covers, postmarks, meters, permits and other elements directly related to moving the mail.

Secondarily, you will also very likely want illustrated advertising covers, appropriate letterhead, possibly cachets and perhaps some material created primarily for collectors – if you happen to enjoy it.

Finally, you may also wish to consider adding some forms of ephemera related to your topical or thematic interest. This can include picture postcards, poster stamps and other cinderellas and items that will enhance your collection.

I've decided to use a horticulture topic to illustrate some of the types of material you may wish to collect. Please understand, however, that the subject of horticulture is *extremely* broad. The stamps alone could fill many volumes. I'm using the general subject only as a means of illustrating a range of materials as broad as possible. My greatest personal interests within the horticultural topic, for example, include avocados, peppers and tomatoes, specifically.



**Figure 1. The 1958 U.S. Horticulture issue, Scott 1100.**

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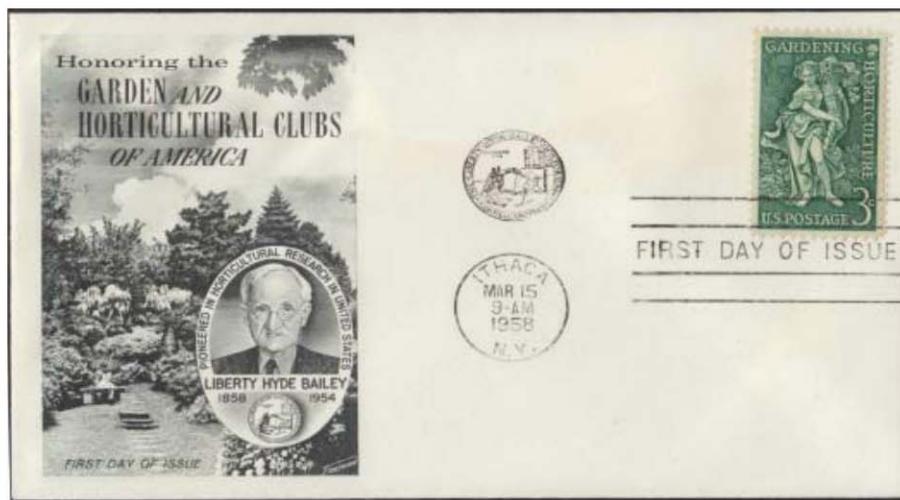
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## Stamps

Again, stamps will always be the primary ingredient in any topical or thematic collection. In some cases (such as horticulture), there will be many thousands available. In others, there may only be a few. I won't spend a lot of time on the basic postage stamps, as there is much information about them that is easily accessible (catalogs, checklists, price lists and more). Most stamps for topics are available for purchase whenever one wishes.



**Figure 2. A cacheted first-day cover for the Figure 1 stamp.**

For example, take a look at the 1958 3¢ Horticulture plate block in Figure 1. This is a very direct and straightforward issue, although the design also features elements that could be included in topicals for vegetables, flowers, fruits, women and allegory, in addition to some of the specific and identifiable items visible, such as cucumbers, pumpkins, grapes and more. A representation of this stamp could include preliminary artwork and any error, freak and oddity material available, such as gutter snipes, misperforations or major errors (there are none known for this issue). You could also collect a first-day cover, such as the one shown in Figure 2, along with cancellation variations (hand-cancels, machine cancels, unofficials or even early uses).

But other issues directly related to your topic may not be as obvious. Take, for example, the stamps shown in Figure 3, surcharged to become Morocco's first semipostals (Scott B1-B5). The connection to horticulture is not immediately obvious, until you know the story.

As I wrote a couple of years ago (*Topical Time*, July-Aug. 2014, Pages 14-15), these semipostals were created in March 1960 to raise funds to aid families who



**Figure 3. Morocco Scott B1-B5, the country's first semipostals, with a strong – but not obvious – tie to horticulture.**



**Figure 4.** An overprinted revenue stamp for use by the wilbur Seed Meal Co.

suffered the terrible effects of adulterated peanut oil (including more than 10,000 individuals). To make a long story short (the full story appears in the referenced issue), greedy merchants purchased surplus jet engine lubricant from U.S. Air Force surplus stocks and began using it to cut the more expensive peanut oil, which people used for cooking. Thousands of people fell ill and became paralyzed during the crisis. A total of 27 merchants were eventually arrested and charged with the crime.

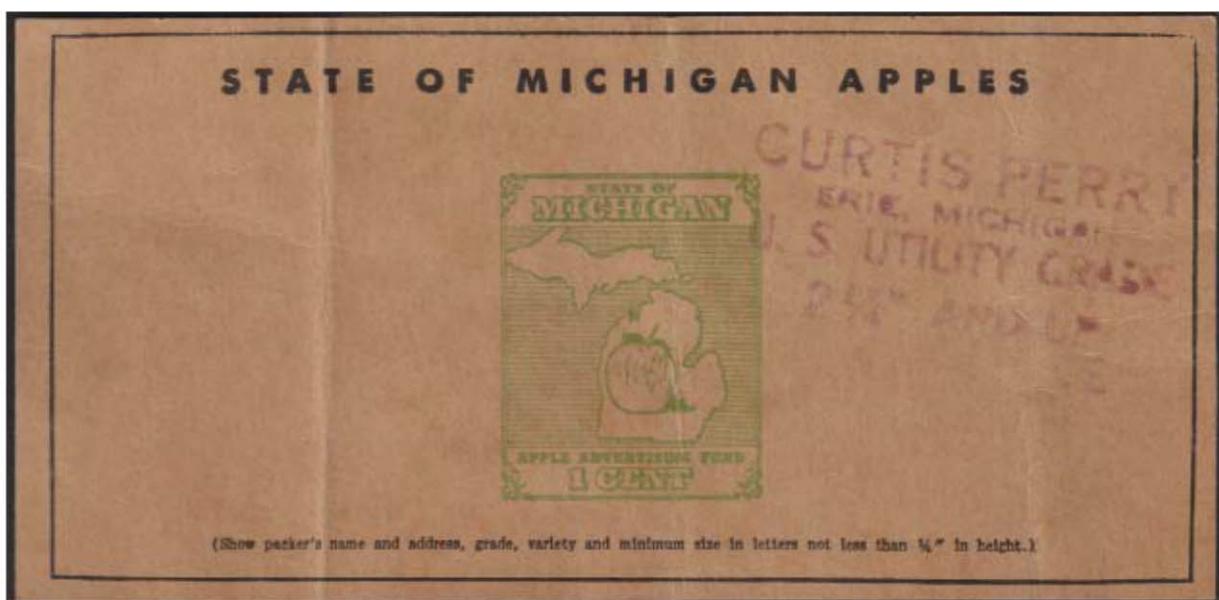
Once you've exhausted your sources of postage stamps, you'll next want to begin checking into revenue and other special-use stamps related to your interests.

For example, the Figure 4 stamp is a 5¢ 1898 "Battleship" proprietary revenue stamp (Scott RB31), not an uncommon stamp by itself. However, these federal revenue stamps are much tougher to locate with private company overprints. In this case, the stamp has a March 10, 1899, printed cancellation from the Wilbur Seed Meal Co., which was located in Milwaukee, Wis. There are others as well.

Similarly, you'll also want to shake the trees for state and local revenues that may tie in with your interest or collection. Figure 5 features a mint 50¢



**Figure 5.** A 50¢ Oregon & Washington Melon & Tomato Marketing Agreement stamp. These exist in several different denominations.



