

MILWAUKEE LOOKS GOOD TO ME ~

MAY•JUNE 2017

# TOPICAL TIME

'GROWING'  
A TOPICAL OR THEMATIC  
PART III

VERA FELTS  
NAMED 2017 ATA DTP!



MY STORY...  
BY APS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SCOTT ENGLISH



JOURNAL OF THEMATIC PHILATELY | AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION | \$5.00

WE'RE BREWING UP TOPICALS IN MILWAUKEE!

# A Letter From the ATA Board...

The ATA board has just gone through a long and challenging budget-making process. With much regret, we have had to make the decision to raise the price of a regular ATA membership by \$5 a year to \$35. We want you to know that we have not made this decision lightly, and have done so only because costs have increased in many areas. For example, our printing costs have increased more than eight percent since 2014. Computer, internet and “the cloud” contribute to efficiency and are essential in the 21st century, but add costs as well.

The increase, effective, July 1, is for a regular membership with a subscription to the printed *Topical Time*. The membership cost for an online subscription (read issues online) will remain at \$25. For those who look forward to a printed issue of *Topical Time* in their mailboxes, we know you will want to continue your regular membership for the additional \$5. Many of us enjoy reading our *Topical Time* over days or weeks, and storing the copy for future reading.

During the year, we also ask you to contribute beyond your membership fee – if possible – to fund ATA programs, because membership fees do not cover expenses. During the past year, you were very generous. We hope you know that ATA maintains a “bare bones” budget, and uses your membership and contribution dollars carefully. Our goal is to maintain, and continue to increase, our services to members – and to avoid dipping further into reserve funds. We hope you will give beyond your membership dues again this year.

**So, on to some good news.** Our checklists are better than ever. *Topical Time* is the premiere journal in the world for thematic/topical philately. We promote philately and help hobby newcomers at many shows across the country. And we are actively planning for the National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee, June 23-25. Like all philatelic organizations, we are facing challenges. But we know that topical collecting is a growing area of our hobby and, together, we will Buck the Trend.

**More good news:** Until June 30 of this year you can prepay your ATA membership through July 1, 2022 (up to five years in advance), at our current membership rates. Contact the ATA Office if you want help calculating the amount to pay. Or, simply renew for multiple years within that time frame.

**We hope to see you in Milwaukee!**

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

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## Contents

A Letter From the ATA Board.....	2
<b>Boldly to the Future.....</b>	<b>8</b>
About the Cover.....	11
Vera Felts Named 2017 DTP.....	17
NTSS 2017 at a Glance!.....	18
President's Reception Venue Change.....	19
A New Approach to Philatelic Research.....	19
Preliminary Dealer List, NTSS 2017.....	20
NTSS 2017 Exhibits.....	22
MyStory.....	33
<i>By Scott English (Pennsylvania)</i>	
<b>Study Unit Spotlight, Esper:</b>	
The "27" Club.....	38
<i>By Don Neal</i>	
Penguins on Stamps is Featured Study Unit at NTSS.....	60
Growing a Topical or Thematic III.....	61
<i>By Wayne L. Youngblood (Wisconsin)</i>	

## Regular Features

About ATA.....	10	Membership Recruiters.....	87
Award Winners.....	28	Meters Bt Topic.....	68
Back to Basics.....	29	My Topic.....	26
Chapter Chatter.....	69	Show Calendar.....	90
Cinderella Corner.....	43	Topics on Postmarks.....	37
Dale's Dialogue.....	06	Units in Action.....	49
Encouraging Exhibiting.....	45	Vera's Views.....	12
Foreign Thematic Exhibits.....	83	Wayne's Impressions.....	14
Index to Advertisers.....	90	Webmaster's Log.....	58
Lonely Onlys.....	48	Youth in Topics.....	79
Membership.....	86		

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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

### How Many Members Does it Take to Run a Show?

I have been sitting at my desk many hours over the last couple of winter months working on different projects for the ATA. Occasionally I looked out on my wooded lot and noticed – for four weeks – a Red Breasted Woodpecker pecking at a tree. During that time he/she worked tirelessly at pecking a hole into an eventual nesting site. Working long hours a day, the bird enlarged the hole, cleaned out the sawdust and pecked some more until the whole body of the bird could disappear into the hole. The tree is probably dead but I will not have it cut down. I could not destroy the work of this woodpecker.

What does this have to do with ATA, Dale? Likewise, this winter I have witnessed the voluminous amount of work our board members, member service coordinators and volunteers are putting into getting ready for the National Topical Stamp Show. I have been amazed by the work they contribute to the day-to-day activities of ATA. The ATA is totally reliant on our volunteers. We do ask a lot of them. This is a volunteer-run organization with only 1.75 paid employees in the ATA Office. Dozens of volunteers have been loyal members for many years, giving this organization so much of themselves to help meet the needs of our members.

I am going to name names here. **Sue Jones** has done an extraordinary job in planning the NTSS tours, arranging the buses and so many other things. **MaryAnn Bowman**, known for her lifelong dedication to helping at youth tables and working to interest young persons in stamp collecting, is another wonderful volunteer. She is helping by giving input about our silent auction and organizing the local clubs in assisting during the set up and take down of the show, as well as many of the other jobs that need volunteers. I know that **Bob Mather** is doing the same thing in organizing club members to help with delivering the exhibition frames to the show hall.

Speaking of the exhibition, I should mention **Rob Henak**, NTSS Exhibits Chair, who is in charge of getting exhibits and working with the judges. He has put in a terrific effort in bringing this together. **Beth Collins** will be putting together the silent auction, which is a huge job organizing philatelic items donated to ATA to be auctioned off all three days of NTSS. **Amanda Morgenstern**, our graphic design artist and website manager, is working on the show program, managing advertising by dealers and study units and sponsors of NTSS. She puts in a huge amount of volunteer time, not just now, but throughout the year. She juggles many tasks for ATA.

