

JULY•AUGUST 2017

# TOPICAL TIME

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MARTIANS

RURAL LANDSCAPES  
IN BRITAIN

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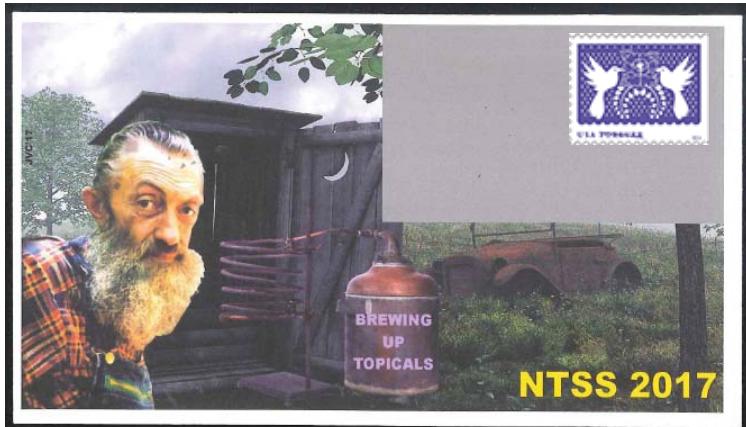
# Brewing Up TOPICALS

*NTSS 2017  
Limited Edition  
Colasanti Cachets*

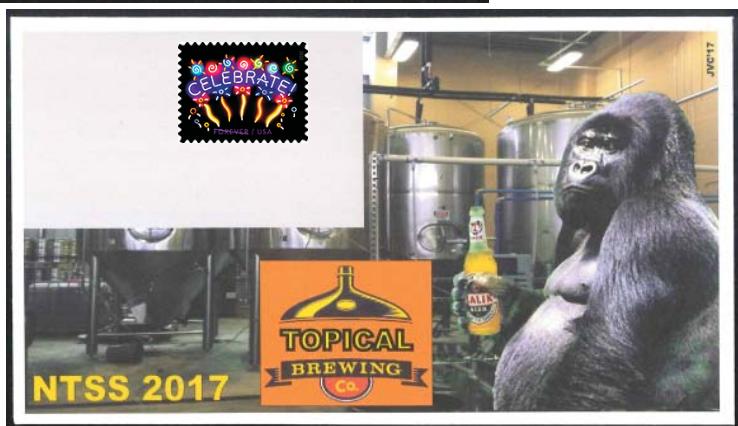
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*TOPICAL TIME* (ISSN 0040-9332) (USPS 633680) is published bi-monthly by the American Topical Association, Inc., 100 N Division St, Carterville IL 62918-1247. Periodicals postage paid at Carterville, Ill., and at additional mailing addresses. Copyright 2017. American Topical Association, Inc. Library of Congress catalog number 56-47317. Printing by Johnson Press of America (JPA), Pontiac, Ill. Subscription rates are included as part of the membership dues.

Postmaster: Send address changes to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008.

## Are you on Facebook?

*If so, get ready for Topical Tuesday — every Tuesday!*

Here's how to get your "topical on": Every Tuesday, on the ATA Facebook page only, upload your best topical with story/explanation of why it's special and WIN ATA goods! Winners will be chosen by webmaster Amanda Morgenstern. Each winner will receive the prize of the week and a place in the "2017 Best of Topicals" publication at the end of the year.

Visit the ATA webpage for more:

[www.american topical assn.org/home.shtml](http://www.american topical assn.org/home.shtml)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

### Philately is An-tic-i-pa-tion (noun)

Anticipation is a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen – the act of preparing for something.

I remember during my earliest years waiting for a man who then came twice a day, dropping wonderful, exciting mail into our mailbox (postmarked with the time canceled). So keen was my excitement that at times I would sit and listen for that lid to be raised, soft swoop of mail being dropped in and the lid slamming shut. When we lived in the country, I would be elated to see that the red mailbox flag was down.



I knew there would be messages from relatives from far away with good and, sometimes, bad news. We received postcards from folks traveling to far and distant lands of which I had never heard. Sometimes that mailman (it was always a man) would bring a large package from someone – usually around birthdays or Christmas. And, I always got the precious, canceled stamps that I soaked off for my collection.

I never received mail except on the occasional birthday. Early in March I would always be at the mailbox first, anticipating birthday cards. Imagine my glee when I finally realized that I could generate mail to me and just me. My first attempt was to clip coupons from Eskimo Pies that promised more of that fabulous chocolate covered vanilla ice cream on a stick. I waited for days until it finally came. Imagine my profound disappointment when I opened that flat envelope addressed to me and found only another coupon instead of a nice frozen Eskimo Pie inside.

But I was hooked. There was a flurry of cereal box clipping to get that wind-up motorcycle and many other toys all made in Japan. Then there were comic book clippings of H. E. Harris coupons offering a plethora of worldwide stamps for 25¢. The anticipation of receiving mail always gave a sense of excitement to my young life.

When I served in Vietnam during 1971, I did write fairly often to my mother. She was always a worrier and she told me, when I returned, that she looked forward

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

to getting a letter from me because she knew that I was safe another day. I would have written more frequently if I had realized her great anticipation for my letters.

Now, in my adult life, there is still philatelic anticipation. Going through a box of covers and looking for one from my home town of Gower, Mo. I have spent my collecting years always looking for covers mailed on my birth date in March. They have been elusive, but imagine my excitement when I find one. Then, one day I found three at one dealer's booth! Anticipation is looking through dealer inventory for years trying to find that Pharmacy set that is never there. Then, "amazingly," one day that set is looking up at me. And, it is in good condition! It does not matter what it cost, I finally found it.

Now I anticipate going to shows and spending time with friends met in the philatelic world, seeing my local club members that sometimes attend far away shows and I always look forward to meeting new acquaintances.

I anticipate getting a new ATA checklist on my topics or on another topic in which I have interest. And I get free annual updates as long as I am a member, something many of us forget. I always look forward to getting *Topical Time*, *Linn's Stamp News*, *American Philatelist* and other philatelic publications.

As busy as I am these days, I always anticipate those scraps of spare time that I can work on my stamp collection. It is definitely a pleasure to get away from the computer, put non-urgent ATA business aside and postpone garden work until tomorrow. Then, I spend just a few hours adding to my collection and enjoying philately.

Please remember it is anticipation that keeps us going, motivated to greet each day, and interested in life. ☺

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## A Kind of Farewell

*Bob Lamb*

In a way, this is a farewell. For almost a decade now I have chaired the ATA fund-raising committee. During this time, I have been a frequent – and mostly anonymous -- author of this appeal. I have urged you to donate to the BTTF campaign, to remember the ATA in your will, or to support our association financially in some other way. Age is catching up with me and this year I am leaving the ATA Board. Responsibility for this column will pass to others.



This column has been an enjoyable task. The ATA is a good organization. Since its founding by Jerry Husak nearly 70 years ago, it has had a very loyal following. It tries to serve its members well. The association uses its limited funds wisely.

Because of your generosity, the ATA is financially stable. And today it is a strong force in promoting topical collecting at a time when we see so many negative signs in our hobby. With your help, the ATA really has been able to “Buck the Trend.” I hope you will continue your generous support in the years to come.

Thank you for everything you do to support ATA.

<b>2017 BTTF Goal:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
------------------------	-----------------

<b>Received (to May 29):</b>	<b>\$5,863</b>
	<b>\$29,137</b>

<b>Pledges not received to date</b>	<b>8,240</b>
<b>Still needed to meet goal</b>	<b>\$20,897</b>

**ATA's budget depends on your gifts. 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...

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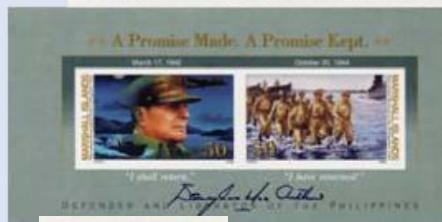
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**WWII collectors:**  
For the 50th Anniversary of WWII, 100 sets were issued depicting events and battles. The stamps were available as singles or with an attached bottom inscription tab. Available perf & Imperf and gutter pairs!



# About ATA

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

## New on the ATA Website

ATA's beginner/youth album pages have mushroomed, and the greatly expanded section of the website includes – what else? – pages on the topic of mushrooms! The youth area now contains 171 album pages and features galore; almost 500 pages free to all just for the printing. *Topical Tidbits* offers fascinating reading for philatelists of all ages. Check them out for quick quizzes to take to your stamp club meeting.

The ATA now offers website advertising, as well as an advertising package that includes both *Topical Time* and the website. This is a great way to publicize your stamp show, study unit or other philatelic event. Dealers will also find this an ideal way to reach collectors. When shopping for stamps, check out the dealer ads by clicking on the box marked, "Our Online Advertisers."

## Add Fun to Every Tuesday

Tuesday is Topical Tuesday on the ATA Facebook page. Win prizes by uploading a scan of a favorite stamp or other philatelic item, along with a brief description. Just log onto Facebook and search for American Topical Association.

## Welcome New Board Members

ATA is pleased to introduce two new board members. **Kim Kellermann** of Illinois is the CEO and CIO of Rasdale Stamp Company, an ASDA-qualified auction firm. A board member of ASDA, Kim has held numerous offices, including president. He collects trains on stamps. **Igor Grigorian** of California is president of the Armenian Philatelic Association. He is an active exhibitor who collects Armenia, fencing, churches and United States.

## Colorful Cachets

Two sets of cachets depicting the three categories of checklists – Nature, Culture and Technology – have been prepared to highlight the “Brewing Up Topicals” theme of our annual show. Order them now from the ATA office. See our website or the inside front and back covers in this issue of *Topical Time*.

## Have You Discovered a New Checklist Item?

Our checklists are always a “work in progress.” If you find a topical stamp not included on your checklist, or an error, please report it to ATA. You can do so by going to the website and clicking on Checklists. In the lower right-hand column you'll find a form. Or, you may email the information to [atachecklists@gmail.com](mailto:atachecklists@gmail.com) or send hard copy to the ATA Office. Working together, we will all improve our checklists.

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

## Recent Shows and New Members

**Apr. 22-23: Fire Service in Philately Annual Meeting**, Allentown, Penn. **Ambassador:** **Newt Kulp.** New member: 1

**May 6-7: Orapex**, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. **Ambassador: Larry Davidson.** New members: 2

**May 12-14: Pipex**, Portland, Ore. **Ambassador: Jack Congrove.** New members: 2

**May 19-20: Ropex**, Canandaigua, N.Y. **Ambassadors: Fred Haynes and Dale Smith.** New member: 1

**May 19-21: Compex**, Arlington Heights, Ill. **Ambassador: Sue Jones.**

**May 19-21: Rocky Mountain Stamp Show**, Denver, Colo. **Ambassadors: Tonny Van Loij and Dalene Thomas.**

**June 3-4: Sunpex**, Orlando, Fla. **Ambassador: Newt Kulp.**

**June 10: Ozark Mountain Stamp Event**, Springfield, Mo. **Ambassador: Don Chenevert.**

## Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

Checklist printing available at shows shown in blue. If you can assist at the ATA table for an hour or two, please contact the ATA Office.

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

**July 21-23: Minnesota Stamp Expo**, Crystal, Minn. (see Beth Collins)

**July 29-30: Charpex**, Charlotte, N.C.

**Aug. 3-6: APS StampShow**, Richmond, Va.

**Aug. 11-13: AmeriCover**, Independence, Ohio.

**Sept. 1-3: Balpex**, Hunt Valley, Md. (see Joe Sullivan)

**Sept. 8-10: Seapex**, Tukwila, Wash. (see Keith Edholm or Jack Congrove)

**Sept. 8-10: Nojex**, Secaucus, N.J. (see Allan Fisk)

**Sept. 15-17: Milcopex**, Milwaukee, Wis. (see Bob Mather)

## Volunteer Needed: Coordinator for Advertising Marketing

We need someone with experience in contacting potential advertisers for *Topical Time* and for our website. Candidate needs to spend time contacting current and potential customers to expand our advertiser base.

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

**BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!**



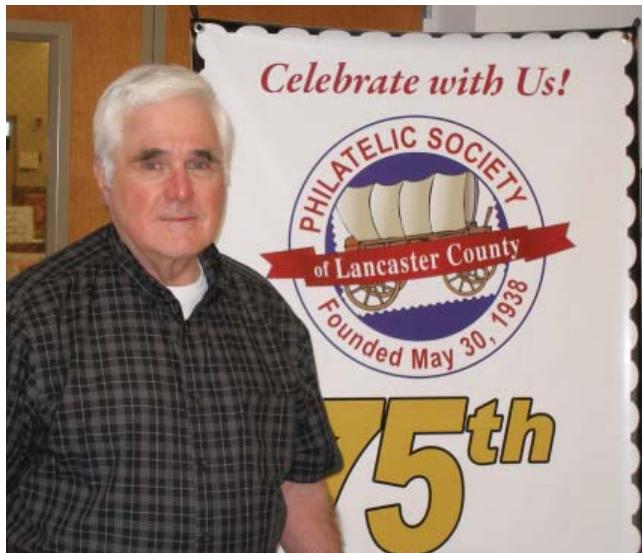
# VERA'S VIEWS

Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

## A Grand Idea!

**A Grand Idea for ATA Chapters and Study Units.** Several ATA-affiliated Chapters and Study Units supply their newsletters or journals to the ATA Office, though other groups send them only to our Chapter or Study Unit Coordinator. Among the Chapters that extend this courtesy is the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

(Pennsylvania). Thanks to Paul Petersen, newsletter editor. In the “Good News for Philatelic Souls” column of the April 2017 chapter newsletter, I noted this wonderful club activity:



**Joe Berlin, winner of the ATA membership from the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. Photo courtesy Paul Petersen.**

*“Free APS and ATA memberships: This month there will be a drawing for a free membership in either APS or ATA for any PSLC member who has never been a member in these organizations. There is the gentleman’s agreement that the winner will pay his/her own dues for the following two years.”*

I hope many more ATA

Chapters – and even Study Units – might replicate this idea in their groups. We have learned that the winner of the ATA membership is Joe Berlin. Congratulations, Joe, and welcome to ATA!

**Taste of Topicals.** It seems I’m writing often about this wonderful ATA product, but I keep learning from our members and others that our beginner kits have a much wider audience than just the youths we envisioned. At the St. Louis Stamp Expo this year, a traditional collector purchased two Taste of Topicals kits, on Space and on Trains. When I asked him if they were for grandchildren, he replied rather sheepishly, “No, they’re for me.” Further conversation revealed that he was a long-time traditional collector who was finding himself drawn to the topical side of our hobby. He had purchased a few sets of Space and Train stamps and didn’t

have a place to store them, so he was starting with Taste of Topicals. A future ATA member? Maybe! A prospective member of the Space Unit and the Casey Jones Rail Road Unit? Absolutely! All ATA members can help by letting other collectors know that there is no reason to be shy about admitting an interest in topicals! Do talk it up whenever you have an opportunity. Recruit a new member and you'll earn a \$5 ATA credit.

The big news regarding Taste of Topicals is our expanded menu! At NTSS in Milwaukee, more than 100 different a la carte items were available in the Nature, Culture and Technology areas. Most of the offerings are still available, though several one-of-a-kind selections were immediately devoured by showgoers. The wider menu choice was made possible by "chef" Barbara Asher, who cooked up dozens of new items by organizing ATA stamps donated by many members. Sue Bruce served as "sous chef," doing much of the galley work needed to produce the tasty items. Take a look at the new menu (**see outside back cover of this issue**) and make plans to treat yourself or others to a delicious experience with a new collecting treat.

This new ToT menu comes at an opportune time to lift grandchildren or neighborhood youths out of their "what can I do?" summer doldrums.  
Do check it out!

### Welcome to the Buffalo Stamp Club.

A hearty welcome to ATA's newest Chapter affiliate, the Buffalo Stamp Club. Dale Smith presented its affiliation certificate to club members at the Ropex awards ceremony in May.

Pictured are Robert Meehan, Dale Smith

and John Leszak. Many thanks to Alan Davis for spearheading the club's relationship with ATA.



*From left: Robert Meehan, Dale Smith and John Leszak.*

**NTSS.** If you came to Milwaukee at NTSS, we were so very glad to share the show with you! John Hamman and his hard-working committee made the event a fantastic experience. It was so wonderful to recognize Bob Mather for his many years of service to ATA and for his work with NTSS. And it was great fun to celebrate the birthday of Mary Ann Owens and the legacy that she gave to our hobby. If you missed it all, there will be another opportunity to share in the fun next year! ☺



# WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

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

## *Tugging at the Weft*

In weaving, a fabric has warp and weft. The warp describes those individual vertical threads that are the basic structure of a fabric. The weft, on the other hand, is the often single transverse thread that winds itself over, under and across the warp. This rambling thread is what helps give fabric its strength and flexibility.

It's amazing where a simple – if not inconsequential – question can lead. Then, by following additional questions created in answering the primary one, one can be taken down some very interesting topical wefts indeed. Have you ever thought much about the 3¢ 1934 Maryland Tercentenary stamp, Scott 736? Me neither. The stamp, released March 23, 1934 – a year and nine months after the rate hike making first-class postage 3¢ – is red. Why? After all, most 3¢ stamps dating back to 1890 were purple.

Before proceeding, in 1898 the Universal Postal Union adopted a resolution where all stamps from member countries were color coded. Green stamps were intended for the postcard rate, red stamps were for the domestic letter rate and blue stamps were supposed to



**Figure 1.** Among the initial designs submitted by Michael Miller to the Maryland Tercentenary Commission are these two. The frames are virtually identical, with only the vignettes of Cecil Calvert and the State House differentiating them. This is likely because they were planned to be a series.

**Figure 2 (top).** The Ark and The Dove, the two vessels transporting persecuted Catholics from England to the New World. Maryland represented the first establishment of religious tolerance in any state or country in the world. The woodcut and the drawing (below) were both designed by Edwin Tunis.

be reserved for international mail. Most member countries, including the United States, followed this scheme for many years. Why, then, was the new Massachusetts stamp red?

Evidence leads back to the genesis of the idea for a Maryland Tercentenary stamp. On April 29, 1929 (during the 2¢ Red period), the General Assembly of Maryland approved the appointment of the Maryland Tercentenary Commission. Soon after, Michael Miller, a collector in Baltimore, suggested that a commemorative stamp be issued for Maryland. He was then appointed as Stamp Consultant and was tasked with providing a few sample designs. (The original proposal called for a series of stamps!) Two of these are shown in Figure 1. Note that both bear 2¢ denominations. Neither design was accepted.