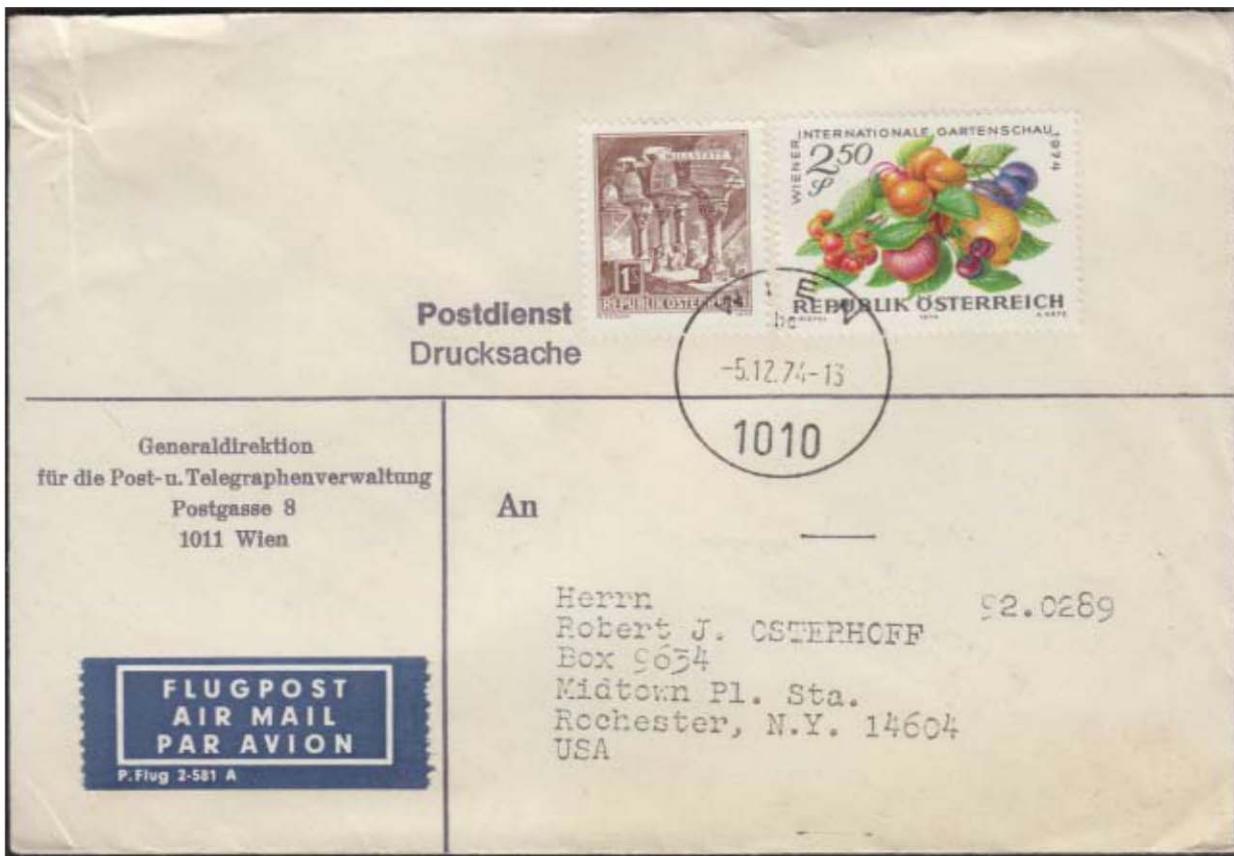
**Figure 6.** The revenue stamp on this crate label bears an imprinted 1¢ Michigan "Apple Advertising Fund" stamp. It was properly used on crate.

Melon & Tomato Marketing Agreements tax stamp from the states of Oregon and Washington – essentially a revenue stamp joint issue.

Figure 6 shows a tag that was attached to crates of apples with an imprinted “State of Michigan Apple Advertising Fund” stamp imprinted on it. In this case it is a 1¢ stamp. The produce company name appears to the upper right of the imprinted stamp.

## Covers

The most obvious covers to be added to your collection, of course, would include those that feature uses of horticulture-related postage stamps. While first-day covers may be saved, they are not the most desirable uses. The best examples are commercial mail, and even better if they also reflect special uses and services, or if they also have auxiliary markings from difficulties encountered during transit (essentially any thing that makes it more unusual). Let's look at a few examples.



**Figure 7. An interesting printed matter piece that utilizes a stamp from the 1974 International Garden Show in Vienna, Austria.**

Figure 7 shows an example of a printed matter piece, or circular (Drucksache) sent by airmail from Austria to the United States in 1974. The stamp of note for our purposes is Scott 983, part of a set of three released for the International Garden Show in Vienna that year. The stamp features different fruits, including grapes, cherries and apricots and is tied (along with another) by an attractive cancel from Vienna. This is an ideal form of non-philatelic use.

Similarly, the cover pictured in Figure 8 from Argentina (April 20, 1957) is franked with a total of 2.60 pesos, paying the airmail rate to the United States. Within the



**Figure 8.** Another example of an inbound use, this one a 2-peso, 60c franking from Argentina, bearing a fruit stamp.

franking is a 2-peso fruit stamp, one of three primary varieties released between 1936-45, still current when the cover was mailed (Scott 537). Depicted on the stamp are grapes, watermelon, oranges, pears, cherries and other fruits.

More fruits may be found on the 1968 cover shown in Figure 9, eight out of a set of 10 stamps released May 15, 1968 (Scott 639-C648). Aside from the single-topic franking, what's interesting here is that these stamps are all part of a franking paying



**Figure 9.** This 1968 registered cover from Nicaragua features pineapples, bananas, orange, avocado, watermelon, cacao and more. Oddly, the stamps are not canceled, but there is a June 7, 1968, receiving mark from Herscher, Ill.



**Figure 10.** This commercial cover from Mexico not only features a pair of 2.50p tomato Exporta stamps, but is sent from a seed company using a tomato in its return address design illustration.

the registry fee to the United States. Unfortunately the stamps were not canceled at the time of mailing, but there is a double-ring magenta receiving postmark from Herscher, Ill., June 7, 1968, so the cover is documented as mailed and would have been sent very shortly after the stamps were released.

Concordance between stamp and cornergard on commercial mail is fairly unusual, so is highly desirable when found on a cover fitting an appropriate topic.

Figure 10, a 1981 cover from Mexico with a pair of 2.50-peso Tomato Exporta stamps paying the airmail rate to the United States (Scott C599), is from a seed company. As part of the illustrated return address cornergard the company pictured a red tomato.

Although not exactly a true commercial cover, the attractive example shown in



**Figure 11.** Although originally received as a bulk-mail piece, the author utilized two horticulture-related stamps to make up the then-current 42¢ first-class rate. The cover is philatelically inspired, but attractive nonetheless.



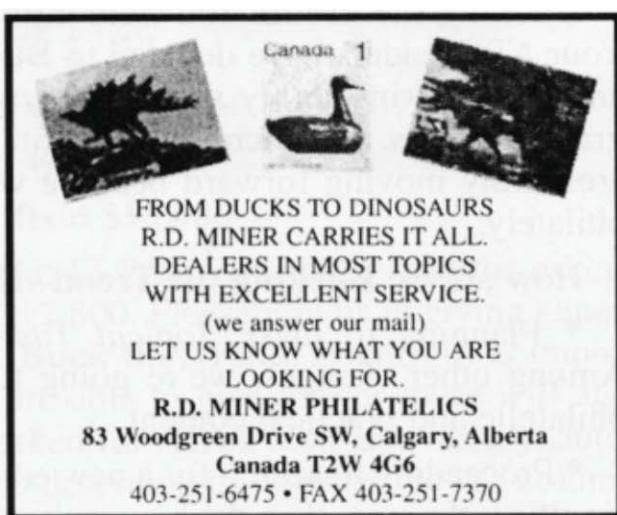
**Figure 12.** An attractive 19th-century registered cover showing use from a Tennessee town named for the plethora of wild strawberries growing there when white settlers first arrived in the area.

Figure 11 is a nice addition to this collection. It was originally a bulk-rate magazine subscription promotion to *Hobby Farms* magazine. The cover, originally franked by a permit imprint, is a full-color production with gorgeous photographs of tomatoes, squash, grapes peaches and more.

At the time I received the cover, in 2008, the first-class postage rate was 42¢. I realized that by utilizing a 39¢ Chile Peppers booklet stamp (Scott 4012) and the 1958 Horticulture issue, I could send the cover to myself at the exact then-current rate. Again, not purely commercial, but highly attractive.

### Cancellations

Although challenging, some of the most interesting items you can add to your collection or exhibit deal with town-named cancellations that fit your topic.



One of the best (and earliest) for my horticultural collection is shown in Figure 12. This cover, mailed in 1885 (Oct. 15), represents an attractive use of the registry system, which was still relatively new at the time (27 years old).

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The cover is franked with a 10¢ Large Bank Note paying the 10¢ registry fee (Scott 209, the re-engraved version), and a 2¢ Scott 210 paying the 2¢ letter-rate postage. The cover bears two clear and attractive strikes of a Strawberry Plains, Tenn., cancel. The community, now unincorporated, is located about 15 miles northeast of Knoxville. The town, which still features a post office, was named for the abundance of wild strawberries found growing there when white settlers first arrived in the area. The post office was established in 1806!

The item shown in Figure 13 has been photographically cropped from its cover. It was mailed Aug. 1, 1910, to Indianapolis, Ind., from Cocoa. The state name is illegible. Since there are very few towns by the name Cocoa, it very likely is the Florida town that is now popular with postmark collectors at Christmas time. Cocoa, of course, is a derivative of cacao. Although it is not the best of strikes, it will do until another comes along.

When obtaining material for your collection(s), you should always be conscious not only of eye appeal, but relative condition. A clear strike of a postmark on a



**Figure 13. Although the state name is not visible on this photographically cropped cover, the town name clearly reads "Cocoa."**

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**Figure 14.** An apple or orange, struck fully on this 1880s stamp.