But what has impressed me immensely is the work of our NTSS Show Manager **John Hamman** and his wife, **Dawn**. John has managed every aspect of this year's show. He is a great detail person, putting in an unbelievable amount of time this last nine months. He is overseeing everything it takes to stage a National Topical Stamp Show. The amount of dedication and effort John has given is overwhelming.

Without a dedicated show manager, it would be impossible to make it happen. Thank you, John!

Dawn Hamman also handles so many jobs that I can't keep up with her. Besides her many contributions to *Topical Time*, the dedication to The 1949 Society and her responsibilities as First Vice President, she also has been working with John on NTSS. She has been scheduling the entire three days of the event – no small effort. She has been planning meetings, balancing the demands for rooms and working with study units and dealers procuring ads. She also sends reminders to me about what I need to manage. She is keeping all of us on task to have the weekend of June 23-25 run as smoothly as possible.

I have been to many NTSS events over the years. I had some idea of what was involved, but never the detail that everyone goes to to make it a seamless three-day event for all members who attend. I know I have omitted many from this article who contribute their efforts. You will be recognized in the future. But I have a great respect for all you do to make NTSS happen. None of us on the board take for granted the immense amount of work everyone does to make our national event a success. Thank You.

One last thought. I found myself looking through the March-April issue of *Topical Time* at the thank you to all of our financial contributors in 2016. I was astonished to see the massive list of names starting on page 17 through the next four pages – almost 400 members. There was page after page of name after name, of members from all over the world – you, our members who have contributed financially to support this organization. It doesn't matter the amount contributed; you gave what you could. Saying "Thanks" is hardly sufficient to recognize your generosity. This organization manages its dollars very tightly. We have to. Your contributions to the Boldly To The Future (BTTF) campaign, your in-kind donations, stamps for postage, collections and more help make one-third of the revenue needed to provide the member services of the American Topical Association. We had the largest number of BTTF contributors in recent history in 2016. I took the time to look at every name in that list and reflect on your individual contribution. We sincerely thank you. I hope to see you in Milwaukee. ☐

## 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.

## The Future of Our Hobby? Let's Ask an Expert

In the April issue of *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, John Hotchner has an insightful article on the past – and future – of our hobby. As many of you know, John is a lifelong collector (70 years), a past APS president, past member of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and a member of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists. He is among a small group of most-noted philatelic authorities in the world.

His article discussed the past and, especially, the future of our hobby, noting the changing trends. He relates how acquiring materials has changed (the Internet and other sources), the challenges of getting started in the hobby and costs involved.



In his section titled, “What is collected has changed,” he writes the following:

*“In the good old days, we collected countries. Some of us even attempted the world. No More. Now it is topicals that rule – with specific time periods of countries rather than the entire country a close second.”*

Of course, topical collectors already know this! We have an area of collecting that can be done by a beginner, a “serious” collector of countries looking for a fun outlet or a person with a special interest he or she wants to pursue (railroads, cats, butterflies and so on).

Thank you, John, for pointing out something we ATA members know: Topicals play a vital role in the future of our hobby.

ATA members have shown their support for our popular collecting area, and have financially supported our organization. When you respond to ATA appeals, or add a few extra dollars to your dues or your purchase of checklists and handbooks, you help ATA maintain and increase services.

Thank you for everything you do to support ATA.

<b>2017 BTTF Goal:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Received (to April 15):</b>	<b>\$5,049</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.



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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.

## NTSS Topical Show Almost Here

We are all looking forward to the favorite annual event of topical collectors: The National Topical Stamp Show. It will be great to see old friends and make new ones. Our variety of events – programs, meetings, social events and informal gatherings – will provide many opportunities to chat with other collectors. Be sure to stop by the ATA table to sign our member book.

There's still time to volunteer to help with the show. We can use your help at the ATA table, registration or other tasks. Please volunteer by contacting the ATA Office, by emailing Igor Grigorian at [igorgrig@pacbell.net](mailto:igorgrig@pacbell.net), or come by the ATA table when you arrive at the show.

The ATA annual meeting will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 23. Please join us for an update on the many projects and activities of your ATA.

We have dealers offering items for every collector – topicals of course, but also countries worldwide, covers, and other specialty areas..

## Recent Shows and New Members

**March 18: Nashville Stamp Show**, Nashville, Tenn. Ambassadors: **Janice Erbach, Amanda Morgenstern, Vera Felts**. New Members: 3

**March 31-April 1: St. Louis Stamp Expo**, St. Louis, Mo. Ambassadors: **Sue Bruce, Vera Felts**. New Members: 4

**April 22: Stamp Out Cancer Auction**, Moline, Ill. Ambassador: **Dick Perrin**

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

**April 29-30: Plymouth Show**, Westland, Mich. Ambassadors: **Lorraine Stanton, Sandy Strzalkowski**.

## Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

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

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

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

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

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

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

**June 3-4: Sunpex**, Orlando, Fla. (see Newt Kulp)

**June 10: Ozark Mountain Stamp Event**, Springfield, Mo. (see Don Chenevert)

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

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

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

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

## Volunteers Needed!

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

### Facebook Assistant

If you are familiar with posting, monitoring and managing Facebook, we would appreciate your help with the ATA site.

### Proofreaders

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

### Have you seen philatelic articles in non-philatelic pubs?

We are looking for articles written for magazines or journals not affiliated with stamp collecting. Examples would be cats on stamps for *Cat Fancy* magazine, or birds on stamps in a magazine about birds. Please watch for them and contact Dale Smith at (816) 734-4536 or [thedale.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:thedale.smith48@gmail.com).

## BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

### About the Cover

This month's cover features the image of a vintage picture postcard promoting Milwaukee. It is part of a series we're running this year of postcards related to one of the primary features in each issue of *Topical Time*.