Another design possibility suggested later by Miller was an adaptation of an original woodcut of *The Ark and The Dove*, the two ships that transported the first settlers from England to Maryland in 1634. Both the woodcut and the adaptation are shown in Figure 2. This design, too, was rejected. But the artist of both, Edwin Tunis, now becomes key to our story. The final design of the Maryland stamp was based on another piece of his artwork. More on this in a minute ... or two.

Edwin Tunis (1897-1973) was a remarkably talented individual who was not only a successful artist and illustrator, but also a radio announcer, actor, set designer and author. He wrote and illustrated several books that dealt with

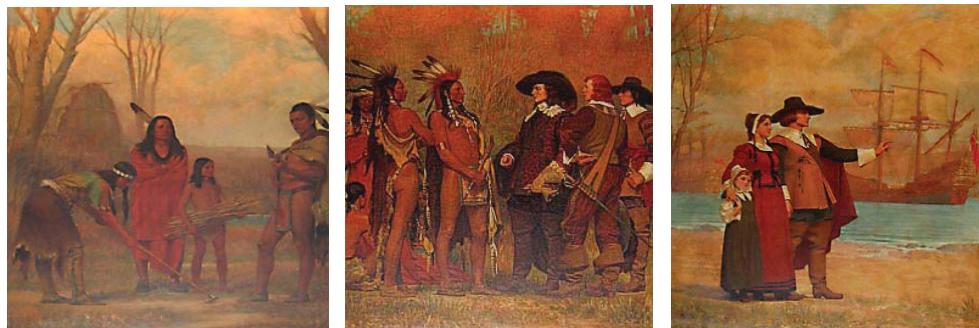




**Figure 3.** An unaccepted design for the Maryland stamp created by a BEP artist, based on the center panel of the Figure 4 mural.

Feb. 28 by Postmaster General James A. Farley, little more than three weeks before the stamp was to be issued. For unknown reasons, in that press release Farley stated specifically that “the color of this stamp will be announced later.”

With scant time to design, approve, engrave and print the 50 million stamps ordered, BEP officials got to work immediately. Figure 3 shows a design created by BEP artist Victor S. McCloskey, Jr., based on a portion of a mural (center panel) painted by C.Y. Turner, originally referred to as *Barter With The Indians*, which was commissioned for the second-floor hallway of the Baltimore Courthouse. That mural, now known as *Treaty of Calvert with the Indians*, is found on the east wall of the Criminal Court Lobby. It is shown in Figure 4. Although the design is striking, it does not suitably convey the message the Tercentenary Commission had in mind.

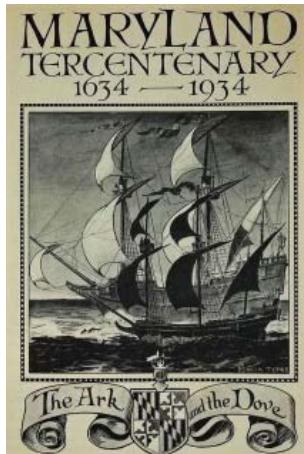


**Figure 4.** The center panel of this mural from the Baltimore Courthouse was the source of one of the rejected designs for the Maryland Tercentenary stamp.

transportation, tools, weapons, Indians, Colonial life and ships. In 1962, he was a Newberry Medal runner-up for *Frontier Living: An Illustrated Guide to Pioneer Life in America*, which he both wrote and illustrated. But I digress ... again.

For almost four years it seemed like there was little progress made towards producing a Maryland Tercentenary stamp and it began to seem like the stamp wouldn't happen.

Finally, on Feb. 2, 1934 (after writing to Franklin D. Roosevelt), Miller received a response from our stamp-collecting president, stating he approved the stamp for issuance. Four days later (Feb. 6), the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was ordered to design a Maryland stamp, and the final details were announced to the public



**Figure 5.** The final Maryland Tercentenary stamp design was based on the artwork created for the publication (above) of the Maryland Tercentenary Commission by Edwin Tunis.

**Tunis.** The illustration of the ships was essentially used unchanged – complete with what appear to be porpoises leaping near the ship.

What was ultimately chosen during that short window of time is an adaptation by BEP artist A.R. Meissner of a painting done by Edwin Tunis for the Tercentenary Commission to grace the cover of its own booklet, *Maryland Tercentenary, 1634–1934*, shown in Figure 5, along with an enlargement of the vignette used. Are those three porpoises in front of the ship? I really had not noticed them before.

While attempting to ascertain whether these were porpoises or another form of marine life, I ran into George Linn's editorial on the stamp in the April 7, 1934, issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. Linn's ascerbic and frequently witty prose is always worth a read. His very topically oriented editorial, titled "Ships and Fish for Maryland," is excerpted as follows:

*"Collectors of Ship Stamps can now add another ship stamp to their collection and that is about all that is necessary to say as regards this new label printed in red and bearing the necessary inscriptions to make it a legal U.S. Postage stamp."* Linn obviously wasn't impressed by the new stamp.

*"We believe that postmasters will shoot it out as fast as possible to get rid of it for to have a 2c and a 3c stamp in red at the same time is a confusing mess. However, the Government can not lose on the combination, for if nearsighted people want to mistake it for a 2c stamp and use it on their mail the loss is theirs and not Uncle's."*

Linn went on to state that although this isn't a particularly attractive stamp (too little contrast), it beats having some "*Bobbed Haired Man whom nobody ever saw and whose portrait might have to be drawn from a conjurers bag.*"





**Figure 6.** The final approved design of the 3¢ Maryland Tercentenary issue, along with an enlargement of the “fish” shown leading the ships.

be seen that the three spots in front of the vessel in the foreground are nothing else but fish.

“Thus this stamp fills a two-fold need for stamp collectors. The man who collects ships stamps should be satisfied and those who specialize in stamps with the finny tribe will also have cause for rejoicing.” Linn goes on to point out the “fish” are, indeed, porpoises and are therefore no good for eating... The finished stamp, along with an enlargement of

the “fish,” is shown in Figure 6.

On March 12, just 11 days before the stamps’ release, Third Assistant Postmaster General Clinton B. Eilenberger announced that the stamp would be printed in red, on a white background – a last-minute decision that appears to make no sense today.

I still have no idea why the stamp was printed in red, rather than either violet or purple. ■

What I find particularly interesting, however, is Linn’s take on the “fish”: “*One cannot overlook the fact that this stamp has as its background, the Catholic Calverts who colonized Maryland and set up a colony in which they preached religious freedom.*

“It was over this point that much discussion pro and con on this proposed stamp, filled the newspapers of Maryland prior to its issue and now that the stamp has appeared on a FRIDAY, we find that the customary ‘Fish’ for the Friday Meal are supplied with the stamp for it is clear to

## About the Cover

Mailed from Kansas City, Kans., to Lead, S.D., in 1913,



this embossed, lithographed Easter greetings postcard offers a rather fanciful look at a very distinctive rooster – a rooster that is fully dressed with vest, spats and cane, and is even smoking and wearing a monocle. Perhaps the most unusual thing about this rooster is the fact he has fully formed human arms and hands! The frog at lower right is obviously amazed... ■



# TOPICAL POSTLINE

## Letters to the Editor

### **Study Unit Journals Needed**

The American Philatelic Research Library supports topical collectors and has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with the ATA for a long time.

Following the publication of Scott English's column in the May-June issue of *Topical Time*, the library staff discussed how we can do even more to support topical collectors. We have a complete run of *TT* and all of the ATA handbooks in our collection, but we are lacking many publications of ATA's study units. We would greatly appreciate any assistance from ATA members in filling in gaps in our collection.

The more robust our collections are in a given topical area, the better we are able to answer collectors' research questions and to direct them to philatelic organizations devoted to their interests. Many of our library users are unaware of the many organizations in the hobby and are delighted to discover a group of like-minded fellow collectors.

Study unit editors can help by adding us to the mailing list for publications. While we prefer to receive hard copies, we are also happy to receive electronic copies with permission to print a copy for our collection.

Members can help by donating back issues of journals or other topical publications. We are also interested in receiving copies of exhibits for our growing online exhibit collection ([www.stamps.org/online-exhibits](http://www.stamps.org/online-exhibits)). To check the APRL's holdings for a title, search our catalog online at: [catalog.stamplibrary.org](http://catalog.stamplibrary.org).

If you are interested in helping us to build our topical literature collections, you may contact me at [tmurray@stamps.org](mailto:tmurray@stamps.org) or (814) 933-3816.

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— Tara Murray  
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*Tara, Thank you very much for your letter. Hopefully you'll begin filling a number of those holes soon! Please do keep us posted on your progress.*

— Wayne



# TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

## Wayne L. Youngblood

### Stamps on Postmarks

*Due to a serious illness, George DeKornfeld was unable to produce his regular column this issue. We hope he will be able to resume his column soon.*

Stamps on stamps has always been a popular topic with collectors, but a related area

that seems to fall between the cracks is stamps on postmarks (and, consequently, on stamps), although there is no shortage of these items. From my relatively limited observation, it would appear that the vast majority of stamps on postmarks break down fairly readily into two areas; actual, recognizable stamps depicted in postmarks and those that show either non-issued stamps or feature more



Figure 1.

stylized "stamps." Let's take a look at a few stamps on postmarks this month.

Although I cannot place, exactly, when the first postmark to depict a postage stamp was used, I'm reasonably certain the first one to honor a stamp (more or less) comes from the Penny Postage Jubilee of 1890 in Great Britain.

*"In 1889 a general opinion was expressed that the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in this country ought not to be allowed to pass without some indication of the feelings which must actuate all who look back to the great reform introduced in 1840, and consider what has since been done,"* according to an excerpt from the introduction to *"Account of the Celebration of the Jubilee."* So it was that Great Britain's first piece of commemorative postal stationery was released on May 16, 1890 (10 days after the actual anniversary), at a special exhibition in Guildhall. The card, shown in Figure 1, was produced in a quantity of 5,000. A special postmark



Figure 2.

was created for the event, marking 50 years since the advent of Penny Postage (and the release of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, on May 6, 1840). The cards were so popular they sold out the first day. This success led to another special card created for the South Kensington Museum July



**Figure 4.**

related is the Figure 4 Stampex 2016 marking, which marks the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red. Obviously picturing the Penny Red in a black cancellation wouldn't work so well.

Other classic-era stamps have been shown in pictorial postmarks over the years, some more detailed than others. The Hawaii Philatelic Exhibition (Hapex) postmark for 1981 shows the famous 2¢ Hawaiian Missionary stamp of 1851, Scott 1, the first stamp issue for the islands. A used example would cost me a cool quarter-million, but the pictorial postmark is considerably more reasonable to own.

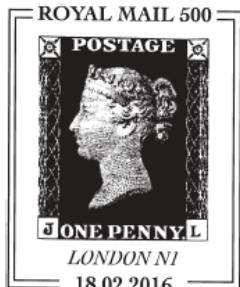


**Figure 5.**

Two more "firsts" are shown on the postmark pictured in Figure 6, a cancellation produced for the 1950 Australian Philatelic Exhibition. The stamps themselves reproduce the first stamp issues from New South Wales and Victoria (both in 1850), as does the postmark, although in considerably less detail. The show, which celebrated the centennial of these stamps, was held Oct. 4-14, 1950, in Melbourne.



**Figure 6.**



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 7.**

As part of that celebration, the Figure 7 pictorial postmark (shown on full cover) was created to mark the 75th anniversary of the Trans-Mississippi series of stamps, the 40th annual convention of the TMPS and the 87th annual convention of the CPS. The topically rich \$2 Trans-Miss stamp was used for the postmark design, which shows the Eads Bridge, Mississippi River, streetcars, horse-drawn carriages, a city skyline, Steam-boats and other river vessels.

Another very popular stamp to

replicate is the 24¢ Inverted Jenny, Scott C3a. In this case the rare stamp is incorporated into the design of a special postmark used Feb. 1, 1990,



In 1973, the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society held its annual convention in conjunction with that of the Chicago Philatelic Society, Sept. 14-16.



**Figure 8.**

to mark the opening of the Jenny Stamp Shop in Louisville, Ky., the philatelic window at the Okolona branch post office. That cancel, shown on full cover, is pictured in Figure 8.



**Figure 9.**



Figure 9 shows a recognizable stamp design, that of the 5¢ U.S. Parcel Post issue of 1913, although it has been altered to fit the needs of the Orange Empire Railway Museum, which used the cancellation April 20-21, 1996.

Older stamps are not the only ones to find themselves used as part of modern-day postmarks, however.

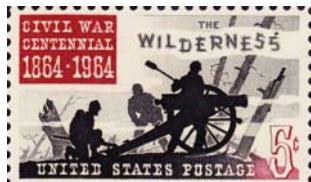


Figure 10.



Figure 11.

Figures 10 and 11 each show stamps released as part of the 1961-65 Civil War Centennial series, pressed into service to mark the 150th anniversary of events in 2014-15. Both stamps, showing the Wilderness Campaign (Figure 10) and Appomattox (Figure 11) essentially utilize the entire original stamp designs with only very slight alterations to include the new date and location. It is interesting to note that the Wilderness stamp design has had its denomination omitted, while the Appomattox stamp has not. Placing denominations of postage stamps within a postmark design can be a bit problematic and is technically against regulations, as there is no postage paid by a postmark. You'll note some of our other postmarks this month feature denominations as well. Figure 12 shows a cancellation used to mark the 2009 centennial of city mail delivery

150th Anniversary of the Appomattox Court House April 9, 1865. The stamp features a painting of General Lee shaking hands with General Grant. The postmark includes 'Appomattox Court House April 9, 1865' and '150th Anniversary'.

Figures 10 and 11 each show stamps released as part of the 1961-65 Civil War Centennial series, pressed into service to mark the 150th anniversary of events in 2014-15. Both stamps, showing the Wilderness Campaign (Figure 10) and Appomattox (Figure 11) essentially utilize the entire original stamp designs with only very slight alterations to include the new date and location. It is interesting to note that the Wilderness stamp design has had its denomination omitted, while the Appomattox stamp has not. Placing denominations of postage stamps within a postmark design can be a bit problematic and is technically against regulations, as there is no postage paid by a postmark. You'll note some of our other postmarks this month feature denominations as well. Figure 12 shows a cancellation used to mark the 2009 centennial of city mail delivery



Figure 12.

**Figure 13.**

in Lambertville, N.J. (Feb. 1). As part of that markings design, the City Mail Delivery stamp of 1963 was incorporated as

a small part of the device's design. Rather than reproducing the stamp as a line cut, it was done with a dot pattern, rendering the stamp nearly unrecognizable at that size, but it is very much there.

The 2005 Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition chose to use a circus theme for that year's show. The postmark fairly faithfully reproduces the 1966 American Circus stamp, substituting the date (Feb. 4, 2005) for the 5¢ denomination. That marking is shown in Figure 13.

Another stamp show to use a stamp design fully and cleverly is Chicagopex. In 1988, the show chose "transportation" as its theme and was playing host to the relatively new American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE, founded two years earlier, in 1986). The pictorial elements in the postmark include a King-Kong-like ape with banana (an early symbol utilized by AAPE), and an exact reproduction of the 16.7¢ Popcorn Wagon stamp of the Transportation coil series, which had just been released about four months before the show. Was the use of the Popcorn Wagon also a possible nod towards the natural kinship between popcorn and movies? The full cover is shown in Figure 14.

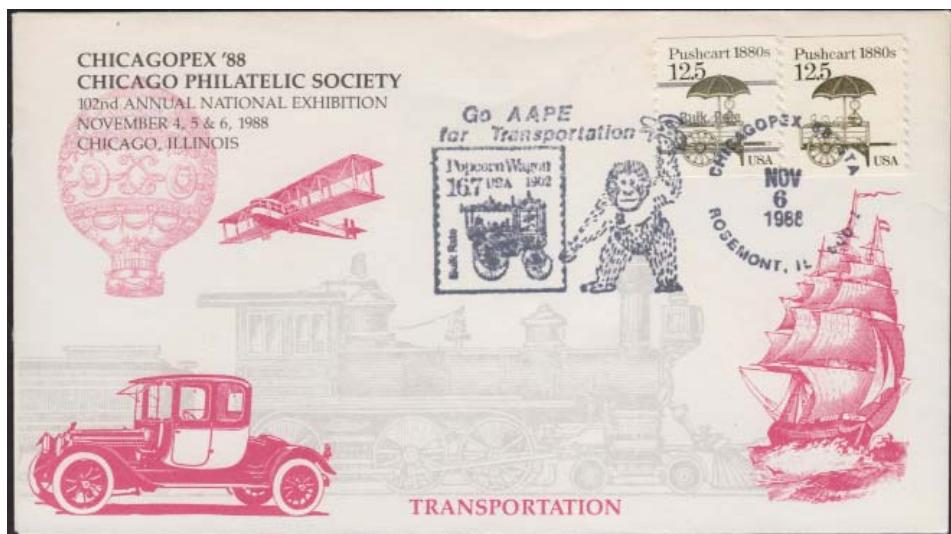
**Figure 14.**



Figure 15.

Figure 15, a 1989 commemorative cover produced by Washington Press to celebrate 50 years of its production of cacheted first-day covers, shows a great example of a stamp on a cover in a postmark on a cover ... or something like that. Both the cachet and cancellation depict a cacheted, canceled first-day cover. Although the stamp in the postmark is not specifically recognizable, it is the 1939 World's Fair stamp. It can be no other, since the first Art-Craft cachet was for that issue.

The Australian postmark shown in Figure 16 (from Sutherland, New South Wales) for the “Golden Jubilee” Oct. 28, 2006 (jubilee of what I’m not sure), pictures a stylized stamp showing Captain Cook. It would be easy to identify this as Australia Scott 376 or 414 (shilling or decimal issue), but the basic stamp design is based on a 1775 portrait of Cook created by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland. The portrait has been used for stamps of Canada, French Polynesia, Cook Islands and others, and cropped versions showing only

Cook on stamps from very many other countries, including the United States.



Figure 16.



Figure 17.

A very easily recognizable £1 British Machin stamp appears in the Japex '80 postmark shown in Figure 17 (along with a postmark and a couple of others). Arguably, Japan is responsible for more stamps appearing in post-



*Figure 18.*



**Figure 19.**

stamps as part of their designs are shown as a group in Figure 18.

Similarly, Korea has produced a number of pictorial postmarks with stylized stamps as part of their designs. Examples of these are shown in Figure 19.