However, keeping in mind the scarcity factor on a number of early items, it's always better to have something that fits your collection will that is in poor condition than to not have it at all. Therefore, don't pass up a damaged stamp or ratty cover that you have never seen before. Who knows if you'll ever see it again?

Fancy cancels can also add tremendously to your collection. The item shown in Figure 14 is nearly completely obliterated by what appears to be either an apple or an orange fancy cancel. Such bold (and complete) strikes are unusual on single stamps.

Figure 15 bears one of the most popular of all 20th-century fancy cancellations – one that leaves little to the imagination even if encountered without the accompanying town name. The cancel was used officially for only 40 days before

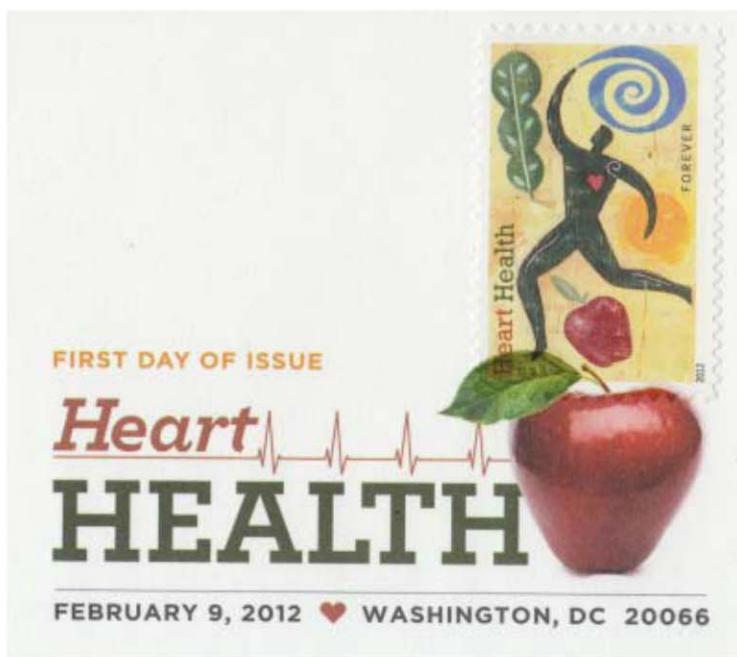
halted by the U.S. Post Office Department in Washington. This example is on a cover from the Appleton Philatelic Society. The cancel was designed by H.M. Brehm, who had received official local post office approval.

In recent years, the U.S. Postal Service has begun offering full-color digital postmarks for virtually every new stamp issue. These cancels are well-executed and attractive. The Figure 16 image, for example, features a juicy red apple you can almost taste – a great addition to this rapidly growing topical.

**To be continued...**



**Figure 15.** The well-known fancy cancel on this cropped cover doesn't require much imagination to figure out the town name.



**Figure 16.** The USPS is now offering full-color digital postmarks on first-day covers. Many of these, such as this gorgeous apple, have huge topical appeal (a peel?).

## Córdoba 2016, Philataipei 2016

# Foreign Thematic Exhibits

*Larry E. Davidson*

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Córdoba 2016 and Philataipei 2016. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed.

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

## Córdoba 2016

This international stamp exhibition was held in Córdoba, Argentina, Aug. 20-27, 2016. The exhibition commemorated the 200th anniversary of the declaration of Argentine independence and was open to exhibitors belonging to any member country of the Inter-American Federation of Philately (FIAF), or from an invited country. It was organized by the Philatelic Center of the Mediterranean (Córdoba), the Argentine Federation of Tourism, the National University of Córdoba and the Official Mail of the Argentine Republic.

### Multi-frame Exhibits

<b>Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha</b> (Br.)	<i>Sun, Surf &amp; Sand: The Discovery of the Beach</i>	95, G
<b>Rogerio Deditivis</b> (Brazil)	<i>The Life Beat</i>	90, G
<b>Antonio Lladó</b> (Uruguay)	<i>The Hat</i>	88, LV
<b>Carlos Dalmiro Soares</b> (Brazil)	<i>Lenin: The Man, the Myth and his Time</i>	86, LV
<b>Héctor Di Lalia</b> (Argentina)	<i>Changing Horsepower</i>	85, LV
<b>Claudio Daniel Mujica</b> (Argentina)	<i>Seven Precepts of the Samaritan</i>	85, LV
<b>Julio Santanelli</b> (Argentina)	<i>The World is a Ball</i>	85, LV
<b>Sheila Soares</b> (Brazil)	<i>Behind the Wheel – Respect Life</i>	83, V
<b>José Luis López León</b> (Spain)	<i>We Dance... the Trompo</i>	77, LS
<b>Luis Rosario Miceli</b> (Argentina)	<i>The Salesian Congregation</i>	76, LS
<b>Rodrigo De Oliveira Campolina</b> (Br.)	<i>Flying: From Mythology to Reality</i>	75, LS
<b>Pascual Ortega Galindo</b> (Mexico)	<i>Study of the Different Types of Maps, Air Routes, Routes</i>	73, S
<b>*James Robert Taylor</b> (Canada)	<i>Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics</i>	73, S
<b>Alejandro Tortosa</b> (Argentina)	<i>Let us be Free, that Nothing Else Matters</i>	73, S
<b>Jorge Yacoub</b> (Venezuela)	<i>And Their Flying Machines</i>	72, S
<b>Oscar Medina</b> (Chile)	<i>Easter Island – A Polynesian Culture</i>	72, S

### One-frame Exhibits

<b>Eric Hidalgo</b> (Costa Rica)	<i>Centennial of the Discovery of America</i>	88, V
<b>Pablo Sauma</b> (Costa Rica)	<i>Second Philatelic Exhibition of Costa Rica, 1937</i>	88, V
<b>Héctor Di Lalla</b> (Argentina)	<i>Messaging Services in the Western Province of Córdoba</i>	88, V
<b>Rodolpho Armando Pizzichini</b> (Ar.)	<i>Joining Two Oceans</i>	88, V



<b>Javier Morillas</b> (Argentina)	<i>Common Fungi of the Argentine Republic</i>	87, V
<b>Enzo Bellini</b> (Uruguay)	<i>The Mini, the Little Giant</i>	87, V
<b>Jorge Hugo Alcañiz</b> (Argentina)	<i>American Bank Note Company in Europe</i>	84, V
<b>Jorge Hugo Alcañiz</b> (Argentina)	<i>American Bank Note Company in America</i>	83, V
<b>Rafael Petraitis</b> (Venezuela)	<i>Lithuania before the Iron Curtain</i>	80, V
<b>Sergio Mastrorosa</b> (Brazil)	<i>Precursors of Saints</i>	80, V
<b>Francisco Omar Carrillo Quiros</b> (Pe.)	<i>Machu Picchu, Historic Sanctuary</i>	80, V
<b>Sergio Recuenco Cabrera</b> (Peru)	<i>SARS, the First Epidemic of the 21st Century</i>	76, S
<b>Christian Alberto Hiza</b> (Ar.)	<i>Myth and Symbolism of the Third Reich</i>	72, S
<b>Juan Pedro Reyes Soto</b> (Peru)	<i>Little Gods and Demons</i>	72, S
<b>Ademir Leonel Banchio</b> (Ar.)	<i>The Roads of Córdoba</i>	70, S
<b>Gustavo Marcelo Caffero</b> (Ar.)	<i>Brazil</i>	70, S
<b>Juan Manuel Moreno</b> (Colombia)	<i>The Wonderful National Stone: The Emerald</i>	70, S
<b>Augusto Felipe Zavala Rojas</b> (Pe.)	<i>In the Name of the Queen</i>	70, S

## Philataipei 2016

This World Stamp Championship Exhibition was held in Taipei, Taiwan, Oct. 21-26, 2016, and was organized by Chunghwa Post Co., Ltd., Chinese Taipei Philatelic Federation and Taiwan External Trade Development Council. The exhibition was held with the patronage of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP) under the auspices of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP). Thematic exhibitors could exhibit in one of three categories – Nature, Culture or Technology.