This particular postcard, produced in 1908 by John T. Faber of Milwaukee, features a Germanic-looking fellow peering out over the Milwaukee skyline. He's piloting an unusual airship. A beer stein is the gondola, a keg is the balloon, sausages make up the straps and rotating beer bottles are the propellers, with the inscription at top, "Milwaukee Looks Good to Me ~"

The original card will be made available at the NTSS 2017 silent auction, which always features interesting and unusual items. Here's your chance to own a real piece of *Topical Time* history – the actual card used for the cover! 



# VERA'S VIEWS

Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

## Stamps Should be Shared!

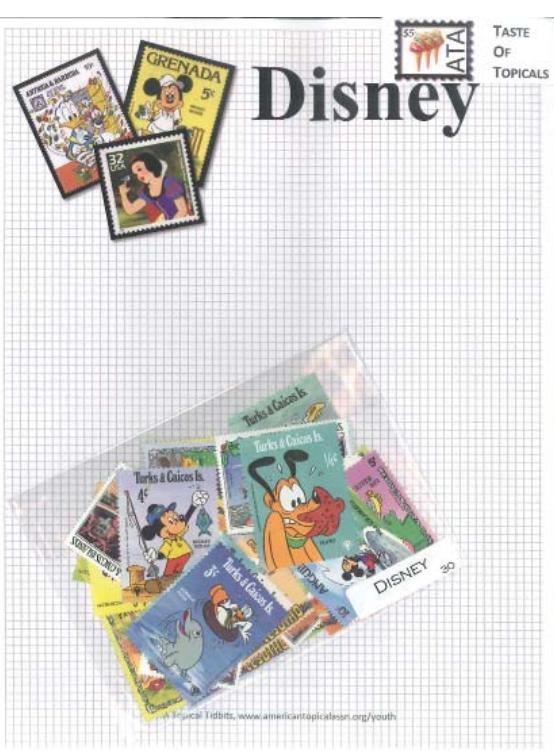
Those words must be a mantra for several ATA members. Wonderful mixtures of stamps have recently been sent to the ATA office by **Henrik Rossell** of Maryland and **Ron Tabbert** of British Columbia. And a gorgeous donation of ~7,828 (more or less) Disney stamps was mailed in by **Marilynn Ream** of Pennsylvania. Thanks to everyone who shares either duplicates or mint postage with ATA. I assure you that your donations are being put to good use.

**Taste of Topicals.** About two years ago, ATA began offering Taste of Topicals beginner topical stamp collecting kits. The kits contain 30 stamps, five album pages, hinges and beginner information, all housed in a clear page protector. They are priced at \$4 for ATA members, \$5 for others. The idea for the kits came from **Jean Stout** of Mississippi, who was leading a team of our board members working on ideas for promotion. It was thought the kits would be a good item to offer for youth collectors. They are – but we initially misjudged the audience a bit. About 2/3 of the

kits are purchased for adults and 1/3 for children. The kits are labor intensive to create, but we have had some wonderful volunteers who have put time and energy into their production—notably **Allan Fisk** of New York and **Sue Bruce** of Illinois. Almost half of Marilynn Ream's Disney stamp donation (previously mentioned) has already been used to create Disney Taste of Topicals beginner kits. Some of those are already being enjoyed by our members and others who purchased them at stamp shows.

The largest effort of all to help ATA produce the Taste of Topicals has come from **Barbara Asher** of Georgia. She must have spent

*Example of a Disney Taste of Topicals collecting kit.*



hundreds of hours making up wonderful stamp packets for a wide variety of topics. Over a period of several days, **Carol Costa** of Ohio did the initial sorting of stamps donated to ATA, and Barbara has now fine-tuned them into almost a hundred interesting topics, from Archaeology to Fruit, from Masks to Trucks, from Military to Royalty. Folks who attend NTSS will have first chance at purchasing some very interesting Taste of Topicals kits. Cows, anyone? After all, we will be in Wisconsin!

ATA members and Study Units can help with this effort by putting 30 different stamps of the same topic in a labeled glassine or paper envelope and mailing them to the ATA Office. If you have fewer than 30 stamps on a particular topic, simply indicate the number that are in the envelope. This project is a great way for study units to promote their topics to beginners.

All of our Ambassador tables where goods are sold at shows will now have some Taste of Topicals beginner kits for sale. For a list of currently available topics, see the ATA website or contact the ATA Office.

**Scrapbooking and Stamps.** At the ATA roundtable meeting at St. Louis Stamp Expo in April, member **Mike Burke** of Missouri shared wonderful topical stamp albums he has made. Mike tells stories with his golf stamps by interspersing the stamps with many kinds of ephemera he has assembled related to his favorite sport. He has an entire large binder for his favorite golfer, Arnold Palmer. Scrapbooking isn't just for ladies, or just for crafters. It's an idea that many topical philatelists could run with! Do you have just a few stamps on an oddball topic that you'll never "grow" into a large collection? Think about doing something special with them by telling a story with additional nonphilatelic items.

I hope to see you in Milwaukee at NTSS! Our show will have an outstanding array of speakers and exhibits. Something for everyone—including you!!! ☺



*Mike Burke shares his collection of golf with Vera Felts during a roundtable ATA meeting held during the recent St. Louis Stamp Expo.*



# WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Wayne L. Youngblood, *Topical Time* Editor

## *Our Friends at Johnson Press*

As I was returning home from the recent St. Louis Stamp Expo, I finally had the opportunity to stop in at Johnson Press of America ([www.jpapontiac.com](http://www.jpapontiac.com)), ATA's partner in publishing for almost five years.