For the 1986 Basking Ridge, N.J., Fungus Fest (Oct. 12, 1986), organizers chose to depict a half-dozen "stamps" with mushrooms on them. That postmark, shown in Figure 20, is highly attractive. I was not, however, able

marks than any other country. This includes both real and recognizable postage stamps, as well as stylized stamplike images. A few additional examples of Japanese postmarks with real and stylized postage



*Figure 20.*

to discern whether any are real postage stamps or not.

The remainder of our examples are all stylized stamps, but bear mention nonetheless, due to their topical appeal and resemblance to stamps.

Figure 21 depicts a pictorial postmark that was just used May 26 this year to mark a commemorative Pony Express ride between Yucca Valley and Pioneertown, Calif.



**Figure 21.**

(an approximately six-mile ride). The strange little Pioneertown (with a population of about 400) started out as a combination permanent movie set and live-in quarters for actors who were using it. Cisco Kid and many other shows and Western movies were filmed there.

Figure 22 is a very



**Figure 23.**

**Figure 22.**

attractive cancellation marking the Centennial Exhibition of the Philatelic Society of Western Australia, held that year in Claremont, Western Australia. The "stamp" features a stylized swan.

Although the Figure 23 item looks like a stamp, the postmark is much more appropriate for collectors of chess on stamps. It is a pictorial postmark for the 1995

Sanghi World Chess Championship Matches, held in Sanghi, Nagar, India. The postmark pictures a knight and a rook.



**Figure 24.**

Finally, we'll examine Figure 24, a Nov. 5, 2016, postmark featuring stamped images of 10 different New York postmarks as part of the image. The marking commemorated 200 years of mail delivery to each. But postmarks on postmarks is the topic of another column... ■

# My Topic

## Mike Vagnetti

Dawn Hamman

Mike Vagnetti came up with a creative way to remember his home state: he created a topical collection on Michigan.

Mike became a stamp collector about a year ago, and quickly gravitated to topicals. “*Collecting the stamps of Michigan was a natural choice for me. I was eager to share what I know about Michigan through the stamps related to it,*” he said. “*Even though I have relocated to Southwest Florida, my roots will always be in the Great Lakes state.*”

Without the benefit of a checklist for Michigan, Mike had to do his own research to find stamps that fit into his topic. He used the Scott Catalog, several stamp companies and the National Postal



Museum’s resources to build his list.

In explaining how he defined what should be included, Mike responded, “*Now that was the fun part! I so far have 134 stamps on my list. Some are obvious; others need explanation.*” For example, U.S. Scott 1765, White Pine, is Michigan’s state tree; and U.S. Scott 1888, Whitetail Deer, is the state mammal.

Important people with Michigan ties



were also an opportunity: Thomas Edison was raised in Port Huron, Ralph Bunche was born in Detroit and Edgar Bergen grew up in Decatur. The origin of the Peace Corps dates to a speech by Senator John F. Kennedy given at the University of Michigan. He's come up with some surprises. *"The voice of Darth Vader was that of Michigander James Earl Jones!"*

This enthusiastic ATA member is committed to sending additions and corrections to the ATA dATABse. He hopes his collection will inspire others to collect their own states. As a retired elementary school teacher and coach, helping others with their collecting comes naturally.

Like most of us, Mike doesn't limit his collecting to one topic. He is collecting – and developing a checklist for – cigars on stamps. He is on the hunt and has found stamps featuring Winston Churchill, Groucho Marx and a racehorse named Cigar. He also collects Sherlock Holmes, U.S. baseball and stamps with their first day on his birthday.

Mike works on his hobby nearly every day, and is enjoying adding to his philatelic knowledge. His assessment is, *"In this hobby one is the eternal student!"*

*[Editor's Note: Mike's contributions to ATA's checklist service have already resulted in a new Cigars checklist of 111 items.]* ☎

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# Award Winners

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibition. A list of available awards and their criteria are available on the ATA webpage. The awards can be obtained by contacting 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

**Correction:** Springpex presented the ATA first award and the ATA one-frame award to Ms. **Jeffery E Hume-Pratuch** for her exhibit, *The Atlantic Puffin*.

**Nancy L. Swan\*** received the ATA first award for her exhibit, *The Heraldng Lion*, at Sopex 2017.

The ATA first award at the Nashville Philatelic Show was given to **Janice Erbach\*** for *The European Robin, Erithacus rebeccula, a Bird to Love. Nuclear Ambassador: The Voyages of the N.S. Savannah*, by Arthur C. Cole, was awarded the ATA third medal.

The judges of the Garfield-Perry Show awarded **Janet Klug** the ATA first award for her exhibit, *The Miami & Erie Canal - Ohio's Western Waterway 1825-1913*.

*Campione D'Italia – a Geographic Anomaly*, by **Bruce Marsden**, received the ATA first award at the St. Louis Stamp Expo.

Edmonton Spring Stamp Show awarded **James R. Taylor\*** the ATA first medal for *Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics*, while the ATA youth award was presented to **Alex Liusz Moser** for *Time of Dinosaurs*.

Philatelic Show 2017 presented **Larry Fillion\*** the ATA first award for *The W.H.O.'s "The World Against Malaria" A Stamp Program*. The ATA second award was given to **Frank Slack** for *Bluebirds in America: The Campbells and Their World*

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**Speed.** **Albert Valete** was awarded the ATA third award for *America's Greatest Age of Papermaking*. The ATA novice award was given to **Erika Epstein** for *Refugees and the Humanitarian Crisis They Invoke*.

**Jack Congrove\*** was awarded the ATA first medal at Pipex for *Alexander Hamilton: Soldier, Financier, Statesman, Founder*, while the ATA second was given to **Anne Harris\*** for *Horace and Betty Get Married*. The ATA third award was given to **Cathie Stumpenhaus\*** for *Lovely as a Tree*.

Westpex presented **Graeme Russell** the ATA first award for *Chemistry Servant of Man. Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics*, exhibited by **James R. Taylor\***, received the ATA second medal. **George Pogosov** and **Boris Shaykhetov** were given the ATA third award for *Fragments of the Fencing History*.

**Stephen Sufet** was awarded the ATA first award for his exhibit, *Woody Guthrie*, at Ropex 2017.

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show presented the ATA first award to **Phil Stager\*** for *The Coconut Palm: Palm or Life & Palm of Commerce*. **Katie Nieulandt** was awarded the ATA second for *Woof Around the World*, and **Cody Cormark** received the ATA third for, *Marvel, DC Super Hero Stamp Collections*. **Phil Stager\*** was awarded the ATA One Frame award for *The Royal Palm*. The ATA Youth award went to **Seth** and **Tristan Martin** for their exhibit, *What's in the Water?* ☐

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.

## ATA Mission Statement

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

- ☒ Encouraging the collection, research, and study of topical stamps and their subjects.
- ☒ Providing for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.
- ☒ Developing and publishing books, checklists, and audio-visual programs.
- ☒ Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.
- ☒ Assisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.



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# Roosters in Europe

Michael Burzan

[Editor's Note: A version of this article first appeared in the February 2017 Philatelic Exporter, a magazine distributed internationally to the philatelic trade.]

The current Chinese "Year of the Rooster" runs from Jan. 28, 2017, until Feb. 15, 2018. The

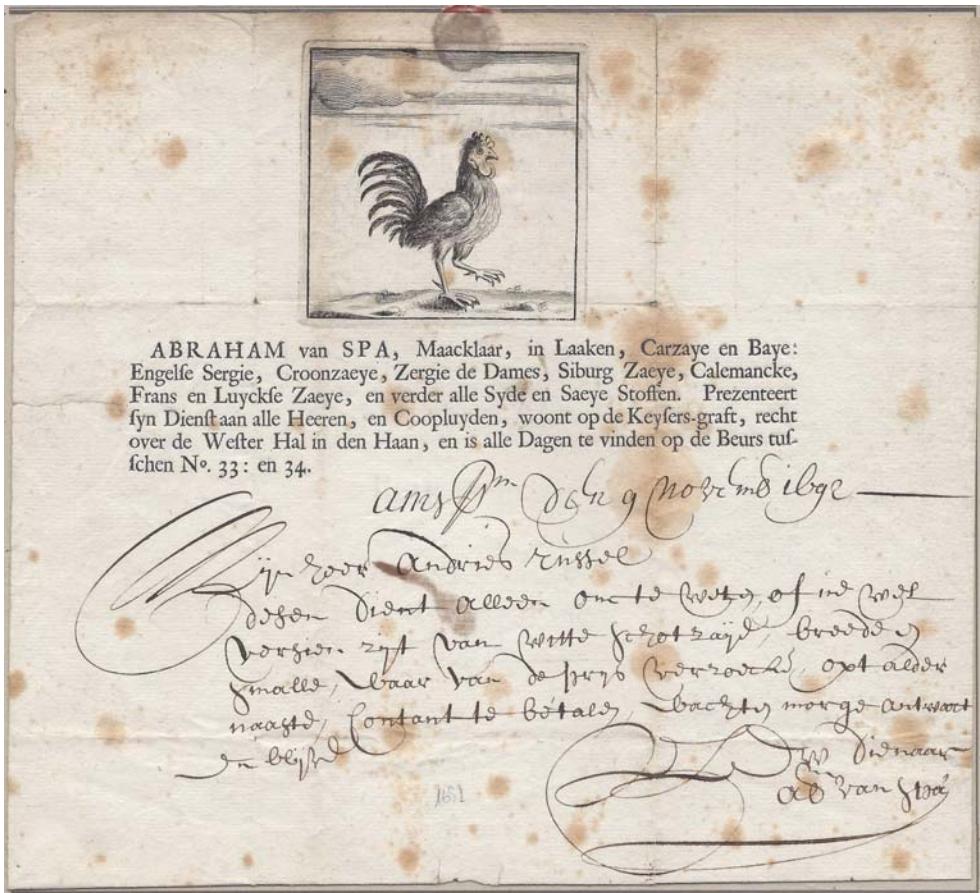
Chinese horoscope, with an animal for every year in a cycle of 12 years, has become a major and popular subject for collectors and in the annual stamp programs of postal administrations worldwide. Several European countries are now regularly celebrating these festivities on stamps and sheetlets, booklets, souvenir sheets, maximum cards and with first-day covers.

There is an active market for these products which, hopefully, retain a certain value beyond the year of their issue. People born in the years of a certain animal may make a lifelong collection, while others may be content with a birthday present containing a starter collection. Why not begin a collection yourself, or suggest this theme to other collectors who may be looking for a new collecting area with international appeal?

Preparing an article about the current "Year of the Rooster," I contacted a female



A 1933 philatelic exhibition poster featuring a rooster.



This Amsterdam letter, from 1692, features a rooster prominently.

collector from Switzerland who successfully displayed extracts of her album pages at the Essen Stamp Fair in 2015 and revamped it for a May 2017 exhibition. I was impressed to find a Dutch merchant's letter from Amsterdam, dated Nov. 9, 1692, bearing a small print of a rooster. The sender, Abraham van Spa, lived in a house



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decorated with a rooster and used this sign also as letterhead (Sylvia Kälin collection, Turbenmoos, Switzerland).

An Italian official letter, dated Nov. 25, 1811, showed a rooster in a nice cancellation from the small village of Gualdo, where the animal is used in the coat of arms.



An 1811 Italian letter, with a pictorial rooster postmark.



A proof of the 1906 Greek Olympics stamp.

have with all these items and remembering all the nice encounters with various dealers. Such moments in life do remain in memory. All this collecting and assembling is a real enrichment for me." ([sylvia.kaelin@bluewin.ch](mailto:sylvia.kaelin@bluewin.ch))

The first rooster on an official European postage stamp – maybe even worldwide – was pictured on the Greek 40L value in the series commemorating the 1906 Olympic Games. It is depicted as a trophy to the winner by Nike, the goddess of victory. Scott 192 (Michel 152) was printed by line-engraved intaglio, like the

I asked Ms. Kälin if she was willing to disclose where and at what prices she bought the aforementioned letters. She told me that both letters were bought from dealers at the stamp fair in Sindelfingen; the 1692 Dutch one was purchased in 2005 for €1,100, and the 1811 Italian one was obtained in 2010 for €600. She is also proud of a Mulready envelope with a price list of poultry (soup, ragout, etc.), and a nice cover by the Cramer family from St. Louis who made their fortune in the poultry industry.

She further commented: "*Thematic Philately is not cheap! If I think of all those feather letters and original essays ... but you would not believe how much pleasure I*



a rooster in its design, as shown by the rare essay pictured above left. The rooster sits atop the left value tablet.

rest of the series, by Perkins, Bacon & Co. Essays and proofs also exist in different colors. These are avidly sought after by specialized collectors for various thematic collections.

### Le Coq Gaulois

During World War I a printed rooster was used by French military as a national symbol of strength and as a propaganda illustration on covers and cards from soldiers.

A rooster almost appeared on the first French semipostal commemorative series, issued 100 years ago as a charity set for the benefit of war orphans. The design, *La Marseillaise*, by Louis Dumoulin from a detail of Arc de Triomphe in Paris, was the basis for the large-format top values of 1+1- and 5+5-franc semipostals (Scott B9-B10, Michel 134-135). Some rare essays by engraver Léon Ruffé show that a crowing Gallic rooster was originally

positioned over the left value shield, but was removed from the issued design.

An essay of this type was recently sold for €1,300 by David Feldman.

However, it took several more decades until rooster stamps were used for postage in France. In 1944-45, the liberated parts of the country received values with a Gallic rooster, prepared by the National Libération Comité Algier, with the inscription "POSTES." designed by Henry Razous and Charles Hervé.



The 1962 French "Coc d'Or" design, issued in both 25c and 30c denominations.



A 1944 French Algerian postage stamp.

A Gallic rooster by Pierre Poulain and André Frères adorned the first series with imprinted prepaid

cancellations (precancels) from February 1954, at 12 and 24 francs (Michel 993-994), followed by more values in 1957 and 1959 in the old currency and in 1960 (in new francs). Some of the better issues from those times are also sought after as imperforate versions.

### **Rooster returns**

In 1962, La Poste sought a new Gallic rooster stamp design. Several proposals are shown in the Postal Museum of Paris, including various versions by the winner, Albert Decaris. The three-colored printed versions started with values of 25c and 30c from 1962-65 (Scott 1024-1024B, Michel 1384, 1496). In recent years, three reissues of this design recalled its predecessors.

The most famous (and rarest) of these Roosters is the 0.25fr "Coq d'Or," originating from a print on fluorescent paper that glows a yellowish shade under UV light. The majority of the three million printed in 1962 were used on ordinary mail (in the Paris area, specifically), before the trade noticed the variety. The stamp was subsequently allocated a separate number in many catalogs (Michel 1384y), but footnoted only in Scott. Market values – especially in mint condition – jumped high, up to €800 mint and fine used is €50. Michel warns that white or bluish-white examples under UV light results from optical brighteners in the paper and are variants of the normal Michel 1384x.

Another definitive issue variety with a Rooster, which also soared in value, was the Switzerland 2.50fr showing the weathercock on the tower of St. Ursen cathedral in Solothurn. The cheaper version was printed in 1975 on phosphorescent paper (Scott 577, Michel 1057y) in an edition of 47,823 million, while a printing of five million on July 13, 1984, appeared on normal paper. Again, most were used before collectors and dealers took note. This stamp, Michel 1057x (footnoted in Scott) now

lists at €55  
mint, €36  
used. On  
first-day cover,  
however, this  
stamp is a  
modern rarity  
with a Michel  
value of  
€4,000!



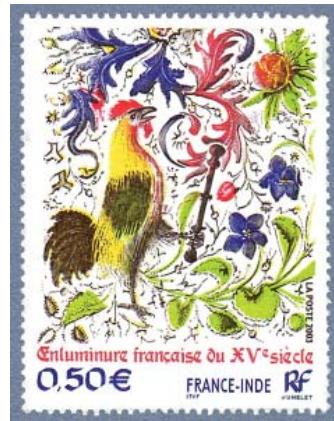
*An example of the scarce "glowing rooster," photographed here under ultraviolet light.*



*Scarce 1984 Swiss FDC for a version of this stamp printed on normal paper. These sell for thousands of dollars.*



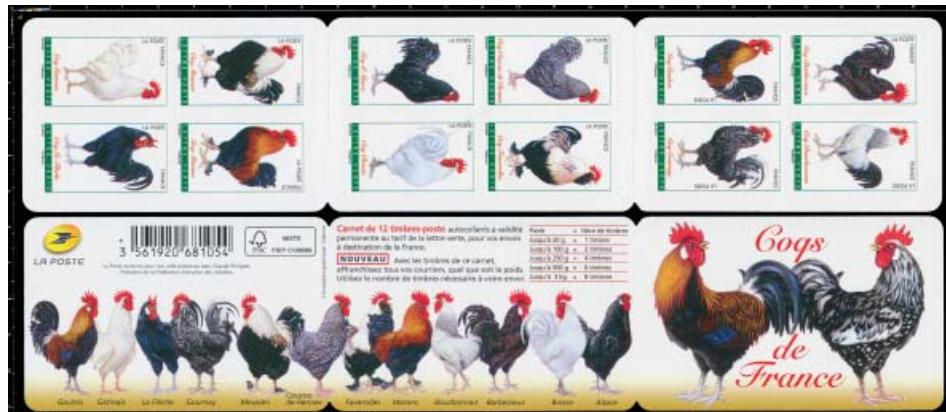
**Recent French rooster stamps from 2013 (above, carved), 2013 (above right, "jumping from one thing to another") and 2003 (right) part of a joint issue with India. Image reproduces a 15th-century painting.**



## Recent roosters

France has produced many nice rooster stamps so far this century, including a joint issue with India on Nov. 29, 2003, reproducing a 15th-century rooster painting. A painting of a cock-fight by Jean-Léon Gérôme decorated a €1.11 value in April 2004.

Several additional rooster stamps were included in stamp booklets, such as the "Holiday Greetings" issue of May 2009; a brass rooster



**The European Poultry Exposition was celebrated by this booklet in 2016.**

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**THANK YOU, PETER MORVILLE**



*At right is the first French “Année du Coq” (Year of the Rooster) Chinese New Year issue of 2005. Shown above is this year’s stamp.*

from January 2013; one with a donkey symbolizing a French proverb from February 2013 (“Sauter du coq à l’âne” – jumping from one thing to another); and a Gothic carved wooden rooster from the Cathédrale St. Pierre, Poitiers, September 2013.

Two very attractive issues showed different breeds in sets, souvenir sheets and booklets commemorating the European Poultry Exhibition in Metz of November 2015 and Feb. 27, 2016.