### Multi-frame Exhibits

#### Nature

<b>*Linda Lee</b> (Australia)	<i>Flower Magic</i>	90, G
<b>Janusz Jaskulski</b> (Poland)	<i>Angling – My Hobby</i>	90, G
<b>Shih-Tse Lin</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>Molluscs</i>	88, LV
<b>Sitatag Juari</b> (Indonesia)	<i>I am a Butterfly</i>	88, LV
<b>Geraldine Forestier</b> (France)	<i>The Relationship between Bees and Men</i>	85, LV
<b>Herman Yoseph Handoyo</b> (Id.)	<i>The Legend of the Last Giant on Earth</i>	82, V
<b>Mario Ramirez Bahena</b> (Mexico)	<i>Anuros: Little Leap to Fame</i>	80, V
<b>Elfriede Horin</b> (Austria)	<i>I Am What I Am</i>	77, LS
<b>Hug-Ming Fan</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>Lepidoptera</i>	70, S
<b>Anuar Bashah Mohd Sohore</b> (My.)	<i>Orchids</i>	70, S
<b>Ummer Farook Senali Veedu</b> (UAE)	<i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>	70, S

**Pictorial postmarks, meters,  
cinderella items and slogan cancellations  
can all add greatly  
to any topical or thematic collection!**

## Culture

<b>Michel Meuwis</b> (Belgium)	<i>Teach Me French Literature</i>	95, LG
<b>I-Hung Ho</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>Carbohydrates in Food and Beverages – The Most Essential Nutritious Sources for Mankind</i>	92, G
<b>Jim Etherington</b> (UK)	<i>1940: A Desperate Year for Britain</i>	92, G
<b>Teresa Miralles</b> (Spain)	<i>Nursing: Caring, Teaching and Comforting</i>	91, G
<b>Bjorn Gunnar Solaas</b> (Norway)	<i>The German Painter Albrecht Durer – His Journey to the Netherlands 1520-21</i>	90, G
<b>Demetrio Delizoicov-Neto</b> (Brazil)	<i>A Noble Presence</i>	90, G
<b>Luis Fernando Diaz</b> (Costa Rica)	<i>From Glamor to Ostracism – A Story of Tobacco</i>	88, LV
<b>*Phairot Jiraprasertkum</b> (Th.)	<i>Olympic Games</i>	88, LV
<b>Chin-Ren Wang</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>The Culture of Shengxiao</i>	87, LV
<b>Daniel Hermann</b> (France)	<i>Olympism: The Non-Ending Fight of Reformers</i>	86, LV
<b>Jacques Paquet</b> (Belgium)	<i>The Gothic Cathedral between God and Man</i>	85, LV
<b>Kaido Andres</b> (Estonia)	<i>University of Tartu 1632-2012 – People and Circumstances</i>	85, LV
<b>H Urich Jobsky</b> (Germany)	<i>The Reformation of Doctor Martin Luther – That is More than just the Posting of the 95 Theses</i>	85, LV
<b>Myung Soon Shin</b> (Korea)	<i>The Politics of Democracy</i>	85, LV
<b>*Pradip Jain</b> (India)	<i>Mahatma Gandhi – A Life in the Service of Humanity</i>	83, V
<b>Yohan Mey-Raz</b> (Israel)	<i>Watch Yourself Very Carefully</i>	81, V
<b>Igor Cep</b> (Slovenia)	<i>Organizing Olympic Games (From the Candidacy to the Closing Ceremony)</i>	81, V
<b>*George Constantourakis</b> (Ca.)	<i>Greco-Roman Sculpture</i>	80, V
<b>Peter Riedl</b> (Austria)	<i>Franz Joseph Habsburg-Lothringen</i>	78, LS
<b>Mikhail Lapushkin</b> (Russia)	<i>Chess Battles</i>	78, LS
<b>Igor Pimenovs</b> (Latvia)	<i>Sailing Along the Historical Routes under the Latvian Flag</i>	75, LS
<b>Prasad Roshan</b> (Sri Lanka)	<i>The Story of Cricket</i>	73, S
<b>Sodoo Chadraabal</b> (Mongolia)	<i>Genghis Khan</i>	71, S

## Technology

<b>Akinori Katsui</b> (Japan)	<i>A History of the Telephone – Telegraph to Digitalization</i>	91, G
<b>Miguel Garcia</b> (Uruguay)	<i>Lighthouses – Beacons on the Horizon</i>	91, G
<b>Willy Bats</b> (Belgium)	<i>The Omnibus – Transport for All</i>	90, G
<b>Yannick Delaey</b> (Belgium)	<i>Mail in Motion – A Primary Function of the Railroads</i>	90, G
<b>Bernard Jiminez</b> (France)	<i>From Stone to Jewel</i>	90, G
<b>Michael Rhodes</b> (Australia)	<i>The Human Mastery of Energy</i>	88, LV
<b>Tegub Chendawan</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Brum, Brum... I am an Automobile</i>	88, LV
<b>Egon Habe</b> (France)	<i>The Story of my Profession: The Bakery and Pastry</i>	87, LV



<b>Chang Han Kim</b> (Korea)	<i>Invaluable Petroleum Resources</i>	85, LV
<b>Wobbe Vegter</b> (South Africa)	<i>From Abacus to Internet</i>	85, LV
<b>Luis Claudio Fritzen</b> (Brazil)	<i>The Submarine</i>	85, LV
<b>Menachem Lador</b> (Israel)	<i>The Information Age</i>	83, V
<b>Jusak Johan Handoyo</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Ships: Transportation Mode on Water</i>	80, V
<b>Chang Hwan Kim</b> (Korea)	<i>The Story of Chemistry</i>	80, V
<b>Tun-Jen Wang</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>The Bicycle and its Use</i>	75, LS
<b>Yuri Loginov</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Fires</i>	71, S

### One-frame Exhibits

<b>Sinisha Pavleski</b> (Macedonia)	<i>A Parrot's Life for Me</i>	87
<b>Omar Carrillo</b> (Peru)	<i>Machu Picchu: Historic Sanctuary</i>	87
<b>*Andrew Urushima</b> (USA)	<i>Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIth Olympiad</i>	83
<b>Bjorn Gunnar Solaas</b> (Norway)	<i>Paloma – Pablo Picasso's Favorite Bird</i>	80
<b>Martha Cristina Castellanos Ramirez</b> (Mx.)	<i>National Symbols of Mexico</i>	77
<b>Luis Porfirio Gil Zurita</b> (Mx.)	<i>Glyph (Pre-Hispanic Writing Engraved in Stone Signs) to the Personal Computer (Education in Mexico)</i>	75
<b>Veni Ferant</b> (Slovenia)	<i>An Everlasting Tree – Olive</i>	75
<b>Luis Manuel Pacheco Munoz</b> (Mx.)	<i>The Zodiac: Gods, Stars and Heroes</i>	71

I wish to thank Jim Taylor of Canada for the results of Córdoba 2016 and Philataipei 2016.

*Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for 59 years and exhibiting for 31 years. His display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, received the Grand Award at NTSS 2015. His mailing address is 30 Front St Apt 307, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada. His email address is [lawrencedavidson@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencedavidson@gmail.com).*



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# Chapter Chatter

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

I would like to welcome the Evergreen Stamp Club in Kent, Wash., as our newest ATA Chapter. You will find more information on the club in this column. Please send all chapter ATA publications to Frederick C. Skvara, M.D., 617 Country Club Rd, Bridgewater NJ 08807, or by email to: [fcskvara@optonline.net](mailto:fcskvara@optonline.net).

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November):** The club subscribes to the APS Sales Circuits and there were two topical circuits available for the members in November: sports and women.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (October, November):** At the September meeting, Ed Bergen

talked about his exhibit, *Walt Disney's Super Star*. At the October meeting, members were asked to bring Halloween-related philatelic items. The October newsletter contains an article on "Marijuana Tax Stamps," illustrated with Internal Revenue stamps overprinted "Marijuana Tax Act of 1937" and some examples of state marijuana stamps. "Early History of the Postal Services of the World," in the November newsletter, is illustrated with a 1976 Italian stamp showing a vehicle used in the Roman postal service (*Cursus Publicus*) circa 250 B.C. There is a short note on the 2016 set of stamps released by the United States Postal Service for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Star Trek* television series.



**Cursus Publicus, Italy  
1976 (Scott 1235).**

## **The Baltimore Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 128), Ellicott City, Md.**

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

**Newsletter:** *Baltimore Philatelist* (Charles Morgan, editor)

**Newsletter topics (Fall):** Norman Seidelman has a nicely illustrated article on "British Commonwealth Revenue Stamps." These items were overprinted (and occasionally surcharged) for use as postage stamps. This is the reverse of the much more common overprinting of postage stamps for use as revenue stamps.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November):** At the October meeting Bob Stubbs showed some





### Betty Lamp, U.S. 1979 (Scott 1608) .

“Freaks & Oddities” and several examples relating to the 1979 50¢ Betty Lamp stamp from the Americana series are illustrated. Richard Horner gave a talk on Christmas Seals in November.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November-December):** There is an illustrated summary of Mac Sarreal's talk, “Japanese Occupation of the Philippines” that he gave at the September meeting. In March 1942 the postal service in the Philippines was opened under Japanese control. Black bars covering all references to United States postal administration use were applied to existing Philippines stamps. Shown is a 1943 stamp issued during the occupation with “United States of America” blacked out at the top and the 30¢ value overcharged to 16 centavos. The original stamp, showing a “Blood Compact” was issued in 1935.