JPA, located in an unassuming (but large) building in Pontiac, Ill., prints, processes and mails *Topical Time*. I had a wonderful visit with Teresa Masching, Marie Bailey and Ann Adkins. Teresa has been our customer service contact since we first began working with Johnson. She is handing over the reins to Marie Bailey, effec-



**From left: Marie Bailey, Ann Adkins and Teresa Masching of Johnson Press of America in Pontiac, Ill.**

tive with this issue. Ann is president and Chief Operating Officer of JPA. I thought this would be a good opportunity to give you a quick glimpse of a different, rather behind-the-scenes, aspect of our society's journal.



**Above: A warm welcome to JPA!**

**Right: Large rolls, or webs of various types of paper used for the many publications produced by JPA.**





**Left:** The receiving end of the Super Perfector press at JPA.

**Below:** An examining station for checking print quality during the press run of a publication.



Upon my arrival at JPA, I was surprised to find a sign in the lobby specifically welcoming me to the plant (not the plant in the background, the printing plant). After a brief visit in the conference room we were off to tour the facility.

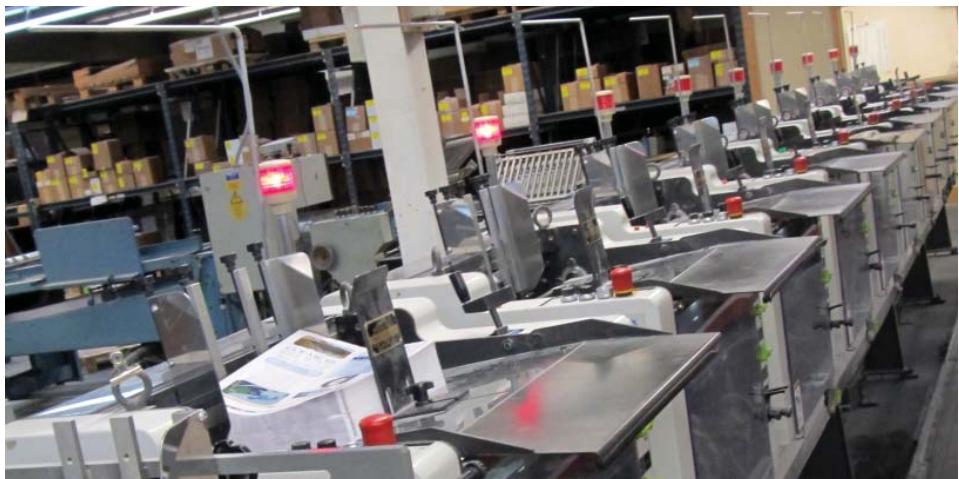
Johnson Press, founded more than 70 years ago, in 1945, specializes in niche publications with circulations of 12,000 and fewer. Many of the 330 or so publications JPA produces are various forms of hobby journals, ranging from philatelic and numismatic to autos, horses and more. Serving this many customers, from initial file upload to final product requires the creation between 160-220 printing plates per day!



Printing (all offset lithography) is done on a four-color Komori Lithrone 40SP 4-over-4 Super Perfector press, capable of printing at speeds of 10,000 impressions per hour. In simpler language, perfecting means the press prints both sides of the paper at one time, maximizing efficiency. Although the press itself is a sheetfed press, JPA orders tons (literally) of webs, or large rolls of paper that are then slit to the needed size right on the press, before printing. If you wish to dig a bit deeper, here's

**Left** The black color station of the lower level of the press, which shows a printing plate being changed out.





**The multi-pocket stitch station, where it all comes together – literally. Magazines are assembled by signature, then stitched in a fashion that resembles staples.**

a link to footage of installation of one of these presses, as well as a quick look at its operation: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHYtnDr9Txo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHYtnDr9Txo). JPA, like the printing firm in this video, had to create a lower, recessed area in the floor to accommodate the new press. Once printed, *Topical Time* is left on pallets to dry for 24-48 hours before folding, stitching and trimming.

Throughout the printing and processing of various jobs, JPA captures virtually all waste and recycles it. This is all part of JPA's absolute commitment to "green printing," from the company's use of nothing but paper created from sustainable forests (which means one tree is planted for every one cut), to ink from renewable sources, as well as

recycling everything, including the printing plates. JPA also has refit its entire facility to be more energy efficient as well.

As we wandered through the plant, I was impressed at the efficiency of JPA throughout. We met and visited with several prepress, pressmen and others, all who seemed genuinely glad to meet a happy client. Of course, this is typical of JPA's wonderful customer service. Any time there is a problem, there is always someone there to help. Here's to many more years! ☺



**JPA is absolutely committed to recycling. Here, waste from printing and processing gets shredded and baled. The white tube in the background is one of several that collects paper dust from equipment. This, too, is recycled.**

# Vera Felts Named 2017 DTP

For her wide-ranging contributions to philately, Vera Felts has been selected to receive the American Topical Association's highest award at our annual meeting during the NTSS awards banquet on Saturday, June 24 in Milwaukee.

As ATA executive director since 2009, Vera has brought innovation to the office and many of our programs. She spearheaded the highly successful ambassador program which has resulted in hundreds of new members, and managed the transition to a new topical checklist database, which has made ATA's signature checklists better than ever.

For the past 18 years she and her husband Bill have chaired the registration committee for the St. Louis Stamp Expo. She edited the APS gold award-winning newsletter of the Southern Illinois Stamp Club for 15 years and co-founded its Sirpex local show.

A life member of APS, Vera served eight years as coordinator of its newsletter exchange. At the Science Center in Carbondale, Ill., she founded a youth stamp group, serving 165 youths over 16 years.

Known as the "Gingerbread Lady" in southern Illinois, Vera bakes hundreds of cookies each holiday season to benefit her church, and also collects gingerbread and other gastronomy topics on stamps. Her other collecting interests include cachets, healthy living (anti-tobacco, alcohol and such) and body parts on stamps.