La Poste started to celebrate the Chinese New Year with the “Année du Coq” in 2005, with a sheetlet issued on Jan. 29 of that year. The Chinese design was repeated in a miniature sheet with a small print run of 42,000, sold only by the Philatelic Service.

The latest (self-adhesive) stamp of Jan. 28, 2017, shows a painting by Li Zhongyao, who was present at the day of issue for a signing session.



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

## British roosters rare

Looking for British stamps with rooster designs in the Michel online catalog, I came across the joint issue with France of May 3, 1994, celebrating the opening of the Channel Tunnel, which shows a hand-shake between the English Lion and the Gallic Rooster (Scott 1558-1561, France 2421-2424).

Not immediately obvious are the roosters on the decorative tiles of the 27p value in the Food and Farming Year issue from March 1989 (Scott 1249) and the Pathé News 35p stamp (Scott 1661) in the Centenary of British Cinema set of April 1996. Maybe more are lurking in the designs of Britain's stamps?

Jersey included a colorful rooster on its £1 stamp in the annual miniature sheet of its Chinese New Year series on Feb. 9, 2005 (Scott 1151), and the Isle of Man showed a cockerel

painted by Jeremy Paul on the 92p of the Farm Animals set and sheetlets of September 2009 (Scott 1332, Stanley Gibbons 1539).



*Above: Surreptitious roosters! The roosters are only part of the designs of these stamps, each with a different subject than "roosters."*

*Left: A colorful souvenir sheet from Jersey, celebrating the Chinese New Year.*

## An energetic year for roosters!

People born in a Year of the Rooster are regarded as straight and strong characters, self-confident and uncomplicated, multi-talented, loyal and successful. Astrological forecasts are a burst of energy for the Year of the Rooster 2017-18, which may help to achieve projects and solve problems. I wish this forecast upon all our rooster readers in the months to come! ☺



One of the stamps from the 2009 Isle of Man Farm Animals issue.

*Michael Burzan is a journalist who specialized in collectibles and art for several decades, with articles and regular columns appearing in various stamp magazines. He lives in Germany and France and is a member of numerous organizations. His philatelic interests are generally focused on whatever subject he is currently writing about, from pre-philatelic letters to modern errors from around the world. Burzan's preferred topical stamps include the arts and stained glass windows. Recent articles of his include "Bells on Stamps," "Volcanoes of El Salvador," "American Presidents," Sperati Forgeries, Italian Old States, 1st Issue of Austria, Espionage Forgeries of WWII and more. He may be reached at philamir@aol.com.*

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# Encouraging Exhibiting (but not for exhibitors only!)

*Robert R. Henak*

*Rob Henak, ATA Exhibits and Judges Chair, has graciously given permission for a series of articles he wrote to be reprinted here. The first column appears in this issue. We thank Rob for sharing this with us.*

## **Introduction to Exhibiting 101**

This is the first of a series of articles on the basics of philatelic exhibiting originally published in 2009-11 in *Across the Fence Post*, the monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. I plan to cover the what, why, where and, perhaps most importantly, the how of transforming your collection or accumulation of stamps, postal history, postcards and other philatelic material into a display that will not only share your love and knowledge of these particular bits of paper, but perhaps win you some awards as well.

Over the past number of years, several of us involved in organized philately have noted with dismay the decrease in both the number of local stamp shows featuring exhibits and the number of exhibitors and exhibits displayed at these shows.

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This series of articles, and other efforts by the ATA, Milcoplex (Milwaukee Philatelic Exhibition) and others, represent an attempt to change this. Milcoplex, for instance, has initiated a program allowing non-competitive four-page exhibits, along with mentoring and support from experienced exhibitors, to help novice exhibitors learn the ropes. ATA's National Topical Stamp Show similarly has its non-competitive Freestyle exhibits.

You may wonder what credentials I have to write on this topic. While I still have a lot to learn myself, I have exhibited at the local and national level for about 20 years. I have been an APS accredited judge for five years and I have been an accredited Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs philatelic judge for 16 years or so. I have been the Milcoplex Exhibits Chair since

2001. I have shown 10 or more different exhibits competitively over the years, with four of them currently active and one new exhibit under development. Among those exhibits, I have earned or have been awarded (not always the same thing), every award from a certificate to best in show at the local level, and every medal from bronze to gold at the national level.

## What is a Philatelic Exhibit?

A philatelic or stamp exhibit is more than just an assortment of favorite pages pulled from an album or stock book. Rather, an exhibit should be a coherent showing of stamps, covers and other philatelic materials organized with some writeup and, for most categories of exhibits, telling a story. The story may cover the development and usages of a particular stamp, the postal history of a town, county, or stamp, or the life of some person or animal.

The possible subjects for a philatelic exhibit are virtually endless. Like any good story, however, it should have a logical flow, with a beginning, a middle that develops the story and an ending that ties the story together.

In future articles, I will discuss why a collector may want to become an exhibitor, the various types of exhibits and exhibitions and the nitty-gritty of putting together an exhibit. ■



*What's your passion?*

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

## Survey Says ... *Topical Time*

*Wayne L. Youngblood*

This is the sixth installment of this series, based on responses to our recent membership survey. Our ATA board will consider all ideas submitted regarding each area of the ATA covered by the surveys. In this installment, we'll look at your feedback regarding *Topical Time*.

As a bit of background, *Topical Time* is the one benefit of membership that virtually all ATA members interact with. By far the majority of members don't exhibit or attend shows, so their subscription to *Topical Time* is their primary attachment to ATA. This is backed up by a whopping 71% of all who responded, stating the magazine is the thing they value most about their membership (only 2% ranked the magazine as not particularly important). Therefore, it is our desire (and mandate) to provide you with as useful, readable and relevant a journal as possible. This is your magazine, and it needs to be useful and interesting to you.

Feedback is important, necessary and is a desirable part of any product or organization. It serves to help us determine what best fills the needs of those we serve.



Still, surveys in particular – and their interpretation – can be very tricky indeed. This statement is based on my professional background, first with administering surveys, then as a former board member with the American Philatelic Society (interpreting two membership surveys) and as a longtime publisher of multiple magazines for collectors of stamps, records, comics, toys and other collectibles that administered reader surveys on an average of every two years.

In 2016, the ATA administered a member survey, covering numerous areas of the society's functions. Approximately 20% of our members responded to the survey (514), meaning the vast majority did not register opinions. To keep responses in perspective, it's important to remember that typically, only those with strong opinions respond to a survey. This means that calls for specific measures or changes usually need to be tempered against what is assumed to be general satisfaction (those who choose not to respond). Thus, the arguable assumption is that 80% of our membership are pleased with the organization, its direction and *Topical Time*. With that in mind, the following are comments based on some specific survey results and comments left by *Topical Time* readers:

It is extremely gratifying to see that of those who responded, 90% consider *Topical Time* to be extremely important or the most important part of their ATA membership (434).

However, the most puzzling result (in terms of potential action to take) is the near equal split (49.44% for and 50.33% against) of those who responded to the idea of a larger-format magazine. In proposing the idea, it was my thought that we could have more freedom with layout and design and a more attractive magazine (assuming that content quantity would stay about the same). In verbal conversations, those members who want to retain the current size feel very strongly about it. We will continue to explore this option, as well as your wishes.

Existing columns provided some expected and puzzling results. For example, almost everyone agrees that a youth column is very important. However, of those who responded, 27% say they read it usually, but almost as many (24%) say they never read it at all! About half of the responding membership say they read it sometimes.

Other results regarding current content include the most-read columns (not all were included in the survey): About ATA (77% always read it), feature articles (71%) and My Topic (61%).

A significant percentage of those who responded felt other information that could migrate to the web would be the prospectus and entry form for NTSS (53%), list of NTSS judges and awards (48%) and the list of donors in the recognition issue (43%). It would appear that – for NTSS – we should continue to publish the dealer listing, exhibits list and schedule, as they are read by a significant percentage in both hard copy and electronic formats, but the prospectus/entry form and judges/awards should probably appear only on the web version. This may well be something we look at doing in the future. But how about suggestions for things we could do better?

Based on specifics, we have already: Begun a beginners-intermediate column, increased coverage is being given to developing and forming an exhibit and we have already begun migrating some society “business” to the website to provide more reading for you.

### **Other suggestions (not comprehensive):**

**Add more content.** Adding more content would involve increasing the physical size of the magazine, either by page count or physical dimensions. This, of course, would add more cost, both printing and mailing and would involve a board decision and, likely, a dues increase. Another alternative is to migrate even more society business to the website to open a larger editorial hole in our existing format. Feedback would be welcome on this.

**Be on Twitter.** We are on Twitter. Social media is beyond the scope of *Topical Time*, but ATA Board member Jeff Hayward regularly posts on our Twitter account.

**Layout and design.** We received a number of comments, both satisfied and those asking for change of one sort or another. To that end, respondents were very vocal (without being specific), ranging from “continue as EXCELLENT!!!” to “clean up pages – very messy” (although those who are very happy with design and layout outnumber those who aren’t by about a 12-1 ratio). Since completely redesigning the publication and going to full color in 2010, we have continued to tweak the magazine for design and appearance, but feel it is time to begin another redesign. Watch for changes in coming issues. You may already have noticed differences in the cover and some interior changes as well. The biggest limiting factor for page design and layout is the relatively small page size, which hampers many types of options.

**Selling area.** Several respondents felt we should have something more than our classifieds section to connect buyers and sellers, including the possible option of circuit sales and auctions. Again, positive suggestions, but beyond the scope of *Topical Time* (except for the possibility of an auction).

**Specific topics.** There were a number of suggestions/requests for articles on specific topics ranging from lighthouses to mummies (and many others). We’ll do our best to track down features on those areas you’ve requested, but we are entirely dependent upon material that is submitted to us. So, if you have an interest, a topic and a collection, we’d like to hear from you regarding a potential future feature!

**Display advertisers.** One area I’d like to address specifically is that of advertising. Those dealers who advertise in *Topical Time* not only specialize in the type of material we collect, but they believe enough in our organization to support it financially with their advertisements, which, in turn, help to offset production costs of the magazine. Very few of our advertisers expect a specific return on their investment in ATA, but all deserve our full support. Please make an effort to do business with those who choose to advertise in our journal.

Thank you very much for your feedback. It is sincerely appreciated! ☺



# CINDERELLA CORNER

## *Arthur H. Grot*

### Stamps in Nonphilatelic Settings

We have all seen stamps used outside their context, both promotionally and artistically. The philosophical question to be asked is whether an image of a real stamp or a similitude with a topical or thematic element can properly be added to

one's collection. I personally see no reason why not. I'll show a few of my favorites.

The first time I noticed this external use was in



Figure 2.

1978 on a box of Kleenex tissues (Figure 1). To my wife's dismay, I still have that box.

The Chocolove Co. of Boulder, Colo., has, for at least 15 years, been enclosing its various chocolate bars in wrappers bearing topically related similitudes. I show one in Figure 2; there are at least a dozen different. I think I have them all.

I found the 1999 Frameable Art Card by Carolyn Whitaker with a reproduction of a 1931 French postcard and a real Monet



Figure 2.

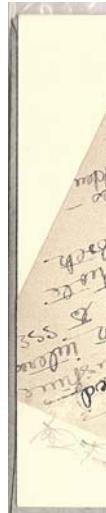


Figure 3.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

this in a local card/craft shop a few years ago.

I've written about my passion for airmail etiquettes. Imagine my pleasure in finding a box of postcards using them for their design motif (Figure 5). Of course, I'll never use them; they're still in their original cellophane-wrapped box!

It might be pushing the envelope too much to include such items in an exhibit, but no one can tell you what to collect! What do you think? ☐

poster stamp at a museum shop. She calls it *Two Women* (Figure 3).

Even pencil cases for school children have used stamp images. On the example in Figure 4, there are real and similitude stamps. Note the typical "Open here" directional marking at the top near the zipper and the addressee "my dearest friend." I found

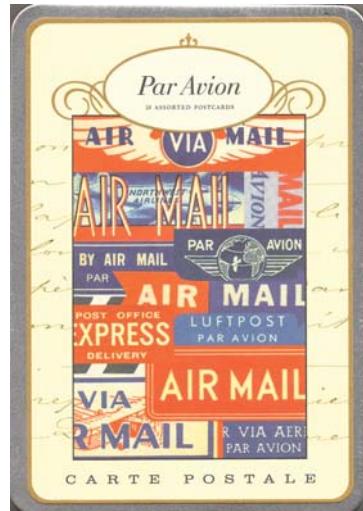


Figure 5.

*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).*

# Rural Landscapes in Britain

*Barry Floyd*



**Figure 1.** A first-day cover for the recent Rural Landscapes issue of Britain.

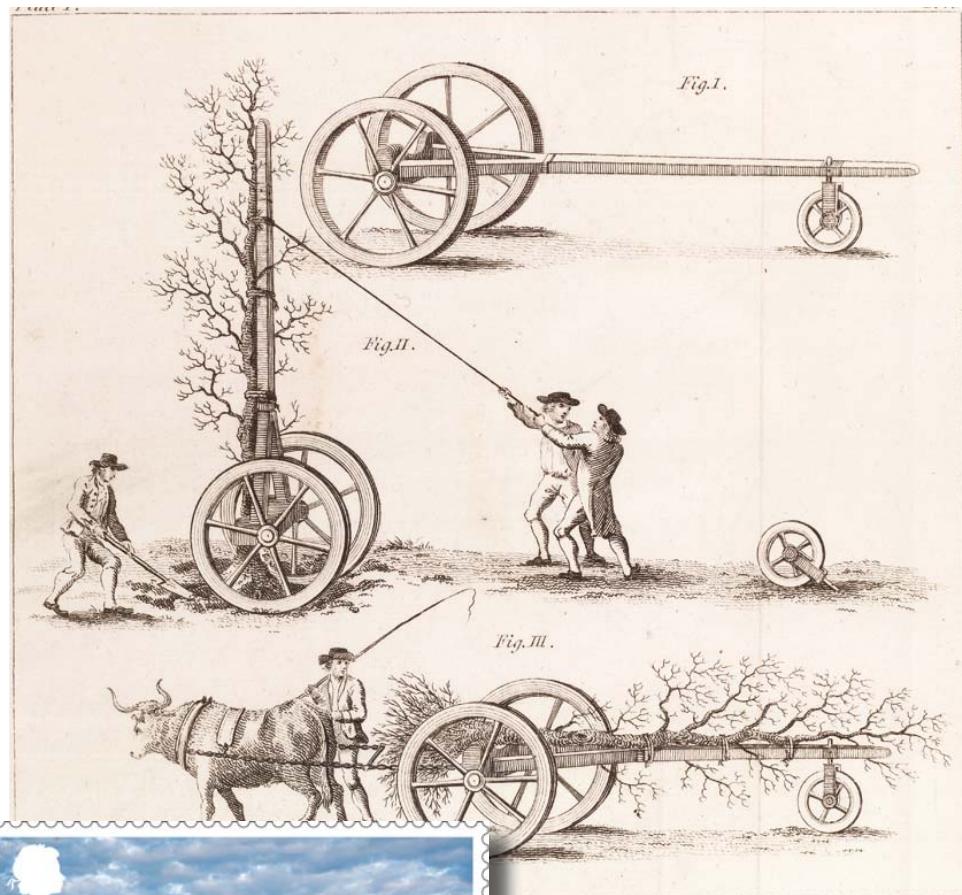
Many visitors venture to the British Isles to appreciate – quite rightly – historic urban sights such as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, York Minister or Edinburgh Castle. However, equally appealing, are scenes to be viewed in the countryside with their patchwork quilt of small, irregularly-shaped fields, so different from the geometric blocks of North American agriculture, and the carefully

planned large gardens of rural Britain, giving the impression of a “nicely combed and powdered” countryside.

Honoring the memory of a distinguished landscape gardener, a man who quite literally changed the face of the British countryside in the 18th century, the Royal Mail recently issued a set of eight stamps featuring landscape gardens in the British Isles (Figure 1). The gardener’s name was Lancelot Brown (1716-83), but he became better known in life as Lancelot “Capability” Brown, due to his habit of telling clients that their lands showed a real capability for improvement according to his scheme of things (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Lancelot “Capability” Brown.



*Figure 3 (above) Transporting live, mature trees.*

*Figure 4 (below). Blenheim Palace.*





**Figure 5. Longleat.**

Prior to Brown's ascendancy as a landscape architect, many estates in Britain sported formally-patterned gardens in the continental style, with neatly regimented rows of flowering plants and hedges, access paths and small water bodies with fountains.

In their place Brown promoted a "gardenless" form of landscape design that swept away almost all remnants of previous formal styles. Estates were stripped back to their basic forms. The mansion would now be surrounded by smooth undulating grass turf, often extending as far as the residential structure, and containing a scattering of trees in clumps or forest belts, together with a series of serpentine lakes formed by the invisible damming of small rivers. While the preference was for indigenous trees – oak, elm and beech – exotics were also introduced: cedars of Lebanon, conifers and American plane (sycamore).

An ingenious method of transplanting trees was devised by Lancelot, as shown in Figure 3. Dug out from their original sites then hauled on a long cart, they were pulled via oxen and transplanted in new and more desirable locations.

While Brownian parks were carefully crafted to appear natural – "Artful but Artless Landscapes" – landscapers catered at the same time to the desires of their aristocratic landowners to run viable and economically efficient estates. Cattle and sheep were grazed across the acres of pasture, kept away from the residence by a sunken wall. The serpentine lakes were stocked with fish, and trees provided wood and timber, while the copses offered ideal nesting places for pheasants.

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**Figure 6. Compton Verney Lake, with its attractive bridge.**



Examples of the “new look” in rural scenes are provided by the stamps offered in the series under review. In the first of the two second-class stamps (Figure 4) the grounds around Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire were landscaped by Capability Brown on behalf of the Duke of Marlborough. A World Heritage site, supported by a charitable trust, the Palace is open to the public and, among other activities, features special events including marriages.

At Blenheim, Brown dammed a small stream which flowed under the pre-existing Vanbrugh Grand Bridge. This drowned half of the structure but served to enhance the overall visual impression of the area.

The second, second-class stamp (Figure 5) features Longleat in Wiltshire, long the home of the Marquees of Bath. The house itself is widely regarded as the best example of Elizabethan architecture in Britain and is open for public viewing. Brown’s landscaped garden is now known as the Longleat Safari Park where, in a drive-in experience, visitors may view more than 500 wild animals at close range.