**Blood Compact – Japanese Occupation overprint, Philippines 1943 (Scott N5).**

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November-December):** The newsletter flag shows two stamps from a 2016 Liberia souvenir sheet showing Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.



**Gotthard Base Tunnel, Switzerland 2016 (Scott 1606a).**

(35 miles), the Gotthard Base Tunnel in the Alps. Powdered stone from the tunnel construction has been applied to the stamps as a varnish.

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

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

**Newsletter topics (October):** President Dave Anderson, an archeologist, muses on starting a topical collection on his

**Cyclamen, Czech Republic 2007 (Scott 3345).**



Illustrated in the newsletter is a se-tenant strip of three stamps issued by Switzerland Post on May 12 to commemorate the opening of the world's longest tunnel

profession and shows his favorite archaeology, stamp, the 1934 4¢ Mesa Verde stamp, part of the National Parks issue. Editor Tom Broadhead illustrates several pages of the newsletter with the favorite stamps of members, many of which would fit in a number of topical collections. As mentioned in my last column, actual stamps are included in the newsletters and, for October, it is the 1964 5¢ "Register to Vote" stamp from the United States. Included in the November newsletter is a 2007 flower stamp from the Czech Republic showing a cyclamen. Stamps donated by Bob Ceo & Lori Williams.

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

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

**Newsletter:** Paul Petersen, editor, **email:**

[pcpetersen@comcast.net](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net)

**Newsletter topics (October):** In "The Gamble or Was It?", President Hal Klein describes a wonderful recent auction purchase of a cover mailed from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to Bormes in southeastern France. The cover contains a request for a donation from George Washington Carver. The article includes a brief history of the Institute and background information on Carver. Hal's article reminded editor Paul Petersen that his great grandfather had received donation requests from Carver in the late 1890s and early 1900s.



**George Washington Carver. U.S. 1998  
(Scott 3183c).**

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November):** "Hong Kong Trams" are discussed by Bob and Pat Weidman. They also write about the burial place of Francisco Franco, Valle de los Caidos (Valley of the Fallen) and illustrate the article with several stamps showing Franco. After the abdication of King Alfonso XIII in 1931 and the Spanish Civil War (1936–39), Franco, as leader of the Nationalist forces, became head of state. Selected topical items at local meetings include: Karen Cartier's new book, *Tales by Mail – Book 2* that is now available, and Roy Douglass' Chinese presentation book on petroleum stamps. The stamp of the month article in the President's Letter is on Giuseppe Verdi, the 19<sup>th</sup> century opera composer from Parma, Italy. Several stamps commemorating Verdi are mentioned, including the one seen here released by Hungary in 1967, showing a scene from Verdi's opera, *Don Carlos*.



**Scene from Don Carlo by Giuseppe Verdi. Hungary 1967  
(Scott 1853).**

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (October):** The 2016 USPS holiday stamps are illustrated



**Mickey Mouse. St. Lucia 1980 (Scott 491).**

and discussed. At Milcopex Ed Bergen had a signing for his book, *Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse* and a Mickey Mouse exhibit was shown. An interesting column, "Some Interesting Facts from the USPS," listed an assortment of topical items: First woman on a U.S. stamp (Queen Isabella of Spain in 1893); First Native American on a U.S. stamp (Pocahontas in 1907); First African-American shown on a U.S. stamp (Booker T. Washington in 1940).

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

**Newsletter:** *On Cover* (Kurt Romig, editor, email: [mcscc442@yahoo.com](mailto:mcscc442@yahoo.com))

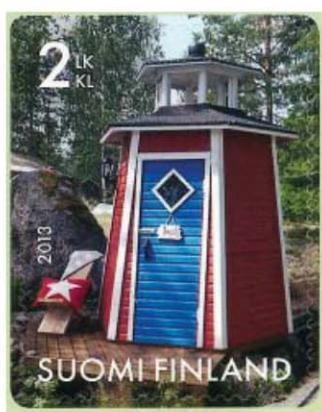
**Newsletter topics (November):** In "Pop Culture Takeover" the editor looks at his topical collections from the 1960s and '70s and notices they were predominantly related to pop culture – Godzilla, The Beatles, classic rock music, Silver Age comics and more. In the "Cover Corner," he shows two Pop Culture covers from Japan, a 2000 FDC showing a Godzilla stamp and a 2005 FDC showing three Pokémon characters – Pikachu, Charizard and Mew. The Pikachu stamp is shown nearby. He notes that Pop Culture icons that have appeared on U.S. stamps, such as The Simpsons, Marvel and DC comic books were unpopular with collectors, but appealed to the general public.



**Pikachu. Japan 2005 (Scott 2919e).**

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

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



**Decorative Outhouse. Finland 2013 (Scott 1427b).**

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

**Newsletter topics (October):** One of the award winners at the 2016 Omaha Stamp Show was for a single-frame exhibit by Candace Weissinger, *How Did Early America Spell Relief – Outhouse*, an exhibit that I would love to see. Finland issued a self-adhesive booklet of four stamps in 2013 showing "Decorative Outhouses." (November) Bob Akaki presented a program on Astronomy covers and stamps.

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

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

**Newsletter:** *Hinges & Tongs* (Fred

Haynes, editor, email: [fredmhaynes55@gmail.com](mailto:fredmhaynes55@gmail.com))

**Newsletter topics (November 2016 – January 2017):**

Illustrated are two Russian stamps showing lighthouses that were issued in 2016. The lighthouses are in Crimean territory that Russia annexed in March 2014. Paul Brach

**Santa Claus, Christmas 1977, Monaco 1977 (Scott 1083).**



presented “Mushrooms on Stamps” at the March 2016 meeting and, in September, led a mushroom hike to Zurich Bog, a sphagnum bog in Arcadia, N.Y. The newsletter illustrates a 2012 stamp from the Republic of China showing a Yellow Unicorn mushroom, one of the 72 species identified on the hike. Florence Wright gave a presentation on “Christmas Stamps” at the December meeting.

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

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

**Newsletter:** *St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter*

**Newsletter topics (November):** Mark Isaacs shows a postal document with several stamps from the 1961 Ryukyu Islands set showing dancers and mentioned that Ryukyu stamps on cover are not common.



**Dancer. Ryukyu  
1961 (Scott 87).**

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

**Website:** [www.stamps.org/venice-stamp-club](http://www.stamps.org/venice-stamp-club)

**Newsletter:** Lance Grandone, editor, **Email:** [venicestampclub@gmail.com](mailto:venicestampclub@gmail.com)

**Newsletter topics: (December)** At the January meeting Joe Reichenbach will present “Law Stamps & Documents of the Gold Rush Period (Yukon Territory).” In the article “The Stamp that Nearly Caused a War,” the editor illustrates the 10¢ stamp from a set of airmail stamps issued by Nicaragua in 1937 showing a map of the country and adjacent Honduras. An area north of the border between Honduras and Nicaragua shows the same shading as Nicaragua and is labeled *Territoria en Litigo* (Territory in Dispute). Riots broke out in Honduras as the territory had been awarded



**Map of Nicaragua, Nicaragua  
1937 (Scott C186).**

to Honduras in 1906. The countries began to mobilize their armies, but after mediation efforts by the United States, Mexico and Costa Rica, war was averted. The editor also shows a 1957 Mexican stamp released on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Jesus Garcia Corona, a railroad brakeman who, when two cars of dynamite caught fire, backed the train away from the town of Nacozani, thereby saving many lives. Unfortunately, he was killed when the train exploded.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (November):** In the article “The Stamp Collecting President,” the editor gives a short biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt and describes his philatelic interests. Illustrations include stamps showing the president and some of the stamps that FDR had a hand in designing. Alex Gill’s article, “The James Hoban Issues of 1981,” presents a biography of Hoban and the story of the construction and reconstruction of the White House. Alex relates the story of the 1981 U.S. and



**1932 Christmas  
Seal, U.S. 1932  
(Scott WX64).**

Ireland stamps that show the architect and the White House. (**December**) Being partial to Christmas Seals, I thoroughly enjoyed Milt Wirth's article, "Oh Christmas Seal, Oh 1932 Christmas Seal." After a brief overview on the origin of Christmas Seals, he covers the variation in the 1932 seal (showing two carolers), printed by four different printers. He notes that the pre-production and post-production items related to this seal would make a nice collection and could include other collectibles, such as usage covers, milk bottle caps and collars and more.