Vera is revered throughout philately for her devotion to helping people advance and enjoy topical collecting. To the members of ATA, she is the friendly and helpful lady behind emails or on the phone and at shows. She works every day to promote and enrich our hobby of topical collecting.

Vera's husband, Bill Felts ("Mr. Vera"), is a consummate philatelic widower who has supported her philatelic career. Vera has two children, Nicole (Cal) Pelly, MD, of Bainbridge Island, Wash., and Baird (Alissa) Webel of Chevy Chase, Md., as well as three grandchildren. She continues to promote stamp collecting to her family – but she has been far more successful in promoting it through ATA to the world! ☺



# NTSS 2017 at a Glance!

It doesn't matter if your summer day's "brew" is a frosty iced tea or a mug of suds-topped beer, this year's National Topical Stamp Show is just the thing for every topical collector.



Details of the many show events are on the ATA website. Here are a few highlights—

**What:** National Topical Stamp Show, a World Series of Philately event, ATA Annual Meeting and gathering of topical collectors to share interests and have fun!

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, free shuttle from airport, free parking. Our \$99 show rate will be honored only through June 7 by calling (414) 764-5300 and using code NTS. See the ATA website for hotel information. Entry fee \$5 for all three days.

**When:** June 23-25, 2017. Plus, half-day tour of Cedarburg, historic mill town, June 22, and full-day tour of The Swiss Historical Village & Museum (New Glarus) and much more, June 26.

#### Activities at a Glance:

- A unique all-thematic philatelic exhibition.
- Dealers with topicals as well as stamps, covers and more for those with other interests, including countries, postal history and specialized areas.
- ATA Annual Meeting and tribute to thematic exhibiting pioneer, Mary Ann Owens.
- **Speakers:** *Barry Stagg, Thematics in Great Britain*  
*Jack Congrove, Make Your Own Album Pages by Computer*  
*Ed Andrews, Topical Exhibits*  
*Jack André Denys, Mary Ann Owens Lives*  
*Norma Nielson, Using Genealogy Resources for Philatelic Research*  
*Dale Smith, Removing Self-Adhesive Stamps from Paper*
- ATA Study Unit meetings and programs.
- Presentation of the ATA's highest award, The Distinguished Topical Philatelist.
- **Social events:** President's Reception, awards banquet, hospitality suite for informal gatherings.
- **What's Best?** Spending time with old friends, making new friends and sharing the world's best hobby! ☕

**Need NTSS 2017 info?**

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

# President's Reception Venue Change

The President's Reception for NTSS 2017 was previously scheduled to take place at the Karl Ratzsch Restaurant, which has now closed. This casual event is designed to provide plenty of good food and opportunities to visit with friends, old and new. The President's Reception is an ATA tradition we are delighted to continue. The new venue information is as follows:

## President's Reception

### Taste of Milwaukee

Friday, June 23, 2017

Sabre Room, Milwaukee Crowne Plaza Airport

6:00 cash bar, featuring local beers

6:30 Dinner

Please join us for a Taste of Milwaukee, and sample the foods for which Milwaukee is best known: bratwurst on a Kaiser roll, char-grilled burgers and potato salad. The evening's fare will include a selection of salads, kettle-cooked potato chips and desserts – all served buffet style. Cost is \$36.

Due to the reception venue change, NTSS Friday show hours have been extended to 6 p.m. for extended shopping pleasure.

For more information about the Thursday and Monday tours, please see the ATA website: [www.american topicalassn.com](http://www.american topicalassn.com). ☐

## A New Approach to Philatelic Research

*Using Genealogy Resources for Philatelic Research* is the topic of a program by Norma Nielson on Sunday, June 25, during NTSS. As a gold medal-winning philatelic exhibitor and a genealogist, Norma will share resources she has found to help her research for her collections and exhibits.

Norma's exhibit, *The Story of Lloyd's: From Coffee to Commerce*, won the reserve grand at NTSS in 2007. She has authored many articles in philatelic publications, and has shared her work at Calgary (Canada) Philatelic Society meetings and Caltapex stamp shows. ☐



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

# Preliminary Dealer List, NTSS 2017

The following dealers are all confirmed to be present for NTSS 2017. It is possible there will be more dealers who sign up before the show. Updates to this list will be found on the ATA website ([www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)).

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# NTSS 2017 Exhibits

## Topical

**Greg Balagian**, *Animal Toponyms on United States Postmarks* (6 frames) Topical Marcophily. This topical exhibit is an excursion through United States cities, towns, villages and other places that bear names of various animals.

**Lyman R. Caswell**, *They Came to America* (7 frames). An exhibit of philatelic materials honoring foreign-born Americans and their contributions to American culture and technology.

## Thematic

**Philip J. Stager**, *The Coconut Palm, Palm of Life & Palm of Commerce* (8 frames). The story of the Coconut Palm from its humble origins to the most economically important palm in the world for both the people of the tropics and the industrialized world.

**Bill Dipaolo**, *The Gentleman From Pennsylvania* (8 frames) Postal History-Thematic. The life and times of James Buchanan, 15th President, as told by the postal history of the time.

**Jean Wang**, *The Story of Blood: Myth to Medicine* (5 frames). This thematic exhibit shows the history of blood from ancient times to the establishment of the field of transfusion medicine and modern-day blood banking.

**Conrad Klinkner**, *Games of the Xth Olympiad - Los Angeles 1932* (5 frames). This exhibit covers the period from the initial effort to obtain the 1932 Olympics and ends with the closing ceremonies of a very successful Games.

**Jack André Denys**, *The Bayeux Tapestry* (8 frames). The Bayeux Tapestry is a 950-year-old embroidery depicting William the Conqueror's invasion of England and victory at Hastings. It was almost destroyed in the French Revolution and by the Nazis. This thematic exhibit presents the Tapestry's story, mystery, history and celebrity.