The first of the two first-class stamps (Figure 6) offers an appealing view of Compton Verney Lake in the foreground and the fine old mansion just visible in the background. The site is located nine miles from Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire. There are some 120

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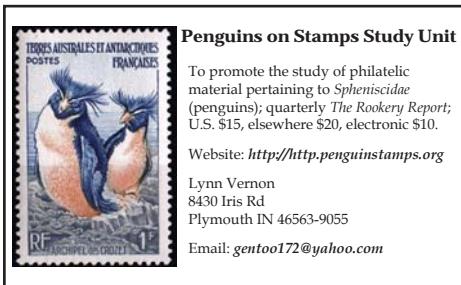


**Figure 7. Highclere Castle, also used as the setting for the popular Downton Abbey television show.**

acres of splendid Brown-inherited parklands surrounding the property, carefully maintained for paying visitors to view, while the house offers an art gallery – supported by the Arts Council, England – and a museum.

The second first-class stamp (Figure 7) depicts the lands surrounding Highclere Castle, located on the Hampshire-Berkshire border and the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. The building is in Jacobean style and is open to visitors. It is widely familiar as the setting for the popular British television program, *Downton Abbey*. The grounds extend over a vast 5,000 acres, capably crafted by Lancelot.

The first of the two higher value £1.05 stamps (Figure 8) shows Alnwick Castle and the surrounding woodlands in the County of Northumberland, northeast England. The castle – seat of the Duke of Northumberland – dates back to the Norman occupation of Britain in the 11th Century, although over successive centuries it has been remodeled many times over. Today, after Windsor Castle near London, it is the second largest inhabited castle in England.



The current Duke lives in part of his extensive castle while visitors can explore other areas within its imposing structure. In recent years parts of the castle have been used by various educational establishments, such as St. Cloud State University of Minnesota, as a branch campus forming part of its International Study Program.



Figure 8 (above). Alnwick Castle.



Figure 9 (below) Berrington Hall.



Two parks occur in the castle grounds that straddle the River Aln. The smaller one, known locally as The Pastures, was landscaped by Lancelot Capability Brown. Nearby is a larger park that contains the remains of a priory, while, close to the castle, is a recent formal garden

set around a cascading fountain that allows interested visitors to draw comparisons between the Brown landscape and that of a revived formal garden plan.

The second £1.05 stamp (Figure 9) features Berrington Hall, a Neo-Classical mansion located in Herefordshire and now owned by the National Trust. From the site there are spectacular views of Wales and the Black Mountains. Brown planned the park in 1778, while his son-in-law Henry Holland, designed the residence for a wealthy banker and government contractor.

Under the National Gardens Scheme, keen to provide those who may not usually visit parklands the opportunity to visit some of the most beautiful greenspace in the country, Berrington took part in the tercentenary celebrations of Brown's 1716 birth. The park was the final creation of his natural rural landscapes prior to his death in 1783. In 2016, a series of outdoor installations was created, dotted around the parkland, using timber from the original plantings of trees. Figure 10 shows *Genius Loci*, a structure created by one of the artists.

Turning to the final pair of stamps the high value £1.33



**Figure 10. A structure known as Genius Loci, on the grounds of Berrington Hall.**



**Figure 11. Stowe.**

**Figure 12. Croome Park, which was taken over for a time in World War II by the RAF as a temporary landing field.**



(Figure 11), the first features the 250-acre park at Stowe in Buckinghamshire. At the age of 25, Capability Brown joined the gardening staff as an under-gardener. Here he worked under the direction of William Kent, one of the founders of the new English style of landscape gardening. He swiftly acquired its essential attributes: rolling expanses of grass framed by artfully placed belts of trees and shrubs, all reflected in tranquil stretches of water.

Within two years Capability had worked his way up to become head gardener at Stowe and he remained there from 1742-50, designing many of the special features to be seen there today. It was while he was at Stowe that Brown married Bridget Wayet – affectionately called Biddy – and they had seven children; the second, a boy, was known as Lance.

Never just a garden, Stowe was intended to reflect its original owner Lord Cobham's beliefs about the politics and morality of the day. Thus, following Greek mythology, paths were laid out directing visitors to view several temples: those of Vice, Virtue and Liberty. The Path of Liberty represented the political aspirations of Lord Cobham. The longest and hardest of the three walks served as a simple metaphor, suggesting that politics is never easy. The temples along the way show Britain's dominance in the 18th century. Hence the Temple of Concord and Victory celebrated the country's success in the Seven Years' War, while Lord Cobham's Pillar shows him as a mighty Roman warrior.





**Figure 13. A later portrait of Brown.**

The second £1.33 stamp (Figure12) shows Croombe Park, planned by Capability Brown to enhance the surrounds of Coombe Court – a Neo-Palladium mansion located in Worcestershire and the original home of the Earls of Coventry. Keen to undertake improvements to his property, the 6th Earl declared “when a man has task to make a proper choice and money enough to answer demand that design may soon be put into execution.” While Brown worked on the extensive parkland he also, having become a close friend of the Earl, undertook small changes to the mansion itself and even relocated a village church to the top of a hill so that its bells would be heard by visitors to the park. During WWII, part of the park was taken over for a new RAF airfield

but the essential Brownian features are still to be viewed at Croome Park today. Owned by a Heritage Trust, it is loaned to the National Trust and welcomes visitors.

## Summary

It is estimated that Lancelot “Capability” Brown ( Figures 2 and 13) was responsible for shaping more than 150 gardens surrounding the finest country houses and estates within Britain. Regrettably, “Success breeds enmity” and – over the years – criticism of his work was to arise from some more traditional gardeners.

A claim emerged that Brown was “encouraging his wealthy clients to tear out their splendid formal gardens and replace them with his facile compositions of grass, tree clumps and rather shapeless pools and lakes.”

Fortunately, these criticisms were not widely accepted and, while his methods of redesigning gardens are continually reassessed, “every landscape gardener and landscape architect had been influenced in one way or another by Brown.” Such are the enduring qualities of his work that, following his death more than 200 hundred years ago, the landscapes with which he is associated remain well worth viewing. ☐

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

# My First Family Venture into the Fascinating World of Philately

*Mike Vagnetti*

In 1986, in an effort to expose my two young sons to the stamp hobby, I decided that our family would design and produce our very own first-day cover. Being a lifelong Michigander, the Michigan Sesquicentennial stamp (Scott 2246) issued in January of 1987 was the natural choice for the FDC we chose to do together.

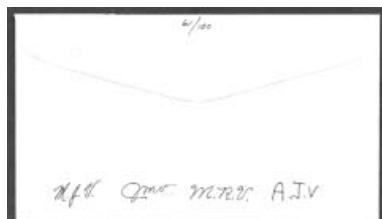
Our cover has the Michigan Sesquicentennial stamp, first-day canceled in Lansing, Mich., on Jan. 26, 1987, and is combined with the Michigan Centenary stamp (Scott 775), issued Nov. 1, 1935. The Pleasant Lake, Mich., unofficial cancel was a natural choice because of the design of the Michigan Statehood stamp, the nickname "Great Lakes State" and the descriptive name of the town ... it certainly typifies the state.

After the Revolutionary War, Michigan was a part of the Northwest Territory. In 1805 Michigan became its own territory with Detroit as its capital. Detroit remained the capital until 1847, when the capital was moved to Lansing, where it remains.

During a two-year struggle to become a state, inhabitants of the Michigan Territory drafted a constitution for statehood in 1835. A land dispute over the city



*The author's family chose the 1987 Michigan Statehood issue as an opportunity to produce its first-ever cached first-day cover project. The unofficial Pleasant Lake cancel adds an additional tie-in. Each cover was carefully numbered and signed by each family participant. An example is shown front and back above.*



of Toledo, which was claimed by both Michigan and Ohio, caused a two-year delay in the process. Neither territory was willing to give up Toledo without a struggle. Michigan finally relinquished the city to Ohio, when it was offered in exchange the whole western portion of the Upper Peninsula. Striking that bargain, on Jan. 26, 1837, Michigan became the 26th state to enter the Union – and the largest state east of the Mississippi River.

Michigan is noted for many things. Some of these are represented on the cachet of this cover. Isle Royale is a National Park located about 50 miles into Lake Superior. It shelters one of the largest remaining moose herds in the United States and protects a small wolf pack. The Porcupine Mountains and Tahquamenon Falls are two of the Upper Peninsula's countless scenic wonders. Tahquamenon Falls is the largest of nearly 150 waterfalls in Michigan. The Soo Locks at Sault Sainte Marie handle the most shipping traffic in the Western Hemisphere except for the Panama Canal.

The Mackinac Bridge, or "Big Mac," is the world's longest suspension bridge. This five-mile-long structure of steel and concrete spans the Straits of Mackinac, joining Michigan's two great peninsulas. The Mackinac Bridge is recognized as one of the seven man-made Wonders of the World.

Mackinac Island is a small island in the Straits of Mackinac and near the Mackinac Bridge. On the island is old Fort Mackinac, the main tourist attraction today. There are no motorized vehicles allowed on the island and all transportation is done by horses, wagons, bicycles or feet!

Detroit, the "Motor City," is the automotive capital of the world and our nation's 18th largest city. The Renaissance Center, a giant hotel and GM world headquarters, is the largest symbol of this great city.

The Henry Ford, in Dearborn, Mich., is a history-filled setting that attracts millions of visitors from around the world each year. Henry Ford established the museum and village bringing there some of America's famous landmarks. These include the courthouse where Abe Lincoln practiced law, the Wright Brother's bike shop, Thomas Edison's laboratory and Rosa Parks' bus.

An authentic 230-year-old windmill, dismantled in the Netherlands and reassembled in Holland, Mich., is a popular tourist attraction. The Tulip Festival every spring is another Holland tradition. North of Holland and also along Lake Michigan are The Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. The dunes are a part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and are made up of large hills of sand as far as the eye can see!

Frankenmuth, located about 100 miles north of Detroit, is a unique Bavarian community. It houses famous restaurants, the largest year-round display of Christmas decorations in America, woodcarving shops and an authentically constructed covered wooden bridge.

The Au Sable River, a part of Michigan's 36,000 miles of rivers, make vacationing

a way of life. The river is home to virtually every recreational activity; you can swim, fish, canoe or just enjoy its beauty.

Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes. Higgins Lake and Houghton Lake are the two largest inland lakes in the state.

Lake Superior, our largest Great Lake, is the largest freshwater lake in the world. There is more water in Lake Superior than the other four Great Lakes combined! Also, the Great Lakes bordering Michigan's land areas give it the longest freshwater coastline in the country. Did you know that no matter where you are in Michigan, you are never more than five miles from a lake, stream or river or never more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes! Michigan is truly the Great Lake State!

Here are some other interesting facts about the Great State of Michigan:

- Detroit's metropolitan area has a greater population than that of 30 other states!
- Four nations' flags have flown over Michigan ... French, British, Spanish and the United States.
- Michigan's Upper Peninsula alone covers almost as much territory as the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined.
- Michigan is larger than the whole country of Greece and nearly five times the size of Belgium.
- More than half of Michigan's land is covered with forests.
- It is nearly as far from Ironwood, Mich., to Detroit as it is from Detroit to New York City.
- Hancock, Mich., is farther north than Montreal, Canada.

But back to our creation. This cover was a genuine family affair. We discussed, designed, drew and colored the cachet together as a family. As our first cachet, it was a lot of fun and a lot of work. We hope you enjoy the finished product as much as we enjoyed putting it together. We made 100 total covers. Each one is colored, signed and numbered. Every once in a while one will come up for sale on eBay and we all get a kick out of watching it to see what it might end up selling for! ☺

***Even though Mike Vagnetti just re-entered the world of philatelists again about a year ago (please see "My Topic," Page 28), he had an awareness of stamps through his love of his home state of Michigan and the idea of creating an interesting collectible.***

**Due to circumstances beyond our control we are unable to present both "Units in Action" and "Study Unit Spotlight" in this issue. We hope to resume publication of these popular columns with the Sept-Oct issue of *Topical Time*.**

# The Hungarian “Martians”

Lyman R. Caswell

On Aug. 2, 1939, three Hungarian scientists, Leo Szilard, Eugene P. Wigner and Edward Teller, drove from New York City to the vacation home of Albert Einstein on Long Island. They went in Wigner’s car, but Teller drove because he was the only one of the three with a valid driver’s license. They carried a letter written by Szilard addressed to President Roosevelt that began, “*Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard which has been communicated to me in manuscript leads me to expect that the element Uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future*”<sup>1</sup> (Frank, 1947). The letter went on to describe the destructive power of a bomb based on this energy source, and pointed out that current research in Nazi Germany could lead to the construction of such a bomb. The letter recommended to the president the formation of a “staff of scientists” to engage in nuclear research and investigate the practical uses of uranium.



**Figure 1. Centennial of Leo Szilard’s birth, Hungary 1998, Scott 3592.**

Szilard intended to use Einstein’s prestige to convince the President to set up the necessary research. Einstein signed the letter, and Szilard made sure that Roosevelt received it. The result was the formation of the Manhattan Engineer District, better known as the “Manhattan Project,” which led to the creation of the first nuclear bombs.

The three visitors to Einstein and two other Hungarian American scientists have been called “The Martians of Science” by historian of science István Hargittai (Hargittai, 2006). Four of them, Szilard, Wigner, Teller and John von Neumann, were involved in the Manhattan Project. The fifth, Theodore von Kármán, aided in the development of supersonic aircraft. All five have been honored philatelically. The four atomic scientists are discussed first.

Who were these Hungarian scientists? In a sense they were refugees. All were born in Budapest, Hungary. They had received their secondary education in elite private gimnáziums (high schools) in Budapest, which excelled in instruction in science and mathematics. In normal times, these men would have attended university in Hungary and gone on to become university professors there. But the times at the end of World War I, when they were ready for university, were not normal times in Hungary.

In March 1919, Communists seized power in Budapest, declaring the Hungarian Soviet Republic and instituting the “Red Terror.” The Communist regime

collapsed in August under pressure of a Romanian invasion, which set up the “White Terror” to weed out the Communists. In November, the Romanians withdrew and the Hungarian National Army occupied Budapest. In 1920, the Nationalists declared Hungary a monarchy, with Admiral Miklós Horthy, an anti-Semite, as regent. The Horthy government promptly enacted legislation that limited the number of Jewish students to receive university education, and barred Jews from the professions.

All five of the Hungarian scientists were Jewish. There was no future for them in their native Hungary. They emigrated to the Weimar Republic of Germany, where they would complete their university educations and seek professorships. As the Nazi Party rose to power in Germany, they once again sought asylum elsewhere.

Leó Szilárd was born in Budapest on Feb. 11, 1898. He completed his advanced education in physics at Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin in 1927, and was appointed a privatdozent there. Szilard and Einstein became friends in Berlin and together they received a German patent for the “Einstein refrigerator,” which had no moving parts. The refrigerator was never manufactured.

In 1933, Szilard and his family moved to England, where he received a British patent for a nuclear chain reaction induced by neutrons. In 1936 he assigned the patent to the British Admiralty for secrecy, for he already understood the dangerous potential of the process. The idea of the patent was based on the work of Italian physicist and Nobel Laureate Enrico Fermi, who had discovered nuclear reactions induced by slow neutrons.

Szilard and his family moved to the United States in 1938, but he did not immediately obtain a university appointment. In a borrowed laboratory at Columbia University, he demonstrated the feasibility of a nuclear chain reaction by bombarding uranium with neutrons modified by graphite. Disturbed by the possibility of using nuclear fission in weapons of enormous force, he wrote the letter to President Roosevelt for Einstein to sign.

Szilard joined the Metallurgical Laboratory of the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago in 1942, where he, Wigner and Fermi designed and built the first chain-reacting atomic pile. He became a United States citizen in 1943. After World War II, Szilard became a Professor of Physics at the University of Chicago. Frightened by the horrible potential of atomic weapons, he turned his attention to problems in biology. He died on May 30, 1964.

In 1998, Hungary issued a stamp (Figure 1) in honor of the centennial of Szilard’s birthday.



*Figure 2. Eugene Wigner, Hungary 1999, Scott 3679.*



**Figure 3. The 25th anniversary of Wigner's Nobel Prize was celebrated by Hungary in 1988 with this postal card, Michel P433.**

The second of the Hungarian trio, Eugene P. Wigner, was born Jenő Pál Wigner in Budapest on Nov. 17, 1902. In 1921, he went to Germany and enrolled in the Technical University of Berlin, where he completed his doctorate in physics. He and Szilard became close friends in Berlin.

Wigner went home to Budapest, but in 1926 he returned to Germany to an appointment at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, where he worked on advanced quantum mechanics. In 1930, he came to the United States to receive a lectureship at Princeton University. There his interests shifted to nuclear physics. He moved to the University of Wisconsin in 1936, and became a United States citizen in 1937.

In the Manhattan Project, Wigner led the group that designed and built the first chain-reacting nuclear pile, the first nuclear reactor. In 1946, he became Director of Research and Development at the Clinton Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn. In frustration with the Army oversight of the Clinton Laboratory, he resigned the directorship and returned to Princeton University in 1947.

Wigner received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1963, “for his contributions to the theory of the atomic nucleus and elementary particles, particularly through the discovery and application of fundamental symmetry principles” (Hargattai, 2002). Wigner died in Princeton on Jan. 1, 1995.

Eugene Wigner was honored by a stamp of his native Hungary (Figure 2) in 1999. In 1988, Hungary issued a commemorative postal card (Figure 3) for the 25th anniversary of Wigner's Nobel Prize.

The third member of the trio who visited Einstein, Edward Teller, was born Ede Teller in Budapest on Jan. 15, 1908. During his gimnázium years he became acquainted with Szilard and Wigner, and with another Hungarian scientist-to-be, John von Neumann. Teller began his advanced education at the Technical University of Budapest, where he majored in chemistry.

Seeing no future for himself in Hungary, Teller went to Germany at the age of 18. In Munich, he slipped and fell when alighting from a streetcar, and the streetcar ran over one of his feet. He learned to walk with a prosthetic foot, and eventually also learned to ski with it.

Teller graduated in chemical engineering from the University of Karlsruhe, and achieved a doctorate in physics at the University of Leipzig under the direction of Werner Heisenberg.

In 1930, Teller obtained an appointment at the University of Göttingen, but was forced to leave in 1933 when the Nazi regime removed Jews from German universities. He spent 1933-34 with Niels Bohr's group in Copenhagen. He came to the United States in 1934 to an appointment as Professor of Physics at the invitation of George Gamow at George Washington University, where he remained until 1941. Teller became a United States citizen in 1941.