## Canada

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

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

**Newsletter topics (Winter):** Danny Chow has an article "Fantasy Stamps: The Kingdom of Sedang," in which he tells the story of the French adventurer Charles-



**50th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America, U.S. 1960 (Scott 1145).**

Marie David de Mayrena, who moved to French Indochina and set up the Kingdom of Sedang. He then traveled to Europe and began selling "official" stamps of the kingdom and, although he wanted to return to Indochina, he was prevented from doing so and was detained in Malaysia where he died in 1890. He had a Belgian partner who sold large numbers of these fantasy stamps. Peter Butler describes the postmarks from Christkindl, a small village in Austria, where a seasonal post office will service mail and apply an original annual pictorial postmark. Tony

Manson discusses "Norman Rockwell's Scouting Connection" in this "Scouts on Stamps" column. A number of stamps showing Rockwell's art related to scouting are illustrated in the article.

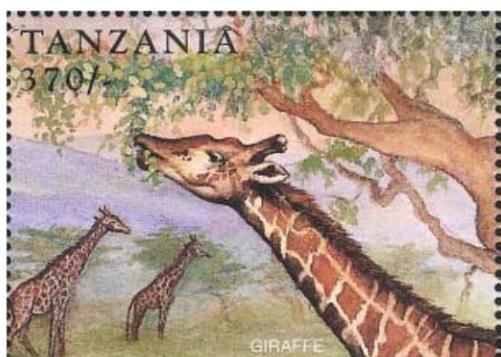
## Australia

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

**Newsletter:** *Thematically Speaking* (John Crowley, editor, email: [jcrowley@primus.com.au](mailto:jcrowley@primus.com.au))

**Newsletter topics (November):** "The Long and the Short of It – Giraffe" is a well-illustrated article on giraffes. Joan Orr looks at "Postal History: Registration Labels, Part 1," noting that these labels can be used in thematic exhibits when affixed to a

piece posted in the mail. Besides just a number, labels can also have images and text as the one on an Australian envelope that has the words "Dog Swamp." Joan notes that this could be used in exhibits on dogs or habitats and – if you add information on why it was so named – shows thematic knowledge. Accompanying the newsletter were photocopies of the third and fourth frames of Daryl Kibble's exhibit, *Message Behind the Angel Story: God's Redemption of Mankind*.



**Giraffe, Tanzania 1998 (Scott 1692c).**

## South Africa

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

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

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics:** *Thematics (February, March, April, May, June)*

Robbie Harm has several original articles: "Retelling Charles Dickens Classic Christmas Tale with Stamps" and "Royalty on Stamps." In another article, "Henri Nestlé," founder of Nestlé and the inventor of baby food, Robbie concentrates on the story behind Nestlé's invention of baby food and illustrates the article with a 2016 stamp from Switzerland showing Henri Nestlé. Each of these four newsletters ends with two pages of philatelic terms, defined and illustrated – a wonderful resource.

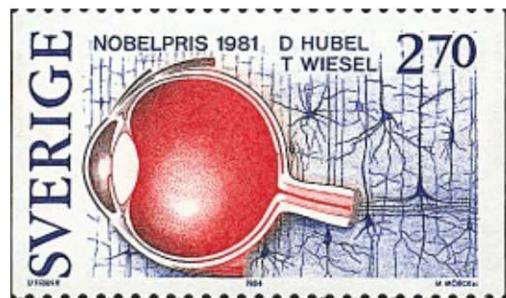


**Henri Nestlé, Switzerland (Scott 1589).**

**Newsletter topics:** *ThemNews (February)* "Quotations on Stamp," by Ernie

Gerke; "Postal Stationery in a Thematic Exhibit, Part 5: Meghdoot Postal Cards," by Wobbe Vegter; "Lepidopterous Philately: Family Classification of Butterflies and Moths – the Primitive Moths, Part 2," by Henk Geertsema; "For Your Eyes Only: Part 2 (Part 3 appears in the May issue)," by Dr. Saji Khumar (ophthalmology); "Halley's Comet, Part 2," by John Kollen; "History of Aviation in the Azores Islands," by Barry Lewis; "Prehnite or Why Do Mandela and I Smile," by Uli Bantz (mineralogy). (**May**) "Duck Stamps of the United States, Part 1," by Anton Putter; "Postal Stationery in a Thematic Exhibit, Part 6: Publibel Postal Cards," by Wobbe Vegter;

"Cyber Heroes of the Past: John Adam Presper Eckert Jr.," by Wobbe Vegter; "Deltiology," by Ruth Sykes and Julia Evans; "Butterflies & Moths on the Coat of Arms," by Vladimir Kachan. There are a number of interest groups in the organization, similar to the ATA study groups, and Rev. Cassie Carstens shows philatelic examples for several of the groups. ☐



**Visual information processing:  
David Hubel & Torsten Wiesel  
(1981 Nobel Prize in Physiology  
or Medicine) Sweden 1984 (Scott  
1525).**

## Obituary: Foil A. Miller

Foil Allan Miller was born in Aurora, Ill., on Jan. 18, 1916, and died in the Chicago suburb of Glenview on Sept. 20, 2016, at the age of 100 years and eight months. According to our records, he was ATA's oldest member. He joined ATA in 1997 but resigned in 2013 when he sold his stamp collection. His wife of 65 years, Naomi Zeller, had predeceased him.



Foil had retired in 1981 as Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to that he chaired the spectroscopy division of Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh for 22 years. He received many professional awards and gave hundreds of lectures on four continents.

About the time of his retirement, Foil began to collect stamps related to chemistry and physics. He became a recognized authority on the subject, and assembled one of the world's best stamp collections on those topics.

Foil was an early member of the ATA's Chemistry-and-Physics-on-Stamps Study Unit. He contributed to almost every edition of its journal, *Philatelia Chymica et Physica*, serving as editor from 1997-2004. He also wrote its new issues column for 26 years. Several of his articles were reprinted in *Topical Time*. In 1998, Foil co-authored *A Philatelic Ramble Through Chemistry*, considered the bible on the subject. He also wrote several books, including *A Postage Stamp History of Chemistry* (1986), *Stamps Related to Chemistry Checklist and Bibliography* (1987), *Chemistry on Stamps* (1985-90) and *Alfred Nobel and Philately* (1988).

Relating his profession and philately, Foil organized chemistry stamp exhibits at meetings of the American Chemical Society, wrote more than 100 thematic articles on stamps in chemical journals and was honored as "Spectroscopist, Educator and Philatelist." He often served as mentor to new collectors.

Foil was honored in 2009 as ATA's Distinguished Topical Philatelist. A more complete biography is found in the March-April 2009 *Topical Time*.

## Obituary: Wolfgang Spille

Wolfgang Spille, one of only six persons to win the ATA national exhibition Grand Award twice in its 67-year-history, died Sept. 9, 2016, in Huntersville, N.C. He was 77.

A stamp collector since the age of six, Spille joined the ATA as a life member in 1970. The following year, he earned the Grand with *Sailing Ships* and, in 1975, won again with *150 Years of Passenger Ships*. Only three other exhibitors

have won the Grand with two different exhibits. Wolf had sailed the seven seas as a merchant seaman and deck officer. He listed his topics as Cruise Ships, Sailing Vessels, Steamships and Transatlantic Mails.

After two decades, Wolf was back on the exhibit circuit, writing an article "Cruising Today" for *Topical Time* in 2002. Illustrated were all 16 pages of his one-frame exhibit, *Passenger Ships*, which achieved a Vermeil at Topex 96 (forerunner of NTSS) and a Thematic Reserve Grand at APS AmerStamp Expo '98.

Wolf was on the board of directors of the Ships on Stamps Study Unit for many years and was very active in reviewing unit publications. He developed the unit exhibit that is shown at various stamp shows.

## ***Obituary: Barbara Ruth Mueller***

Barbara Ruth Mueller, who served briefly in 1981 as interim editor of *Topical Time*, died Nov. 17, 2016, in Madison, Wis., at the age of 91. She joined the ATA in 1953 and was an active member for 63 years. She lived her entire life in Wisconsin.

Her first book, *Common Sense Philately*, published in 1956, gained her recognition on the United States national philatelic scene.

When Barbara achieved the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award from the National Postal Museum in 2004, she was cited as "one of American philately's most distinguished writers and editors. Over the last 50 years she has made major contributions to philately, editing and writing publications for audiences that range from novice collectors to specialists. She is one of the most honored philatelists in the hobby."



A signer of the British Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, Barbara also received most of the major awards in U.S. philately, including the:

- APS John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research
- Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award of the Collectors Club (NY)
- United States Stamp Society Hall of Fame
- APS Writers Unit 30 Hall of Fame

The Barbara R. Mueller Award is given in her honor each year for the best article published in *The American Philatelist*.

Barbara authored *Postage Stamps and Christianity*, an authoritative volume on that topic, in 1964. She collected Printing/Graphics and Philatelic Literature, contributed to *Topical Time* and was an ATA judge at Topex 1968. ☐



## YOUTH IN TOPICS

### *MaryAnn Bowman*

## Resolve to improve our hobby

Happy New Year! At this time of year, many people make resolutions with the hope of improving their personal, social and financial lives. How about making a few resolutions that will improve our hobby and its image? Make a list of projects, activities, objectives or actions to take in the name of youth philately. Then examine ways to make them happen.