**Leroy Crain**, *Ancient Egypt* (4 frames). This is a thematic exhibit to introduce the viewer to a brief overview of the history, food, medical knowledge, architecture, art and belief systems of the Ancient Egyptian society.

## Display

**Dawn R. Hamman**, *Backyard Chickens* (5 frames). A comparison of chicken-keeping in Grandpa's day with how it is being done today.

**Jack R. Congrove**, *Alexander Hamilton: Soldier, Financier, Statesman, Founder* (8 frames). This eight-frame display exhibit uses philatelic material, postcards, significant historical ephemera and other noteworthy collateral items to illustrate the events in Hamilton's life and to highlight his influence on the government, economy, politics and society of the United States.

**Susan Jones**, *Gombessa: The African Coelacanth Letimeria chalumnae* (6 frames). Key milestones in science, politics and philately tell the story of a big ugly blue fish known as the African coelacanth. Once thought to be extinct, our story opens in 1938 with the capture of the first living specimen.

**Philip J. Stager**, *The Wonderful World of Bamboo* (7 frames). A display-type exhibit, organized thematically, that explores the world of bamboo and its many uses by man.

**Greg Balagian**, *The Lion - Most Symbolic Animal of All* (7 frames). This display exhibit is an exploration of the origin, development and application of lion symbolism in human culture throughout millennia.

**Larry Nix**, *America's Library – The Library of Congress* (9 frames). This Display exhibit tells the story of the Library of Congress: its history, its collections, its services and the role of mail in its history.

**Larry Nix**, *The American Library Association in World War I* (2 frames). This Display exhibit tells the story of the Library War Service of the American Library association in WWI.

**Ed Bergen**, *Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse* (5 frames). Early (1930s) postal paper and other ephemera items relating to Mickey's immediate & world-wide cultural significance.

**Ed Bergen**, *Walt Disney's Second Superstar: Donald Duck* (5 frames). Early (1930s & '40s) postal paper and other ephemera items relating to Donald's immediate cultural significance & ultimate contribution to military morale during WWII and the Korean conflict (1950s).

**Kathy Johnson**, *The Evolution of Slave Island, Ceylon* (5 frames). A display exhibit of Slave Island, Ceylon, showing the evolution of the town through its mail and relevant collateral materials.

**Barb Harrison**, *An Old-Fashioned Country Vet (1880-1940)* (4 frames). Factual combined story of father/son veterinarians in Hunterdon Co., N.J., 1880-1940. Included are his home office, instruments, work clothes, farm animals and more.

## Flown Mail

**Ray E. Cartier**, *Flight: Types of Craft That Have Flown Covers and Covers That Were Flown* (3 frames). A diverse grouping of mail flown on a wide variety of means including pigeons, balloons, aircraft and spacecraft.

## Illustrated Mail

**Robert R. Henak**, *Spuds: Potatoes in the U.S. at the Turn of the Last Century* (6 frames). This thematically organized Illustrated Mail exhibit uses contemporaneous advertising covers and some ephemera to portray the production methods, uses and folklore of potatoes in the U.S. roughly between 1875 and 1925.

## Postcard

**Dawn R. Hamman**, *The Jewel City - Postcards of the Panama Pacific International* (8 frames). A visit to the last opulent, over-the-top world's fair ever held.

## One-Frame

**Philip J. Stager**, *The Royal Palm*. A geographical study of the world's premier landscape palm in nature and the urban environment.

**Susan Jones**, *The Making of Illuminated Manuscripts*. Learn the painstaking process used to craft the wildly extravagant gilded initials, intricate miniature paintings and elaborate borders found in illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages.

**Jean C. Stout,** *Honoring "Old Glory."* This exhibit will illustrate how to respect, care for and display our nation's flag.

**Clemens A. Reiss,** *Competitive Rowing: Errors and Oddities.* Stamp designers seldom understand this sport, which leads to design errors. The rowers themselves have been involved in some odd races and achievements.

**Greg Balagian,** *The Lynx.* This single-frame thematic exhibit is a study of all four species of the Genus Lynx.

**Anthony Curiale,** *Petroleum - A Philatelist's Story.* This exhibit presents a brief history and overview of the industry through the exhibitor's eyes.

**Fran Adams,** *The United Nations and Palestine: 1947-1951.* This exhibit documents efforts between 1947 and 1951 of the fledgling United Nations organization to settle the land dispute between the Arab and Jewish populations in the Palestine Mandate.

**Ray E. Cartier,** *Apollo/Soyuz Test Project.* An exhibit of space covers highlighting the story of this single U.S./U.S.S.R. flight from inception to completion, and how it led to personal friendship.

**Robert T. Burney,** *Feathers & Fur on Stamps & Hooks.* A comparison of two artistic disciplines focusing on the beauty of fly-fishing patterns: stamps and fly tying.

**Wayne L. Youngblood,** *Lost Almost: Los Alamos, NM, Post Office and WWII.* Exhibit traces tortured history of Los Alamos, N.M., Post Office, from establishment as seasonal (Otowi), name change, Manhattan Project 'secret city' and permanent office in 1947.

## Free-Style

**Donald Chafetz,** *Morristown, NJ and the American Revolutionary War* (one frame).

**Donald Chafetz,** *Add-on Cachets to Slogan Cancellation Covers* (two-frame). Hand-drawn color cachets added to previously canceled slogan covers.

**Fran Adams,** *The Mesozoic Times* (one frame). Mysterious Secrets in our mail revealed for the armchair postal historian.

## Noncompetitive

Noncompetitive exhibits will be featured from United Nations Philatelists, Penguins, American Topical Association, Ships on Stamps and possibly other Units.