Teller made contributions to chemistry during his time at George Washington University. He and Bryan Topley proposed that a barrier to free rotation about a carbon-to-carbon single bond exists. This has since been confirmed. His collaboration with Stephen Brunauer and Paul Emmett resulted in the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) theory of multilayer adsorption of gases on a solid surface, and the use of the theory to determine the area of the surface. The Jahn-Teller effect

describes the distortion of nonlinear molecules by a degenerate electronic ground state.

Teller did not have the security clearance to participate in the research at the University of Chicago. After he obtained clearance, in March 1943, he was among the first scientists invited to join the Los Alamos National Laboratory by J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Laboratory's Director. At Los Alamos, Teller



*Figure 4. Centennial of Edward Teller's birth, Hungary 2008, Scott 4100.*



*Figure 5. John von Neumann, Hungary 1992, Scott 3354.*



**Figure 6. Centennial of von Neumann's birth, Hungary 2003, Scott 3824.**



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began to work on the theory that would lead to the development of the thermonuclear bomb, the so-called hydrogen bomb.

Teller and Oppenheimer initially worked well together, but as time went on, Teller more and more frequently questioned Oppenheimer's decisions. After the war, this led to Teller's testimony that he believed that Oppenheimer was a security risk, which caused Oppenheimer to lose his security clearance. Their fellow physicists saw this as the betrayal of a friend, and, as a result, Teller found himself shunned by his colleagues. It has been speculated that Teller's action was due to Oppenheimer's opposition to Teller's plan to develop the hydrogen bomb, but there is no evidence for this.

Teller's further drive to develop the hydrogen bomb gave him an additional negative reputation, and the ultimate parody as "Dr. Strangelove." It is believed that Teller's desire to produce a more fearful weapon originated from a dread of Communism, due to his memory of life in Budapest during the Communist Hungarian Soviet Republic in 1919. He wanted the strongest possible "nuclear deterrent" to hold off aggression by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The weapon was finally produced under Teller's lead.

Edward Teller married his high-school sweetheart. Throughout his life, he was a devoted husband and father. The same cannot be said for his "Martian" colleagues, most of whom had marital difficulties. Teller died Sept. 9, 2003, in Stanford, Calif.

Teller was honored with a Hungarian stamp (Figure 4) issued in 2008 on the centennial of his birth.

The fourth “Martian,” John von Neumann, was born János Neumann in Budapest, on Dec. 28, 1903. He received a diploma in engineering and a doctorate in mathematics from the Swiss Federal Technical Institute (ETH) in Zurich, in 1923. He had privatdozent appointments at Berlin in 1927 and at Hamburg in 1929, but did not receive a professorship at either university. His mathematical studies resulted in his invitation to Princeton in 1930, and he became a United States citizen in 1937. He acquired the nickname “Johnny,” the equivalent of the Hungarian diminutive Jancsi.

John von Neumann was invited to join the Manhattan Project in 1943. His calculations resulted in the successful shaping of the triggering explosives of the atomic bomb. His work also included early research into the design and development of the electronic computer, and the development of the theory of games. After the war, von Neumann had full-time job as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission. (AEC). He died Feb. 8, 1957, in Washington, D.C.

John von Neumann has twice been honored on Hungarian stamps, first in 1992 (Figure 5) and on the centennial of his birth in 2003 (Figure 6). The United States honored him with a stamp in 2005 (Figure 7). He also is pictured on a 1982 Hungarian postal card issued in honor of a computer science conference held in Budapest (Figure 8).



**Figure 7. John von Neumann was honored by the United States on a stamp in 2005, Scott 3908.**



**Figure 8. John von Neumann and computer science, Hungary 1982, Michel P284.**



**Figure 9. Theodore von Kármán, Hungary 1992, Scott 3353.**

Szilard, Wigner, Teller and von Neumann all spoke English with a Hungarian accent. During the course of the Manhattan Project, someone joked that they were “Martians masquerading as Hungarians.” The label “Martian” caught on, and has been used in reference not only to Szilard, Wigner, Teller and von Neumann, but also to one other scientist; aeronautical engineer Theodore von Kármán, who was also of Hungarian Jewish origin.<sup>2</sup>

Theodore von Kármán was the oldest of the five. He was born Tódor Kármán in Budapest on May 11, 1881, and was the only one of the “Martians” to attend university in his native land. He completed his education at the University of Göttingen in Germany, and became professor of aeronautics at the Technical University of Aachen in 1913. He remained in Germany until 1929, when he accepted the directorship of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Institute of California Institute of Technology at the invitation of Robert Millikan. He became a United States citizen in 1936. He was the only one of the “Martians” who was not involved in nuclear research. Instead, as an aeronautical engineer, he became an advisor to the United States Air Force. His mathematical modeling of supersonic airflow over surfaces helped in the successful design of supersonic jet aircraft.

Theodore von Kármán in 1944 was one of the founders of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). In 1962, President John F. Kennedy made him the first person to receive the National Medal of Science.

Although von Kármán enjoyed the company of women, he never married. He died on May 6, 1963, in Aachen during a trip to Germany. His body was returned to United States for burial.

Theodore von Kármán has been honored by stamps of his native Hungary (Figure 9) and by the United States (Figure 10). In 1981, Hungary issued a commemorative postal card for his 100th birthday (Figure 11).

John von Neumann and Theodore von Kármán inherited the Germanic ennobling preposition “von” from their fathers, both of whom received it from the Emperor-King Franz Josef, for services to the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy.

Leo Szilard and Eugene P. Wigner developed the technology for a generation of atomic energy and, with Edward Teller and John von Neumann, contributed to

**Figure 10. Theodore von Kármán, aerospace engineer, United States 1992, Scott 2699.**





**Figure 11. Centennial of von Kármán's birth, Hungary 1981, Michel P255.**

the development of the atomic bomb. Edward Teller is known as the “Father of the H-Bomb” for his work on the development of thermonuclear weapons. Although he is not regarded as its inventor, John von Neumann contributed significantly to the development of the electronic computer. He is also the author of the mathematical theory of games. Finally, Theodore von Kármán helped design supersonic aircraft.

The prejudices of their native country drove these men to a friendlier place where they could freely pursue their careers and make vital contributions to the technology of their new home. ■

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Lyman R. Caswell is a long-time stamp collector and exhibitor. The stamps pictured in this article are from his exhibit, They Came to America, which honors foreign-born Americans who made contributions to their adopted country. Caswell is a philatelic writer, having contributed articles to The American Philatelist, Collector's Club Philatelist, the News of Hungarian Philately and Topical Time. He is a retired chemist and lives in Tacoma, Wash. Caswell may be reached at [ruthandlyman@nventure.com](mailto:ruthandlyman@nventure.com).



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## YOUTH IN TOPICS

### *MaryAnn Bowman*

# Stamp Collecting's Magic Kingdom

In the May-June issue of *Topical Time*, I wrote that I would be using Disney as the theme for the youth area at National Topical Stamp Show. I offered a little background information about Disney issues produced by the United States Postal Service, as well as issues created by some foreign countries. Since then, more planning has gone into the youth area and I can share some of that with you now.

You may be aware that the American Topical Association, in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, was able to make a video presentation of circus material from the late Roland Essig's *Under the Big Top* exhibit. This presentation is currently the top-ranked video the RMPL has produced. If you have access to Wi-Fi at your meeting or if a member can provide a hot spot, this 16-minute video is well worth your time. It may be found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWBetETT9L8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWBetETT9L8).

And now a new concept in stamp programming: music videos. When I first learned about them, I contacted the producer and inquired whether a Disney-related music video might be produced for use with the Disney-themed youth area being created for National Topical Stamp Show. I received a positive response and, before I could even have time to set forth some possible ideas, I was sent a concept. Within 24 hours two draft videos arrived for me to view. With a few adjustments, a total of five new Disney-themed videos were created that are sure to be popular among young collectors. Each is about three to five minutes long with stamps and music from a specific Disney movie: "When You Wish Upon a Star" (*Pinocchio*), "Let it Go" (*Frozen*), "Circle of Life" (*The Lion King*), "You've Got a Friend In Me" (*Toy Story*) and the theme song from the *Mickey Mouse Club* television show.

**DISNEY FROZEN**



**MUSIC VIDEO**

Frozen - Let It Go

Stamp Smarter

**LAUNCH**

**DISNEY LION KING**



**MUSIC VIDEO**

The Lion King - Circle of Life

Stamp Smarter

**LAUNCH**

**DISNEY TOY STORY**



**MUSIC VIDEO**

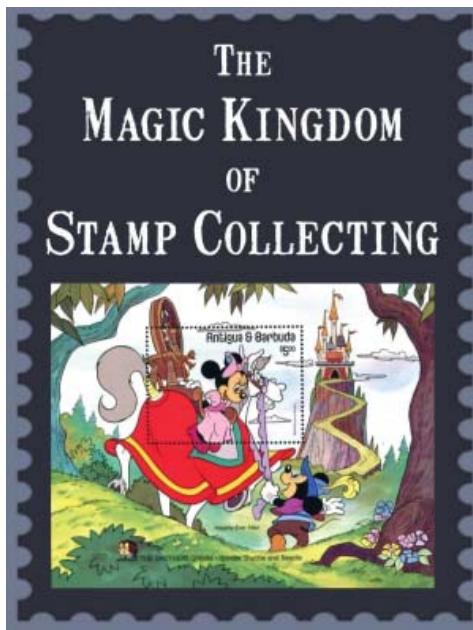
Toy Story - You've Got a Friend In Me

Stamp Smarter

**LAUNCH**

**Shown above is a sampling of the music videos available on the Stampsmarter website. The url is given in the text.**





**The Magic Kingdom of Stamp Collecting, a booklet distributed at NTSS, with the financial help of NSDA.**

In addition to the Disney-themed videos, there are several other topics that might make short interesting topical-related programs: bridges, reef fish, clocks, space stamps and rainbows come to mind. Many collectors from a certain generation will recognize music contemporary from that time. All of these, plus others, are just a click away on the [www.stampsmarter.com](http://www.stampsmarter.com) website. Click on the Library tab, scroll down to Topical Collecting and launch the site, then choose your video and enjoy! Happy viewing!

The National Stamp Dealers Association announced it is supporting NTSS youth activities with grant money. A small amount of money was used to obtain a Plinko board. Plinko is a game of luck, not skill, where small round discs are dropped down the side of a board that has paths of pegs and numbered pockets at the bottom of the game board. The pocket in which the disc lands determines the prize – philatelic, of course!

I am especially pleased to announce that a special booklet has also been produced for NTSS as a giveaway to youth in attendance. Titled *The Magic Kingdom of Stamp Collecting*, the booklet is a combination of several previously produced publications. It combines the activities listed in the Stamp Collecting *Topical Tidbits* issue with the current Disney *Topical Tidbits*, as well as including other pages of information and resources to aid the beginning collector. The printing of this full-color publication would not have been possible without the grant money.

Youth had an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a sick young person through the use of donated Disney postal cards. These cards were available at NTSS for messages of encouragement and hope, written by interested attendees, young and old alike. The cards were then sent through the mail to a list of contacts.

***The recently released Have a Ball! Forever stamps, each with a textured surface. Details of a special activity are given in the accompanying text.***



Activities within the youth area focused on recognizable Disney themes and/or features of Disney parks. Each child had an opportunity to select Disney stamps to complete a Disney album page and was able to select a complete set of Disney stamps from another large source of donated Disney material. Other Disney surprises were prepared for NTSS.

### Have a Ball – with stamps

The recent announcement of the release of a set of eight different round commemorative "ball" stamps has set me off in a different direction. The American First Day Cover Society is offering a special activity to youth. If you work with one or more young people, you may want to help them take this opportunity to receive a first-day cover.

Very simply, the child should create a cachet or design on the left side of a small envelope. The design might be anything that relates to these sport-themed stamps. The balls shown are for the sports of baseball, basketball, football, golf, kickball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. Address the envelope in the lower right corner with the child's

first and last name on the first line, street address on the second line and city, state and ZIP code on the third. The address should be neatly printed so that the envelope can be returned in the mail to the creator of the cachet.

There should be enough room left at the top-right corner for a Ball stamp. I will add the stamp to the envelope and mail it so that it will receive a first-day cancel. Place the cachet-designed cover into a larger envelope. Add postage to this outer envelope and mail it to MaryAnn Bowman, PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187. The deadline to for me to receive the envelope is July 31, 2017.

For further information on this activity, visit [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org), the website of the American First Day Cover Society. ☐

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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.

# Chapter Chatter

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

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

## 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 (April):** At the April meeting, Tshishnen Mpoyo (Rachel), a guest speaker, presented a program on malaria, and club member Frank Kos showed material from his malaria collection. The story of the forced relocation of the Cherokee Indians from Georgia and Alabama in 1838 to what is now Oklahoma is told in the article "The Trail of Tears." In "The Stamp That is #1 in My Most Beautiful Category," editor Bob Mather writes that, for him, it is the "Midnight Angel" stamp issued by the USPS for the 1995 Christmas holiday. The design for the stamp came from a 1903 postcard, which Bob illustrates in the article.



**The 1962 WHO Anti-Malaria Campaign issue, Monaco (Scott 504).**

**(May)** At the May meeting members made packets of topical stamps for NTSS in Milwaukee in June. Part of the evening was a "Show & Tell" of a favorite stamp show or commemorative cover. The article "The Tale of the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine" is illustrated with several show covers from Aripex '84 with cachets and a special cancel related to the legend. The mine was named after a German



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immigrant, Jacob Waltz, who discovered, along with Jacob Wiser, a gold mine in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona. Since their deaths, numerous attempts to find the mine have been unsuccessful.

### Baltimore Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 128) in Baltimore, Md.

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

**Newsletter:** *Baltimore Philatelist*, Charles Morgan, editor, email: [balpex@verizon.net](mailto:balpex@verizon.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (Second Quarter) Continued from the first quarter issue is Harry K. Charles' article on the 1909 Portola Festival in San Francisco, this time focusing on the eight official postcards created by the Portola Festival Committee.

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

**Newsletter:** Alfred Carroccia, editor, email: [fuzzy9600@verizon.net](mailto:fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (April and May) Casey Kielbasa gave a presentation at the April 21 meeting, "Living People on United States Stamps." One of the examples given was the

32¢ Women in Military Service stamp issued in 1997. The stamp's image was based on a recent photograph of a group of service women. A note is included in the newsletter on how Canada Post is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation. It is including in the design of each 2017 stamp a hidden reference to the anniversary. At Bufpex 2017, the best topical exhibit award

was won by Gretchin Dinin for *In Honor of Dias*.

Irv Tesmer presented "History of Special Covers"

at the May 19 meeting, covering individual covers commemorating a person, place or event. A note about "Collecting Mint (U.S.) Stamps" mentioned, "Some recent mint sheets and sets are seeing good activity due to the increase in topical collecting."



Women in Military Service, U.S.  
1997 (Scott 3174).

### 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 (May):** At the April meeting Lisa F. presented the APS

Slide Show, *United States Private Die Proprietary Stamp Issues*.

To raise funds to support the Civil War, the 1862 Revenue Act required revenue stamps to be affixed to a number of manufactured products, including packages of matches, medicines, perfumes and more. But instead of using the government-issued revenue stamps, manufacturers could use stamps produced from their own engraved dies and printing plates. The newsletter illustrates a cover sent to Jack Congrove franked with several Canadian stamps, one of which shows DeForest Kelley as Dr. Leonard H. ("Bones") McCoy from the *Star Trek* television series. Interestingly, the pictorial cancel from Vulcan, Alberta, depicts Leonard Nimoy as Spock (from the same series) giving the Vulcan salute. The town of Vulcan was not named after the *Star Trek* character, but for the Roman God of Fire, Vulcan.



Dr. C.C. Moore Private  
Die Proprietary Stamp  
(Scott RS183d).

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

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

**Newsletter:** *Perf-Dispatch*, Phil Schorr, editor

**Email:** [pschorr@att.net](mailto:pschorr@att.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (March, April and May) At the March meeting, the editor presented a program on "Roses." Jerry Schultz's April program was "Czeslaw Slania and His Engravings." The program for the May meeting was "Cinderellas in World War I," and was given by Tom Minor. The May newsletter also had a very nice writeup on Vera Felts, executive director of ATA and 2017 Distinguished Topical Philatelist.

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

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

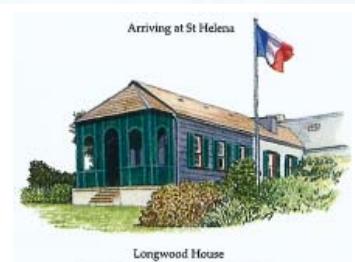
**Email:** [donsmith32@atlanticbb.net](mailto:donsmith32@atlanticbb.net)

### Newsletter topics (May-June):

Recent USPS new issues are briefly noted and illustrated. The editor collects philatelic material related to Napoleon Bonaparte. He describes design errors on a souvenir sheet from St. Helena issued in 2016 for the 200th anniversary of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile to St. Helena in 1815, where he remained until his death in 1821. Six vignettes, two of which contain a design error, surround the single stamp on the sheet. The first is a drawing of Longwood House, Napoleon's residence on St. Helena, which shows the French flag that he was prohibited from flying on the island. The other error is the image labeled "Death of Napoleon." It actually depicts a drawing made in Paris in 1840, 19 years after his death, when the coffin was briefly opened before placing it in his tomb in Les Invalides.



*Iceberg Rose,  
New Zealand 1975  
(Scott 592).*



*200th Anniversary of Napoleon's Exile on St. Helena, St. Helena 2016 (Scott 1124)  
details of design errors, French Tricolor Flag on Longwood House, and Death of Napoleon: 1840 Paris drawing.*

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**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 (April):** In the editor's column, "Musings: Where Are Our WWI Commemorative Stamps?" he notes that the USPS has so far not announced any stamps for 2017 or 2018 commemorating "The Great War." He mentions that he has been accumulating WWI issues since 2014 from around the world, including issues from England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and a number of other British Commonwealth countries. In addition, Poland, Austria, France, Belgium, Monaco and others have also issued WWI commemorative stamps.