Your resolution might be to increase youth membership in your club, give a talk at a school or local youth organization such as the Scouts, prepare a display for the library, plan special activities for October National Stamp Collecting Month, give a basics program to entice beginning collectors to learn more about the hobby or maybe even start a youth stamp club.

### **Who Am I? - Fun with Covers**

I recently received a donation of Fleetwood covers. For those unfamiliar with these, not only are the cachets colorful, but the captions on the front of the envelopes, combined with the descriptions on the back, add meaning to the cover, cachet and cancel.

Fleetwood created both first-day as well as commemorative covers, and I had received several different loose sets that were no longer in their original albums. I decided to do a "Who Am I?" activity with a set of presidents covers. In this case, it is important that the participants be at least fifth grade or older, as the activity requires reading, understanding text and knowledge of our history.

As some of the presidents were a little obscure for the age group I was working with, I went through the collection and pulled out those that were better known, which was about half of the assortment. I prepared a simple activity sheet and

made copies.  
The group was divided into two

*By utilizing information found on Fleetwood cached covers, youth groups were able to create a presidential guessing game.*



teams. They chose their cover from two different piles – one pile for each team.

At the top of the sheet were the following directions: “*Study your chosen cover. Using the cachet and the text on the back of the cover, write three clues about the President. Start with a hard clue and work progressively to easier clues so that the last clue should just about give the name of your President away. Points will be awarded to the opposing team for correctly guessing the name of the President.*” There were also lines for clues to be written on.

The participants were divided into two teams. Once the clues were written, it was time to play the game. A member from Team A would read the team’s first (hardest) clue and the opposing team would have an opportunity to guess the name of the president. If guessed correctly on the first clue, three points would be awarded to Team B. If not guessed, a second clue worth two points would be read and Team B would take another guess. If needed, the last clue would be read and usually by this clue, the president was identified and a single point given for the correct answer. If not correctly guessed, the president was identified.

Then Team B would have one of its members read clues and Team A would have an opportunity to guess the president. After each team’s members had exhausted their turns reading clues, total points were determined and a team winner was announced.

### **Philatelic Hangman**

Most youth are familiar with the word game Hangman. Hangman is a paper and pencil guessing game for two or more people. If done in a classroom setting, the game can be played on a blackboard or white board.

The word or phrase to be guessed is represented by a row of dashes representing each letter of the word. If the guessing player suggests a letter that occurs in the

word, the club leader writes it in all its correct places. If the suggested letter does not occur in the word, the club leader draws one element of a hanged man stick figure and records the letter as having been asked but not used in the puzzle. (For those objecting to the idea of a hanged man, educators sometimes substitute other symbols, such as a tree, adding an apple for each mis-guessed letter.)

Try playing it with philatelic terms, such as first-day cover, plate block, precancels, hinges or others. Make sure to have those items on hand, as the player guessing the word actually gets to keep the philatelic item as his or her prize for correctly guessing the word or phrase. This is a good way to reinforce stamp collecting vocabulary as well as providing an actual example of the term.



**Various philatelic terms can be used to create a fun and interesting form of the popular Hangman game. The items represented by those philatelic terms may be used as gifts for the winners.**

<b>VALENTINE,</b>  <b>YOU'RE MY TOP BANANA!</b>	 Valentine, You're the apple of my eye!	 I'M "PLUM" CRAZY ABOUT YOU, VALENTINE.
<b>VALENTINE,</b>  <b>YOU'RE "BERRY" SWEET!</b>	 I PINE FOR YOU. VALENTINE.	 NO MATTER HOW YOU SLICE IT. YOU'RE MY VALENTINE!
 <b>YOU'RE THE BEST IN THE BUNCH, VALENTINE!</b>	 VALENTINE. WE'D MAKE A GREAT "PEAR!"	 COULD YOU "O-RANGE" TO BE MINE?

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A number of attractive philatelic Valentines, such as these, may be found and downloaded free from the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs website. The address is provided in the text.

stamp and create a Valentine pun – be sure to provide them with an example. The larger note cards can be used to have your club members write thank-you notes for donations the club has received.

Try the Red Scavenger Hunt, also located in the same section of the WFSC website – a fast and easy activity. Just download and print out the sheets. Bring along a mixture of stamps, either on or off paper, and challenge your members to find a stamp to accompany each category.

During these cold winter months, it is a good time to get your youth materials organized so that you can easily find them when needed, as well as having them ready and in a format that you can use for your various activities and projects. Happy Collecting in 2017! ☺

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

## February Ideas

I know that it has been mentioned in a previous column, but the following bears repeating this time of year. The website of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (WFSC) has stamp-illustrated Valentines in the Youth Resources section under the Fun and Games tab ([Here are several ways you can use them: reproduce the smaller Valentines for distribution at senior centers and have your youth members sign them and/or add a personal note, use one as an illustration for your club newsletter, or plan a program whereby club members are challenged to select their own](http://www.wfscstamps.org>Youth</a>). There are five different sets with each page having nine theme-related Valentines. There is an additional set of pages that have note-sized Valentines.</p>
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*Compiled by Andrew and Sandra Lingler*

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## New Members and Reinstatements

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55459	ABROMAITIS, Mary Etta, <i>babyorchid1@gmail.com</i> 2538 Boundbrook Dr S, West Palm Beach FL 33406-8664	Orchids, Medical, Cats, Food, Fashion
57693	BENNETT, Peter	
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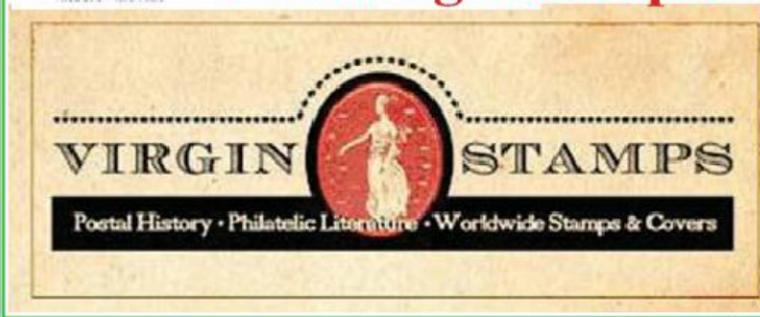


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57699	EVERGREEN STAMP CLUB, ATA Ch. 130, <i>jackcongrove@comcast.net</i> PO Box 33092, Fort Lewis WA 98433-0092	
57701	GRIFFITH, Steven, <i>steven.griffith@rsmus.com</i> 15404 Spillman Ranch Loop, Austin TX 78738-6583	Christmas, Space and Astronomy
57702	HEIMER, Alyson	
57696	HENDERSON, Bob, <i>bob.superrover@gmail.com</i>	Archives, Beer, Libraries, Museums, Monty Python
57698	MISKOVIC, Edward	
57694	PARE, Jean-Pierre, <i>1301jppare@gmail.com</i>	Artists (Painting)
57695	SCARBOROUGH, Christopher, <i>betterpromises@yahoo.com</i>	Chess, Jesus, Bible
57704	SCHULZ-SIMARD, Catherine	
57700	VAGNETTI, Mike, <i>mjvagnetti@gmail.com</i>	Michigan (U.S. only), Baseball (U.S. only), Rocks, Gems & Minerals (U.S. only), Cars & Trucks (U.S. only), Sherlock Holmes (Worldwide), April 28 FDOI (Worldwide)
57705	ZAMBON, David	Space, Trains, Aircraft
57703	ZAMBON, Ivan	

### Unknown address

Please notify ATA Office with information you might have regarding these members:  
 Marguerite H Bridges, Fort Worth, Tex.  
 Paul Karney, Brooklyn, N.Y.

### Deceased

45477	ASHLEY, Roger (Mich.)
44785	CAMOLLI, Garry (Fla.)
01657	MUELLER, Barbara (Wis.)
22612	SPILLE, Wolfgang (N.C.)
54156	WHITEHEAD, Sam (S.C.)