**Edwin J. Andrews,** *Hats - Protection, Identity, Fashion* (10 frames).

## Court of Honor:

**Mary Ann Owens,** *Badgers* (4 frames)

**Mary Ann Owens,** *Aspinwall Connection* (8 frames).

**Mary Ann Owens,** *The Date is June 24* (5 frames). ☐

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# My Topic

## Bruce Johnson

*Dawn Hamman*

Bruce Johnson knows how to add to the fun of his topical collecting, by sampling wine in addition to looking for stamps that picture wine! He is an enthusiastic

member of the Wine on Stamps Study Unit, and plans to enjoy their activities at NTSS in Milwaukee.

He answered some questions about his topic.

**Q. How did you choose your topic of wine on stamps?**

A. My interest in stamps came first, about age eight. Then, at about age 10, I got to drink my mother's rhubarb wine, "for medicinal purposes only" – we were a very progressive family! I began collecting wine on stamps in the late 1990s. I had joined the ATA by then, had visited wineries in Napa/Sonoma and was very pleased that Jim Crum had the vision to begin the Wine on Stamps Study Unit.

**Q. How long have you been collecting wine stamps?**

A. I had a modest collection on the topic previously, but after I joined the Wine on Stamps Study Unit in about 2002, I began to collect the topic seriously. I've remained a steadfast proponent ever since.

**Q. What have you enjoyed about it?**

A. One of my greatest pleasures has been to co-host, with our president, David Wolfersberger, wine tastings at several National Topical Stamp Shows. Folks going to NTSS are invited to bring wines from their home states – that's a breeze for me, since I live in California! The tasting features a short study unit business meeting, then tasting the array of wines that have been brought, along with assorted cheeses and other goodies. Attendees are even able to vote for their favorites! It's a fun event that we will repeat this year, and you don't have to be a member to attend!

**Q. What are the challenges?**

A. First, as with any topical collection, figuring out the best way to house my wine on stamps collection. Second, setting aside sufficient time to "work" the material I acquire. Third, paying for it, although the last of these has never been much of a



problem. Isn't that one of the glories of stamp collecting? You don't have to spend a fortune unless you want to!

### **Q. Tell us about your involvement with the Wine on Stamps Study Unit.**

A. When Jim Crum became ill in 2004, the study unit went on a two-year hiatus until August 2006. David Wolfersberger led its revival. David contacted former members and asked for volunteers to assist in the revival effort. I edited the group's quarterly journal, *Enophilatelica*, for 10 years, until health challenges forced me to relinquish that position in 2016. David has ably carried on the editing duties since then.



### **Q. What other things do you enjoy in our hobby?**

A. I still have my boyhood collection of U.S. plate blocks. I collected Scandinavia, several East European countries, Greece, Israel and Japan. I sold all my country collections when I moved to California four years ago. Currently, besides grapes and wine on stamps, my focus is a topical collection on the history of printing, and the book as a physical object. The Graphics Philately Association is the ATA study unit responsible for that topic. In fact, I edited its publication, *Philateli-Graphics*, for more than 10 years, and I just completed editing the 4th edition of Winnegrad's

*Printing on Stamps*, which will be available later this year.

### **Q. Anything we haven't asked that you would want to add?**

A. Yes! Join the Wine on Stamps Study Unit; you'll be glad you did! Bring a bottle of wine to share and join us. The Wine on Stamps Study



Unit will meet at noon on Saturday, June 24, in the hospitality suite at NTSS. ☎

## **About The Adventure**



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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

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

The **Sarasota Stamp Show** awarded the ATA first medal to **\*Barbara Harrison** for her exhibit, *An Old-fashioned Vet 1880-1940*. **\*Clemens Reiss** received the ATA second award for *Competitive Rowing – Errors and Oddities*.

*Walt Disney's First Superstar: Mickey Mouse*, by **\*Edward Bergen**, received the ATA first award and *Tidal Power: Electricity from the Ocean*, by **\*Dennis R. Amos**, received the ATA one-frame award at the **Southeastern Stamp Expo**.

**OxpeX/Otex 2017**, held in Canada, awarded the ATA first award to **Henny Uyl** for the exhibit, *Christmas: The Birth of Jesus Fulfillment of Prophecy. Gone to the Dogs*, by **\*Betty Thomas**, received the ATA second award, while **\*Ken Magee** got the ATA third award for *Stamps of the Summer Olympics 1896-2012*.

**Mia Fillion** received the ATA Youth award at **Ameristamp Expo** in Reno, Nev., for her exhibit, *The USDA "My Plate" Food Plate – Mapping out the Foods*.

**Springpex** presented the ATA first award and the ATA one-frame award to **Ms. Jerry E Hume-Pratuch** for her exhibit, *The Atlantic Puffin*. The ATA second award went to **\*Carol Ann Visalli** for *Light Up the Sky with Fireworks and More*. **Charles B. McGinley** received the ATA third award for his exhibit, *Mathematicians and Polymath on Stamps and Covers*. ☐

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



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# BACK TO BASICS

## Jack André Denys

*This month we feature a reproduction of ATA's Basic Guide to Topical Collecting pamphlet.*

Copies available from ATA or print at:

[www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/basic\\_guide\\_to\\_topical\\_collecting.pdf](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/basic_guide_to_topical_collecting.pdf)

- **WHAT IS TOPICAL COLLECTING?**

A topical collection consists of stamps chosen for their topic or design. In many countries it is called a *thematic* collection.



- **WHY MIGHT I BE INTERESTED IN COLLECTING "TOPICALS"?**

Many collectors are drawn to the colorful designs – some even say they can be exciting! Often new collectors begin with topicals – and many stay with them because they enjoy finding out about the person, animal, place or event pictured on them. Others benefit from their contacts with other collectors of the same topics. Many enjoy topicals because there are no printed album pages to fill – they like the freedom of arranging their collection any way they choose. There is no burden of needing to “complete” a topical collection – you collect whatever you prefer. Traditional collectors sometimes turn to topical philately when they have completed their collection, when they can no longer afford the stamps they don’t have, or when they want something different. They come to cherish the philatelic freedom of topical collecting. So will you!