**Centenary of 2nd Battle of the Aisne (April–May, 1917) and Prince Louis II, Monaco 2017.**

**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 (April):** Ken Wills talks about Ironbridge, a village in England that was illustrated on a Great Britain stamp in 1989 as part of a set of four for Industrial Archaeology and again in 2011 as part of the United Kingdom A-Z (1st series) set of 12 showing landmarks that begin with the letters A to L. In the "President's Column," Ray Cartier makes a nice case for stamp collectors to take an active role in organized philately. He notes that joining the national organizations such as the ATA or APS, as well as specialized study units and local stamp collecting clubs, increases one's enjoyment of philately. It gives you the opportunity to share your interests with others, establish friendships and be exposed to other facets of stamp collecting of which one may not be aware. Editor Peter Elias, in "Oval and Unfiltered," looks at some stamps that picture individuals smoking, as well as stamps advocating quitting smoking. He mentions that a thematic collection or exhibit could be formed about tobacco or quitting its use.



**Campaign Against Smoking, South Africa – Bophuthatswana 1980 (Scott 55).**

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

**Newsletter:** *The Messenger*, Scott Couch, editor

**Email:** [tigercollect@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tigercollect@sbcglobal.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (May) The newsletter reprints the first page of a multi-page article by Thomas J. Richards, titled "Philatelic Movie Props," which appeared in the October 2002 issue of the *American Philatelist*. The reprinted page describes the "movie stamp" props for the 1945 movie, *A Letter for Evie*. The props resembled the 5¢ United States Parcel Post stamp showing a Mail Train issued in 1913.



**Mail Train & Mail Bag Rack, U.S. 1913 (Scott Q5).**

Unfortunately, some of the stamps wound up being used as postage on letters and led to the Secret Service confiscating and destroying all the stamps, as well as the plates. The “movie prop” stamps were necessary, as it was against the law to use real stamps in movies during the 1940s.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (April):** The March meeting's 'Show & Tell' subject was stamps and events of the year 1967. Among the items shown was material about the 50th

anniversary of the *Balfour Declaration*, discussed by Gary Christianson, and the U.S. Search for Peace commemorative stamp, shown by Patrick Dougherty. In celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1967, Lions International sponsored a "Search for Peace" essay contest. Bob Mather showed material related to the United Nations' International Tourist Year and the Marc Chagall Window stamp. Mary Ann Bowman talked about the 1967 World's Fair in Montreal, Canada.

**(May)** The article "Essayist Henry David Thoreau is

Honored by the USPS," by the editor, gives some background on Thoreau (1817-62) and the recent (49¢) Forever stamp depicting him. At the May meeting, Michael Mules presented "Blue Philately," which may include stamps printed in blue, but could also refer to other associations with blue besides color.

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

**Newsletter:** *On Cover*, Kurt Romig, editor

**Email:** [mcscc442@yahoo.com](mailto:mcscc442@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter topics: (April)** In "A Mystery From My Collection," Art Orme illustrates a number of postage due stamps from his Yugoslavia collection. Some were issued by Slovenia in 1919 and 1920, and some by Yugoslavia between 1922 and 1924. All show the overprint "SRBA HRVATA 1 Slovenaca" and the image of an airplane. Through his research Art has figured that the stamps were overprinted between



**Slovenia postage due, no overprint, Yugoslavia 1919 (Scott 3LJ1).**

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1924 (the last date the stamps were issued) and 1929, when the official name of the state was changed to Kingdom of Yugoslavia. But he also found that the plane shown in the overprint wasn't put into use until 1936. The entire overprint appears to be made by a single die, but he can't explain how the plane that was only put into service in 1936 appears with the text that was produced between 1924 and 1929. That is the mystery referred to in the title of his article. (**May**) Kurt Romig shows several poster stamps depicting George Washington that were released to promote the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition (Ipex) that was held in New York City. It was the first United States Ipex. One of the stamps shows the overprint "Open October 27 to November 1," which was applied to prevent their use as postage stamps. Kurt Romig and Bill Trump have come up with an answer to Art Orme's mystery stamps noted in the April issue. They feel that they are "private issues" not issued by any postal authority and that the overprints are "most likely fantasies."

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

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

**Newsletter:** *The Spacefiller*, Paul Breakenridge, editor

**Email:** [paul\\_breakenridge@gmail.com](mailto:paul_breakenridge@gmail.com)

**Newsletter topics:** (**April & May**) At the March meeting Gene Kathol presented the flora and fauna of the Falkland Islands, including rockhopper penguins. Gene Kathol again gave the program in May, this time "U.S. Telegraph Stamps." The club's September show themes are Boys Town and the Union Pacific Railroad.



**Rockhopper penguin,  
Falkland Islands 2002  
(Scott 817).**

### **Rochester Philatelic Association (ATA Chapter No. 84) in 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:** (**May-July**) Ropex 2017 was held in May and commemorated the 200th anniversary of the start of construction on the Erie Canal. Tom Fortunato wrote an article on the first-day ceremony for the April 11 issue of the (70¢) Forever stamp for Dr. Robert F. Panara, a strong advocate for the use of American Sign Language and a founding faculty member of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y. At the May 25 meeting, Luis Greiff, Jr. presented "JFK on U.S. Covers," while "Women on Stamps" was the program for the June 8 meeting. Larry Rausch gives some background on George Rogers Clark and the 2¢ stamp issued at Vincennes, Ind., in 1929 (Scott 651). Paul Brach has a nicely illustrated article "Cypripedium Orchids," a genus of 58 species that are commonly known as lady slippers. It is a distillation of Paul's talk at the March 9 meeting. The newsletter concludes with an article on the (49¢) Forever stamp issued on June 20 noting the total eclipse of the sun that will occur on Aug. 21.



**Lady slipper orchid, UN-  
Vienna 1996 (Scott 196).**

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

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

Newsletter: Frogtown Philatelist, John Mann, editor

Email: [john6125@earthlink.net](mailto:john6125@earthlink.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (April) The March 16 meeting was topical night and John Mann led a discussion on topical collecting, showing examples of JFK topicals. A short article on "Collecting Finland" noted that the stamps of that country are of high quality and Finland offers a very reasonable challenge to collect. There are numerous stamps with a topical theme not only in Finland, but also in the Aland Islands, a self-governing province of Finland. (May) The newsletter illustrates a number of French commemoratives depicting various cathedrals and scenes from around the country. Among those shown is an 8fr stamp depicting the Seine River at Les Andelys. The stamp shows Chateau Gaillard, a medieval castle built from 1196-98 by Richard I, who was both King of England and Duke of Normandy. Also shown is the 1.9 fr stamp showing the Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux, built in the 11th century and the original home of the Bayeux Tapestry.



**Bayeux Cathedral,  
France 1977 (Scott  
1546).**




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## **Webster Groves Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 125) in Webster Groves, Mo.**

**Newsletter:** Alan Barasch, editor, email: [alan@mophil.org](mailto:alan@mophil.org)

**Newsletter topics:** Tom Minor

presented a program on "World War I Cinderellas" on April 21, while Alan Barasch presented "Joint Issues" at the May 5 meeting.

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

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

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

**Email:** [fcskvvara@optonline.net](mailto:fcskvvara@optonline.net)

**Newsletter topics:** (March/April)



*Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), a northern hemisphere swan. In 1956 the five Scandinavian countries issued a joint issue of identical stamps for Nordic Cooperation. Two are seen above: Denmark (Scott 362); Finland (Scott 344).*



**Raja Brooke's Birdwing, Federation of Malaysia 1970 (Scott 71).**

At the March meeting Lloyd De Vries, President of the American First Day Cover Society, presented a program on first-day covers. Steven J. Rod describes two covers he obtained at the Westfield Stamp Club annual show in March. The covers relate to an early 20th-century stamp dealer, Percy McGraw Mann, who was one of Eugene L. Klein's partners when Klein purchased the 1918 Inverted Jenny sheet (Scott 3a) from William T. Robey. The editor describes another show purchase, that of the 1970 Federation of Malaysia butterfly stamps and the 1971 butterfly stamps issued by each of the seven states of the Federation. The four-color lithography stamps show the butterflies with their natural food sources. The editor also illustrates the set of five new issues from Ireland for the "Five Senses," with each stamp printed by a technique to illustrate one of the senses.

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

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

**Newsletter:** *Across the Fence Post*, Ray Perry, editor,

**Email:** [fiveperrys@athenet.net](mailto:fiveperrys@athenet.net)

**Newsletter topics (April):** In MaryAnn Bowman's column, "Connecting with Clubs," the author looks at the different activities of clubs in the area, many of which have topical connections. James E. Byrne discussed the many benefits of being a member of the American Topical Association for topical/thematic collectors. The author also mentions that the study units of the ATA are an important resource for topical collectors and he lists the current units. His article is sprinkled with a number of topical stamps. (May/June)

Federation President Karen Weigt describes, "Creating a Gem" for some future postal history buff or topical/thematic collector. She and her husband sent picture postal cards showing the White House to President Donald Trump expressing support. They used the 15¢ postal card released during World Stamp Expo '89.



*The 14th of July, by Roger de La Fresnaye, France 1961 (Scott 1017).*

In his column, "The Editor's Turn," Ray Perry illustrates some of the beautiful art stamps issued by France since 1961 and mentions that he is working on a list of French art stamps. James E. Byrne from the Northwoods Philatelic Society, one of the constituent clubs of the Federation, looks at "Topical and Thematic Collecting: Catalogues." In the article he mentions a number of topical catalogs from major publishers, such as Domfil, and the numerous handbooks and checklists from the ATA. He also notes that there are society and other websites that may contain checklists of a particular topic.

## Australia

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

**Newsletter:** *Thematically Speaking*, John Crowsley, editor

**Email:** [jcrowsley@primus.com.au](mailto:jcrowsley@primus.com.au)

**Newsletter topics:** (May) The newsletter contains a well-illustrated article



**Packet Costa Rica, Norfolk Island 1985 (Scott 359).**

on Burns Philip & Co., Limited, a shipping firm based in Australia and operating ships from 1883 to 1970. The ships were used for trading, but later set up for carrying passengers. All the ships' names had some relationship to the Pacific Islands. At the February meeting, David Lloyd displayed pages from his thematic collection of Stadiums, including Wembley, and winners of the 1966 World Cup. Numerous full-color illustrations are shown from the February meeting "Show & Tell."

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## Canada

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

**Newsletter:** *Calgary Philatelist*, Dale Speirs, editor

**Email:** [opuntia57@yahoo.ca](mailto:opuntia57@yahoo.ca)

**Newsletter topics: (June)** One of the estate lots brought in for the society's auctions was a set of stamps from Tannu Tuva, until 1911 a part of Outer Mongolia. It became independent in 1921 and issued stamps from 1926-43. It is now an autonomous republic of Russia. At the Edmonton National Spring Show, Jim Taylor won a Large Vermeil and the ATA First Award for *Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics*.



**Map of Tannu Tuva, Tannu Tuva 1927 (Scott 20).**

## India

**Indian Thematic Society (ATA Chapter No. 102) in Ludhiana, India.**

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

**Newsletter:** *ITS Stamps News*, Suraj Jaitly, editor

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

**Newsletter topics: (January/March)** *ITS Stamp News* is published quarterly in full color and contains, besides articles, extensive coverage of the new issues of India and a brief listing of worldwide new issues. In "Story of the Coca-Cola Bottle," Dr. Satyendra K. Agrawal tells the story of this iconic item that celebrated, in 2015, the centennial of its patent approval. The author describes the invention of Coca-Cola and the evolution of the contoured, fluted bottle with numerous images from art, advertising and philately. Vladimir Kachan describes some features of moths that were used in bioengineering in his article, "Unusual Moths." There are about 150,000 species of moths and most fold their wings back along their bodies when at rest. Geoffrey de Havilland (1882-1965), a British aircraft designer and manufacturer, built a number of famous aircraft for use in World War I and II, as well as for the civilian market.

But he was also a lepidopterist and the moth's ability to fold its wings back led him to design aircraft whose wings could be folded back along the fuselage, most notably, the *DH-60*. His Moth series, designed during the 1920s, were built for the civilian postwar market and named after various moths. The article is illustrated with stamps showing a number of aircraft of the Moth series, as well as stamps depicting the moths after which the planes are named. ■



**Rymill's D.H. Fox Moth returning to Barry Island, Australian Antarctic Terr. 1973 (Scott L26).**

**Canada 1**

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## *French Championship 2017, European Championship 2017*

# Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at French Championship 2017 and European Championship 2017. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed. \* Denotes ATA member.

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

## French Championship 2017

This stamp exhibition was held in Cholet, France, April 28-May 1, 2017, and was presented by the French Federation of Philatelic Associations (FFAP).

### Multi-frame Exhibits

Jacques Rothenburg	<i>Beautiful as a Rose!</i>	92, G
Didier Daugan	<i>Around the Violin</i>	89, V
Annie Lachuer	<i>The Heart between Arteries and Veins</i>	88, LV
Sébastien Matry	<i>Agricultural Equipment: From Farming to Harvesting</i>	88, LV
Jacqueline Villa	<i>Once upon a Time ... Woman</i>	87, LV
Gérard Melot	<i>Weather and Meteorology</i>	86, LV
Françoise Reviglio	<i>Malaria</i>	86, LV
Jean-Marie Sauvaitre	<i>My Journey in Freemasonry</i>	85, LV
Christine Cacheleux	<i>Playing Cards</i>	82, V
Hubert Kubler	<i>Dog and Man</i>	81, V
Christian Riobe	<i>Plants for the Use of Men</i>	81, V
Luc Delmon	<i>The Little Owl and the Long-eared Owl – Cousins of the Night</i>	80, V
Jean Louis Blanquet	<i>And if Time were Told to Me</i>	80, V
Philippe Debrard	<i>Living with Disabilities</i>	78, LS
Patrick Spiroux	<i>The Conquest of Air – 1783-1913</i>	78, LS
Pascal Pariot	<i>Link of All Time, I am the Bridge</i>	78, LS
Alain Richard	<i>Sailing</i>	78, LS
Françoise Semat	<i>2000 Years of Christianity</i>	78, LS
Daniel Plouviez	<i>You Said "Butterfly?"</i>	78, LS
Françoise Semat	<i>The Magic of Christmas</i>	77, LS
Bernard Bergeret	<i>The History of the Parachute and Skydiving</i>	76, LS
Céline Metayer	<i>Football</i>	76, LS
Michel Rettgen	<i>Music Before Anything Else</i>	76, LS
Françoise Semat	<i>The One that Israel was Waiting For: Jesus of Nazareth</i>	75, LS
Philippe Debrard	<i>The Alps</i>	75, LS
Gilles Prouteau	<i>Fishing at Sea</i>	75, LS
Anaïs Leveau	<i>Our Cat Friends</i>	72, S

## Open/Display Exhibits

<b>Danielle Jonquet</b>	<i>Elephant Advocacy</i>	88, LV
<b>Annie Lachuer</b>	<i>The Adrian Helmet of "Lafeschotte"</i>	87, LV
<b>Françoise Cohen</b>	<i>Hooves in the Head</i>	87, LV
<b>Henri Aronis</b>	<i>Everything you should know about Teeth</i>	85, LV
<b>Gérard Gangloff</b>	<i>Orchids and Humans</i>	85, LV
<b>Pascale Aubry</b>	<i>Discovering Lace</i>	83, V
<b>Paulette Boudon</b>	<i>The Lighthouse... Sentinel of the Sea</i>	82, V
<b>Didier Laporte</b>	<i>On the Danube</i>	82, V
<b>Gérard Barrat</b>	<i>Hand Delivery of Messages</i> 80, V	80, V
<b>Françoise Cohen</b>	<i>The Pink Slayer</i>	80, V
<b>Philippe Nadeau</b>	<i>Strange and Mysterious Mushrooms</i>	78, LS
<b>Marie Françoise Du Fayet de la Tour</b>	<i>The Universe of Fire</i>	78, LS
<b>Bernard Nortier</b>	<i>Roosters</i>	78, LS
<b>Albert Vignaud</b>	<i>Pigeons</i>	78, LS
<b>Michel Assier</b>	<i>Hot Air Ballooning over Time</i>	78, LS
<b>Maurice Vitel</b>	<i>Genealogy</i>	75, LS
<b>Françoise Semat</b>	<i>What a Circus, Then!!!</i>	75, LS
<b>Françoise Semat</b>	<i>The Magic of Walt Disney Cinema</i>	75, LS
<b>Jean-Claude Barrandon</b>	<i>Man and Plants in the Middle Ages</i>	75, LS
<b>Anne-Marie Forestier</b>	<i>The Breath</i>	75, LS
<b>Françoise Semat</b>	<i>Childhood Happiness</i>	75, LS
<b>Marie-Chantal Serre</b>	<i>"It's in the Air"</i>	75, LS
<b>Jean François Reynet</b>	<i>Mountains and Water</i>	75, LS
<b>Michel Assier</b>	<i>Ephemeral Passage of Airships</i>	73, S
<b>Bernadette Emery</b>	<i>When Flowers Begin to Speak</i>	72, S
<b>Françoise Semat</b>	<i>The Comics I Love</i>	72, S

## ECTP (European Championship for Thematic Philately) 2017

This exhibition was held in Essen, Germany, May 4–6, 2017. The exhibition was intended to bring together the best thematic exhibits of the member countries of the European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) in a single show. The exhibition was composed of eight different classes (as follows). In each class, one European Champion was selected from the exhibits shown (the one with the highest score). The second and third places were awarded to the runners-up. The eight champions and the best exhibit in the champions' class comprised the pool of candidates from which the jury voted for the winner of the ECTP Grand Prix.