## ATA Membership Recruiters 2016

The following ATA members have recruited 113 new members from Jan. 1 through Dec. 15, 2016. Individual members have received \$5 in ATA Bucks credit for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

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

**ATA Dealer Members shown in red**

New Members		
Hamman, Dawn and John	32	Thomas, Bill
Stout, Jean	12	Wieting, Amy
Fisk, Allan	8	Balagian, Greg
Hayward, Jeffrey	8	Bruce, Susan
Sullivan, Joe	6	Cartier, Ray
Curiale, Tony	5	Cassidy, Jared
Winnegrad, Mark H	5	Chun, Steve
Mather, Robert J	3	Collins, Beth
Cartier, Karen	2	Crain, Lawrence Roy
Costa, Carol	2	Denys, Jack André
Davidson, Larry	2	Edholm, Keith
Eyster, Lucy	2	Homel, Michael
Jones, Susan B.	2	Owen, John W
Morgenstern, Amanda	2	Ryan, Laurie
Scannell, Caroline	2	Skvara, Fred
Smith, Dale E	2	Stanton, Loraine

## ATA TopicalsOnLine

American Topical Association

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## Remember to Use TopicalsOnLine!

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

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

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



### Editorial Content

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

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

Unless otherwise noted, all catalog numbers are from the copyrighted *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, used with express permission of – and under license from – Amos Media of Sidney, Ohio.

### Membership Information

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

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

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

### ATA Membership Dues

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

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

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

### Advertising

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

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



## Philatelic Journals

(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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

*Canadian Stamp News*:  
 PO Box 28103, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7P8, Canada  
[bret@trajan.ca](mailto:bret@trajan.ca); [www.canadianstampnews.ca](http://www.canadianstampnews.ca)

*Filacap*: José Maurício do Prado, editor,  
 Caixa Postal 06, Cachoeira Paulista SP,  
 12630-970, Brazil  
[ac.filacap@uol.com.br](mailto:ac.filacap@uol.com.br); [www.filacap.com.br](http://www.filacap.com.br)

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

*Israel Philatelist*: Donald A. Chafetz, editor,  
 1943 Altonzano Dr, El Cajon CA 92020-1002 USA  
[sipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:sipeditor@gmail.com); [www.israelstamps.com](http://www.israelstamps.com)

*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*: editor, 37 rue des Jacobins, F-80036, Amiens, Cedex 1, France  
[www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com](http://www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com)

*Linn's Stamp News*: Donna Houseman,  
 managing editor, PO Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA  
[dhouseman@amosmedia.com](mailto:dhouseman@amosmedia.com); [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)

*Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*: John F. Dunn,  
 editor, 42 Sentry Way, Merrimack NH 03054-4429 USA  
[www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com)

*Philatelic Exporter*: Graham Phillips, editor,  
 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood,  
 Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom  
[exportereditor@aol.com](mailto:exportereditor@aol.com)  
[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

*Philatelic Exhibitor*: Randy L. Neil, editor,  
 PO Box 8512, Shawnee Mission KS 66208-8512 USA  
[randyneil1941@gmail.com](mailto:randyneil1941@gmail.com)

*philatelica.ro*: Dan Dobrescu, editor, Sos. Stefan CelMare Nr 4, B114 Sc B, Ap47,  
 Bucuresti 63, 011737 Romania.  
[computerstamps@yahoo.ro](mailto:computerstamps@yahoo.ro).  
[www.philatelica.ro](http://www.philatelica.ro)

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

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

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

*South African Philatelist*: Chris Mobsby,  
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 South Africa  
[saphilatelist@africa.com](mailto:saphilatelist@africa.com).  
[www.philatelysa.co.za](http://www.philatelysa.co.za)

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

[astarkweather@nystampclubs.org](mailto:astarkweather@nystampclubs.org)  
[www.stampinsider.org](http://www.stampinsider.org)

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

[stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk](mailto:stamplover@ukphilately.org.uk).  
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*Stamp Magazine*: Guy Thomas and Julia Lee, editors, Hadlow House, 9 High Street, Green Street Green, Kent BR6 6BG, United Kingdom.

[julia.lee@mytimemedia.com](mailto:julia.lee@mytimemedia.com)  
[www.stampmagazine.co.uk](http://www.stampmagazine.co.uk)

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

[kevinnmorgan2@live.com](mailto:kevinnmorgan2@live.com)  
[www.stampnews.com.au/](http://www.stampnews.com.au/)

*U.S. Stamp News*: John Hotchner, editor,  
 PO Box 1125, Falls Church VA 22041-0125 USA.  
[www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com)

**Plan now!**  
**ATA will hold its annual meeting June 23, 2017.**

# Show Calendar

**Feb. 17-19, 2017, Arizona.** Aripex 2017, sponsored by the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs, Inc., Mesa Convention Center Centennial Hall, 263 North Center Street, Building "C," Mesa, Ariz. Show hours Fri-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-3. Exhibits, 47 dealer tables, youth area, USPS first-day ceremony, \$5 admission good for all three days. Free "Stamps in Your Attic" appraisals with paid admission. Free parking. Show also features APS "On the Road" course, *Detecting Damaged, Altered and Repaired Stamps*, Thursday 9-4. For course (\$95 APS members, \$145 for non-members), contact Janet Houser ([jehouser@stamps.org](mailto:jehouser@stamps.org)). For show, Contact Kevin Lesk (480) 240-0388.  
**Email:** [aripex2017@gmail.com](mailto:aripex2017@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.aripex.org](http://www.aripex.org)

**Feb 25-26, 2017. Ohio.** Toledo (Holland), Ohio. The 93rd annual Toledo Stamp Expo, sponsored by Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo. Exhibits and Bourse, Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Road, Holland, Ohio. Free admission and parking, 20 dealers. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3.  
Contact Cliff Campbell (419) 874-6241.  
**Website:** [www.toledostampclub.org](http://www.toledostampclub.org)

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

**March 4, 2017, Florida.** Flagler Country 13th Annual Stamp & Coin Show, sponsored by Flagler County Stamp & Coin Club, Inc, Elk's Lodge No. 2709, 53 Old Kings Road, Palm Coast, Fla. Show hours are 10-3. Free parking and admission. Contact David Rosenthal (386) 437-0368.

**Website:** [www.stampandcoinclub.com](http://www.stampandcoinclub.com)

**March 4-5, 2017, Ohio.** McKinley Stamp Club of Canton, 86th annual show, St. George Serbian Orthodox Society Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton, Ohio. Show hours 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday, Free parking and admission, handicapped accessible. Food on premises, 50 frames of exhibits, 20 dealers, show cachet and cancel, USPS station.  
Contact Dave Pool (330) 832-5992.

**Email:** [lincolnway@sssnet.com](mailto:lincolnway@sssnet.com)

**Website:** [www.mksc.webs.com](http://www.mksc.webs.com)

**March 11-12, 2017, California.** Frespex 2017, Veterans Memorial Building, 453 Hughes Ave., Clovis, Calif. Show hours are 10-6 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Free parking and admission, hourly door prizes. Contact Dick Richardson, 95 East Dovewood Ln, Fresno CA 93710 (386) 437-0368.

**Email:** [starstamps@thegrid.net](mailto:starstamps@thegrid.net)



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Mail to PO Box 8 – CARTERVILLE IL 62918-0008 – USA

**Free Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting handbooks with your membership!**

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Topical collecting interests:

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Yes     No

Check if :  New Member     Reinstatement (former membership # if known: )

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Int'l Print/Electronic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175.00
Youth (electronic)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00			

Enclosed is US \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for dues and/or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for ATA publications (checklists, handbooks, DVDs).      **Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Payment accepted by:  Check (preferred) or money order in US funds (9-digit routing number)

If paying by PayPal/credit card, please include a small bonus to help ATA cover electronic charges.

PayPal to [americantopicalassn.org](http://americantopicalassn.org). You may securely and conveniently pay by debit or credit card at [www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org](http://www.ATA-BecauseYouBelong.org) or at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) even if you do not have a PayPal account by entering ATA's email address, [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com), then clicking on **Pay with a debit or credit card**.

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Account #	Expiry Date	3-digit Security Code	Signature

Privacy Level: ATA policy does not allow releasing or selling your information without your permission, nor does it allow your information published by ATA to be used by commercial interests. It is recommended you maximize your membership connections by allowing ATA to publish your collecting interest(s), and at least one form of contact in the Membership Column of our journal *Topical Time*. Check below the information you wish to share. Please publish my:

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*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Page 2**

## REGISTRATION AND EVENT TICKETS

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

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

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

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

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## Need ATA info fast?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last Name:

First Name:

ATA Member? Y/N

# Adults:

# Children:

List names of additional attendees:

Address:

Email address:

### **INFORMATION:**

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

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

Locally I plan to use  hotel shuttle  my own transport

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

Philatelic publication – Publication name:

ATA Website       Postcard from Dealer

Flyer picked up at a stamp show – Show name:

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

ATA society table at a stamp show – Show name:

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

Where are you staying while attending NTSS?

Home  Friends  Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport

Another hotel  Other:

**Please volunteer to help with NTSS!**

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

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

*Need NTSS 2017 Info?*

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

# TOPICAL

ISSN 0040-9332  
USPS 633680

# TIME

January-February 2017 Vol. 68, No. 1 Whole Number 401

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