### Multi-frame Exhibits

#### JECTP Grand Prix:

*Land Cultivation from the Beginning of Agriculture to the Present Time*

**Dr. Joshua Magier**



### **Champions' class (open to all champions of ECTP from 2008-15)**

<b>Dr. Joshua Magier</b>	<i>Land Cultivation from the Beginning of Agriculture to the Present Time</i>	96, LG
<b>David Griffiths (UK)</b>	<i>Here Be Dragons</i>	91, G
<b>Leif W. Rasmussen (Denmark)</b>	<i>Animals Subjected to Man</i>	91, G
<b>Hans-Jürg Weber (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Our Drinking Water</i>	87, LV

### **Multi-frame Exhibits**

#### **Arts and Culture**

<b>Kurt Märki (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Western Church Buildings in the High and Late Middle Ages</i>	1st place - 90, G
<b>Dr. Gerd Geburtig (Germany)</b>	<i>"Cosmos" Goethe – Fascinating to Today</i>	2nd place- 86, LV
<b>Eric Kniese (Netherlands)</b>	<i>A Book is More than a Story</i>	3rd place - 78, LS
<b>Johannes Op den Kamp (NL)</b>	<i>Portugal, Country of Contrasts with a Glorious Past</i>	76, LS
<b>Heinrich Welschhoff (Germany)</b>	<i>Light Beings – Angels as Mediators between Heaven and Earth</i>	75, LS

#### **History and Organizations**

<b>Francisco Piniella (Spain)</b>	<i>A Country where the Sun Never Sets</i>	1st place - 92, G
<b>Marjorie Anne Stammers (UK)</b>	<i>Rock to Riches</i>	2nd place - 81, V
<b>Georg Meusel (Germany)</b>	<i>Martin Luther King – Violent Struggle for Justice and Peace</i>	3rd place - 78, LS
<b>Jozsef Vanyó (Hungary)</b>	<i>The Short Story of the two World Wars, including the Related Hungarian Events</i>	77, LS

#### **Man and Everyday Life**

<b>Krzysztof Trawinski (Poland)</b>	<i>In the Shadow Trees</i>	1st place - 91, G
<b>Peter van Nies (Netherlands)</b>	<i>Carnival: More than just Three Happy Days</i>	2nd place - 90, G
<b>Peter Stobbelaar (Netherlands)</b>	<i>Stories about School</i>	3rd place - 86, LV
<b>Xaver Menze (Germany)</b>	<i>Flags and Banners – A World Language</i>	85, LV
<b>Leif W. Rasmussen (Denmark)</b>	<i>An Evolving Society</i>	83, V

#### **Sports and Leisure**

<b>Rüdiger Fritz (Germany)</b>	<i>The Olympic Comeback</i>	1st place - 91, G
<b>Estanislao Pan de Alfaro (Spain)</b>	<i>The Scouting Adventure</i>	2nd place - 88, GV
<b>*Barry Stagg (UK)</b>	<i>Parachuting through the Ages</i>	3rd place - 78, LS
<b>Zoltan Klein (Hungary)</b>	<i>The Great Festival of Sport (Gods, Heroes, Champions, Olympic Games)</i>	72, S

**Please make it a goal**

**to recruit at least one new member this year...**

***Help us continue to “Buck the Trend!”***

## Transport and Technology

<b>Yannick Delaey (Belgium)</b>	<i>Mail in Motion, a Primary Function of the Railroads</i>	1st place - 92, G
<b>Willy Bats (Belgium)</b>	<i>The Omnibus – Transport for All</i>	2nd place- 87, LV
<b>Izhak Barak (Israel)</b>	<i>The Development of Aviation and Transportation of Mail by Air until 1914</i>	3rd place - 86, LV
<b>*Wendy Buckle (UK)</b>	<i>Paper Past and Present</i>	83, V
<b>Dr. Marcel Tschumi (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Bridges: Miracles of Technology from Four Perspectives</i>	82, V
<b>Hans-Jörg Brand (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Car-Mobile on the Way to the Third Millennium</i>	80, V

## Medicine and Science

<b>Teresa Miralles (Spain)</b>	<i>Nursing: to Care, to Teach, and to Comfort</i>	1st place - 90, G
<b>Eberhard Schmidt (Germany)</b>	<i>Comets, Asteroids, Meteoroids: Hikers in our Solar System</i>	2nd place - 87, LV
<b>Dr. Gerhard Giso Brosche (DE)</b>	<i>The Prohibition against Infection</i>	3rd place - 86, LV
<b>Pekka Klemi (Finland)</b>	<i>The Fight against Cancer through the Years</i>	80, V

## Animals and Plants

<b>Wilfried Fuchs (Germany)</b>	<i>The Fox and its Changing Relationship with Humans</i>	1st place - 90, G
<b>Heinz Bürki (Switzerland)</b>	<i>The Vibrant Variety of the Forest</i>	2nd place - 85, LV
<b>Toni Streit (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Mammals: Human, All Too Human and Superhuman</i>	3rd place - 84, LV
<b>Wojciech Wojtyra (Poland)</b>	<i>Adapt to Survive</i>	83, V
<b>Leif W. Rasmussen (Denmark)</b>	<i>Hunting and Fishing</i>	82, V
<b>Sijtze Douwsta (Netherlands)</b>	<i>Millions of Years Encapsulated in Stone</i>	80, V
<b>Erna Streit (Switzerland)</b>	<i>Birds: A Colorful World of Surprises</i>	80, V
<b>*Roger van Laere (Belgium)</b>	<i>Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean</i>	80, V
<b>Lajos Botos (Hungary)</b>	<i>Antarctica – The White Desert</i>	73, S

## Agriculture and Pets

<b>Sylvia Kälin (Switzerland)</b>	<i>I Love Chicken Farms</i>	1st place - 88, LV
<b>Hartmut Scholz (Germany)</b>	<i>The “Biography” of Beer</i>	2nd place - 83, V
<b>Wilfried Fuchs (Germany)</b>	<i>The Success Story of Wine – From the Vine to the Pleasure</i>	3rd place - 81, V

I wish to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for the results of ECTP.

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

# Membership

## New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with similar collecting interests, are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited. **This list includes new membership numbers 57770-57799 and recent reinstatements (membership through May 25, 2017).**

57787	ANDERSON, Phillip, 10414 Long Home Rd, Louisville KY 40291-4022	
57798	BAKER, Gary, <a href="mailto:palbook@aol.com">palbook@aol.com</a> 201 Pilgrim Point Dr, Lexington SC 29072-8210	Military, Scouts, Religion
57774	BENNER, Anne	
57779	BERLIN, Joe, <a href="mailto:jlnberlin@gmail.com">jlnberlin@gmail.com</a>	Bears, Triangles
57791	BHUNDHOO, Karamchandre, <a href="mailto:karam.bbundhoo@gmail.com">karam.bbundhoo@gmail.com</a>	Microbiology, Microscopes, Blood Transfusions
57773	CHAFETZ, Donald	
57776	COHEN, Joel	Baseball Stamps and Collectibles, Dinosaurs, Nature and Wildlife, Natural History and Conservation, Space Travel
57772	DESJARDINS, William, <a href="mailto:captdj60@gmail.com">captdj60@gmail.com</a> 4736 W Wallace Ave, Tampa FL 33611-5647	SCUBA diving, Underwater diving, United Nations
57796	DRESSER, George, <a href="mailto:g-dresser@suddenlink.net">g-dresser@suddenlink.net</a> 501 Fairview Ave, College Station TX 77840-2933	Bridges
53343	ELLIS, Gary	
57782	FERRER, Gilbert, <a href="mailto:gfferrerlaw@yahoo.com">gfferrerlaw@yahoo.com</a>	Freemasonry
56712	FLICKER, George, <a href="mailto:g.flicker@verizon.net">g.flicker@verizon.net</a> PO Box 280, Estell Manor NJ 08319-0280	Christmas, Halloween Stamps with unusual materials or topics
57788	FUENTES, Jonathan	Colombia, Space, Planets, Satellite
57775	GERSON, James	Religious Architecture, Nursing
	530 Beville Pl, The Villages FL 32163-6041	
57793	GOELLER, Dustin, <a href="mailto:djgoeller@kc.rr.com">djgoeller@kc.rr.com</a> 235 E Polk Ave, Claycomo MO 64119-3368	Animals
47844	GOODWIN, Timothy PO Box 856, Olive Branch MS 38654-0856	Dogs, Disney, Space



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57785	HAWK, Lance, <i>tokenmaven@comcast.net</i>	Birds
	17 Village Of Stoney Run Apt C, Maple Shade NJ 08052-2117	
56469	JANZ, Lisa	
56406	JOHNSON, Kathryn J., <i>kj5217@aol.com</i>	
	10 Obadiah Dr, Galena IL 61036-9624	
57789	JOHNSON, Steve, <i>steverman@rogers.com</i>	
56184	KAPLAN, Rob, <i>robkaplan@optonline.net</i>	Abraham Lincoln
57792	KOMATSOULIS, Angelo, <i>angelokomatsoulis@hotmail.co</i>	Birds, Mushrooms, Lighthouses, Insects, Golf
57784	KOSTRAK, Vadim	Structure
57799	LUCAS, Cran, <i>mclucas2000@hotmail.com</i>	Space, Aircraft
45986-DM	McADAM, Daniel, <i>daniel@akarius.com</i>	Religion, Angels, Saints, Madonnas
	PO Box 68221, Oro Valley AZ 85737-8221	
57786	McCORMY, James, <i>jmcormy@eastlink.ca</i>	Scouting, Endangered Species
	207-1 S Ridge Ct, Bridgewater NS B4V 9A6 Canada	
53579	MEAD, Leonard	
57790	MIYABARA, David	
54851	MONTELLO, Larry	
57773	MOSS, Mitchell, <i>mitchellmoss1964@yahoo.com</i>	Inauguration Event Covers, Political Covers
	9500 W Mayle Ave Unit 1027, Las Vegas NV 89148-4282	
57797	ORRELL, Reverdy, <i>reb@rebnora.com</i>	Life of Christ
	7965 Pipers Path, Glen Burnie MD 21061-6239	
57780	PEKALA, Brian	
57794	PLAYER, Brett	
57781	REFOSCO, Fabio	
57795	RINK, William	
57783	SMART, Reginald, <i>smartbooks2@shaw.ca</i>	Europe, Air Mail, Bridges

**Deceased**

8348	BJORGO, Brian (Wash.)	20515-DMOTT, Jack (Md.)
49491	BLATHERWICK, Robert (Colo.)	14029 WALLIS, William (N.J.)
55433	CIRRINTANO, Jerry (Ill.)	1817 WILKIE, David B. Jr. (Texas)
39620	IRESON, Raymond (Canada)	55617 WITT, Woody (Fla.)



## ATA Membership Recruiters

The following ATA members have recruited new members from April 4 through May 25, 2017. Their accounts in the ATA Bucks Bank will receive \$5 for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

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

**ATA Dealer Members shown in red**

**2017 Recruiters**

Hamman, Dawn and John	5	Fisk, Allan	1
Winnegrad, Mark	3	Morgenstern, Amanda	1
Congrove, Jack	2	Sazama, Robert	1
Davidson, Larry	2	Smith, Dale	1
Asher, Barbara	1	Stanton, Loraine	1
Bland, Dennis	1	Stout, Jean	1
Bruce, Sue	1	<b>Group:</b>	
Burke, Michael	1	Philatelic Society of Lancaster County	1
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## Remember to Use TopicalsOnLine!

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

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

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

### Editorial Content

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

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

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 American Philatelic Society  
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[www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)

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

*Canadian Stamp News*:  
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*Israel Philatelist*: Donald A. Chafetz, editor,  
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 USA  
[sipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:sipeditor@gmail.com); [www.israelstamps.com](http://www.israelstamps.com)

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[www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com](http://www.echo-de-la-timbrologie.com)

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 45365-0029 USA  
[dhouseman@amosmedia.com](mailto:dhouseman@amosmedia.com); [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)

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

*Philatelic Exporter*: Graham Phillips, editor,  
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 Hampshire, BH24 3SH, United Kingdom  
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[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

*Philatelic Exhibitor*: Randy L. Neil, editor,  
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*philatelica.ro*: Dan Dobrescu, editor, Sos. Stefan CelMare Nr 4, B114 Sc B, Ap47,  
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*Stamp Insider*: Albert W. Starkweather,  
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[www.stampinsider.org](http://www.stampinsider.org)

*Stamp Lover*: Michael M. Goodman, editor,  
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[www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm)

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

[julia.lee@mytimemedia.com](mailto:julia.lee@mytimemedia.com)  
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*Stamp News Australasia*: Kevin Morgan, editor, PO Box 1290, Upwey, Victoria, 3158, Australia  
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*U.S. Stamp News*: John Hotchner, editor,  
 PO Box 1125, Falls Church VA 22041-0125 USA.  
[www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com)

# Show Calendar

**Sept. 8-9, 2017, Arkansas.** Fortieth Annual Stamp, Picture Postcard and Postal History Show, sponsored by Mountain Home Area Stamp Club. Ramada Inn, Business 62 and Commerce Drive, Mountain Home, Ark. Exhibits, 12 Dealers, Free Evaluations, Door Prizes and Beginner/junior table. Free Admission & Parking. 10-5 Friday, 10-4 Saturday. Contact Craig Grothaus.

Email: [grot@centurytel.net](mailto:grot@centurytel.net)

**Sept. 15-17, 2017, Texas.** Greater Houston Stamp Show, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas. Free admission and parking, 33 dealers. Contact Ron Strawser.

Email: [ghss2017@earthlink.net](mailto:ghss2017@earthlink.net)

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

**Oct. 6-8, 2017, Indiana.** Indypex 2017 Stamp Collectors Show, Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds & Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant St., Noblesville, Ind. Hours are 10-5 Friday, 10-5 Saturday and 10-3 Sunday, 34 dealers, APS WSP show. Contact Rick Nelson.

Email: [janelsonnccp@comcast.net](mailto:janelsonnccp@comcast.net)

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

**Oct. 14-15, 2017, Canada.** Canpex 2017, a two-day national philatelic exhibition and bourse hosted by The Middlesex Stamp Club (APS World Series Show), Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Road West, London, Ontario Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4, Free admission and parking.

Website: [www.canpex.ca](http://www.canpex.ca)

**Oct. 21-22, 2017, New Mexico.** NewMexPex 2017, sponsored by the Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho NM. Hours are 9am-5pm Saturday, 9am-4pm Sunday. Exhibits, eight dealers, gifts for kids, door prizes and more. USPS show cancel and booth, plus a "What's in Your Attic" table and lots of stamps. Free admission and parking. Contact Joan Karrie.

Email: [jimenie@his.com](mailto:jimenie@his.com)

**Nov. 4-5, 2017, Michigan.** Aapex 2017, sponsored by Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive (north of Clark Rd-Golfside intersection), Ann Arbor, Mich. Exhibits, 29 dealers, cachetmakers Saturday, ATA and youth tables, USPS and UN Postal Administrations, free parking and admission. 10-5 Sat, 10-4 Sun. Contact Harry & Dottie Winter (734) 761-5859.

Email: [harwin@umich.edu](mailto:harwin@umich.edu)

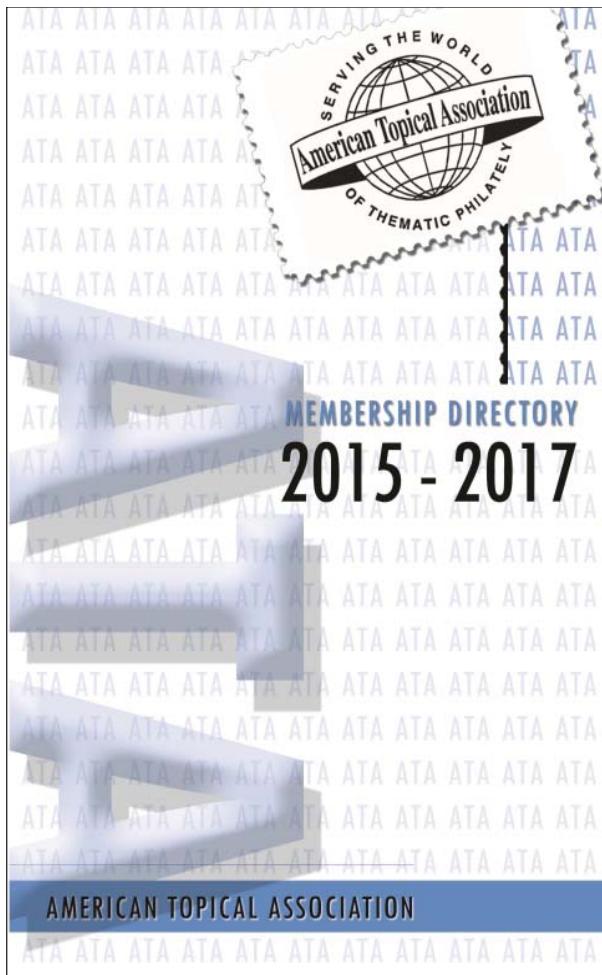
Website: [www.annarborstampclub.org](http://www.annarborstampclub.org)



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.

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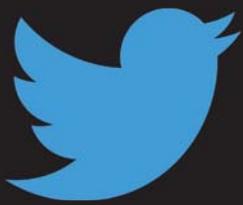
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# TOPICAL

ISSN 0040-9332  
USPS 633680

# TIME

July-August 2017 Vol. 68, No. 34 Whole Number 404

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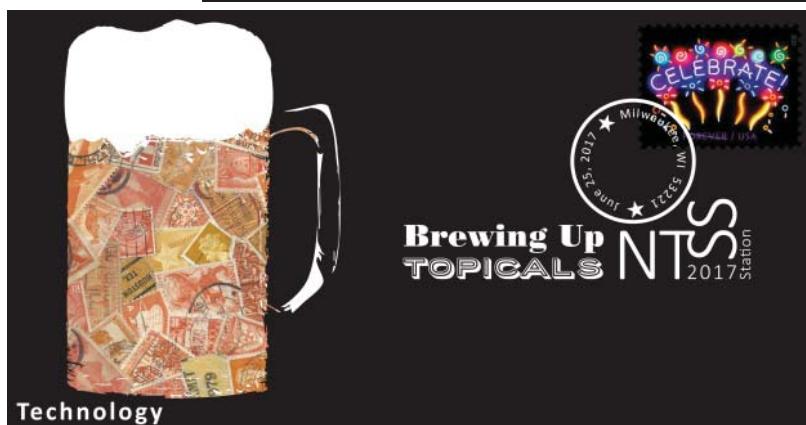
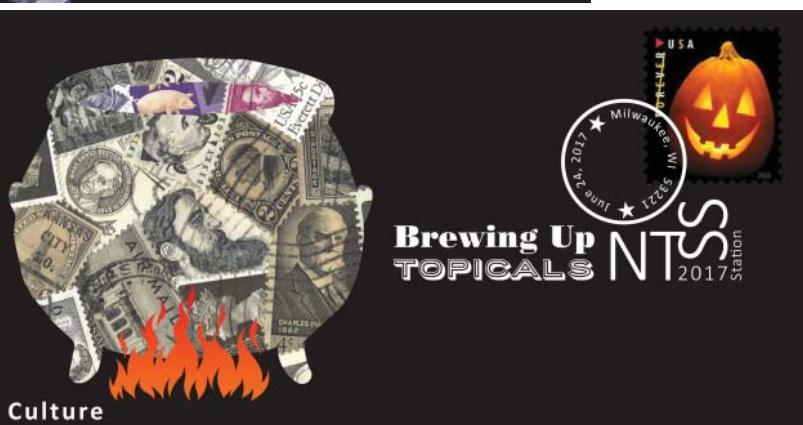


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