## • WHERE CAN I OBTAIN TOPICAL STAMPS?

You may obtain stamps from incoming mail of people you know, by trading with other collectors or buying from dealers at stamp shows or online. Dealers who advertise in *Topical Time* especially offer topicals.

You can browse through the stock of dealers who arrange their stamps by topic. You can also use your "want list" to look for specific stamps from dealers who organize their store by *Scott* catalog numbers - which you will have on your want list.

*Much of  
the fun of  
collecting  
is in the  
search!*

## • HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT A SPECIFIC TOPIC?

ATA members who share a specific topic band together to form "study units" to share knowledge and encourage research. They publish specialty journals. There are about 50 units in the ATA, including Biology, Christmas, Engravers, Halloween, Judaica, Penguins, Railroads, Scouts, Space and Sports. The ATA publishes print and electronic "handbooks" on popular topics, such as Disney, Insects, Ships, Birds and Computers. The ATA website lists them all:

<http://american topical assn.org/studyunits.shtml>

## • HOW CAN I STORE MY TOPICAL STAMPS?

Almost any way you like! Since everyone's topical collection is different, many collectors use blank pages rather than printed ones. Or they produce their own customized pages by using a computer. Or they keep their collections in "stock books," which allow the stamps to be easily moved. You may be as flexible and creative as you like. There is much freedom in topical collecting!

## • **WHAT TOPIC MIGHT I COLLECT?**

Any topic you want! Many collectors choose a topic related to their personal lives – where they've lived or worked, a favorite writer, artist or sport. Typical topicals include space, Harry Potter, Scouts, trains, birds and animals. Less common ones include mosquitoes, candles, fireworks, beer, venereal diseases, Dracula, tattoos, marijuana, rock and roll, and fingerprints. You can collect any topic that appeals to you. Members of the American Topical Association (ATA) collect more than 1,000 topics, ranging from abacus to zoos.

## • **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT TOPICAL COLLECTING?**

The ATA, largest topical organization in the world, is a huge source of information. Members live in about 60 countries and are encouraged to communicate with others who have similar interests.

The ATA's gold-award winning journal, *Topical Time*, edited by Wayne Youngblood, is published six times a year both in print and electronic editions. Its 92 pages include informative topical articles on various topics and regular features on different aspects of topical philately, including topical postmarks and meter stamps. A digital archive/searchable index to all 65 years of the journal is available.

## • **HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT STAMPS FOR MY TOPIC?**

You could spend countless hours paging through a stamp catalog. Or you can join the ATA and purchase ATA's "checklists." They list a stamp's country, date of issue, denomination, catalog number and description. Checklists for 1,200 topics are available for a very nominal price, to members only, either in electronic or printed form. As long as you continue to be a member, you may request free annual updates. And, if there isn't a checklist for your topic, the ATA will create one just for you! The next step would be to make a "want list" of stamps you would like to have.

- **WHAT IS A THEMATIC EXHIBIT?**

Some collectors like to share their collections publicly by creating exhibits, which they enter in stamp shows. They may do this for pleasure, for awards or both. They usually enjoy doing the research and often make new friends.

The ATA's annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) includes about 20 thematic exhibits (as well as dealers, meetings and seminars). A thematic exhibit tells a story, illustrating that story with a wide variety of philatelic "elements." There are hundreds of kinds of elements, including stamps, varieties, covers, coils, booklets, postmarks, meter stamps and postal stationery.

To understand a thematic exhibit, look for

- "*Thematic knowledge*" - text above items tells the topic's story.
- "*Philatelic knowledge*" - text below items explains the items.

Sample pages of recent NTSS winners:

<http://american topicalassn.org/exhibiting.shtml>

- **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ATA?**

The ATA website at

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

is a treasure of information. ATA's slogan is "Boldly to the Future" because we believe that thematic collecting is the future of philately. The American Topical Association is for beginning collectors. And the ATA is for advanced philatelists, too.

It's all . . .



American  
Topical  
Association

[american topical@msn.com](mailto:american topical@msn.com)

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# My Story

*Scott English*

In 2016, I logged more than 40,000 miles across the country visiting stamp



shows, stamp clubs and promoting the hobby to just about anyone who would listen – and just as many who wouldn't. At almost every stamp club, we would have a question and answer session and, without fail, a topical collector would stand to identify themselves. As they listed their areas of interest, they would also ask why the APS did not support topical collecting. On cue, I would reach for my wallet

and pull out my ATA card and recite my member number from memory. Not only was I supporter, I am a believer!

I can still remember when I joined the American Topical Association. It was August 21, 2015, and I had been Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society for 11 days. We were having our annual Stampshow in Grand Rapids, Mich., and when I walked onto the floor, Jean Stout took me by the hand and led me over to the ATA booth, where she and Vera Felts signed me up. It was my second philatelic membership, after the APS. Once I filled out the application and received all sorts of great items introducing me to the ATA, I was welcomed by each ATA member at the booth. The warmth of that moment has not left me in all the time and travels since.

In the months that followed, my wife, Kendra, joined the Halloween Study Unit and was able to go in person to a meeting at Americover last year. Denise Lazaroff took her around, helped her find some new items to add to her collection and gave her tips on buying and services through the ATA. Now, whenever we're at a stamp show and a collector or dealer grabs me on the floor, Kendra will wander off in search of more stamps. Her collection is growing fast and she reads *Topical Time* and **Bubbling Cauldron** from beginning to end. None of that would have been possible if it weren't for the committed collectors that make up the ATA.

The hobby's greatest strength are the people in it. When you ask someone what they collect, just listen to the response. He or she will speak passionately about their collection in intimate detail. You can learn a lot about a person in what they collect, and what you learn helps us form the community we are. There was a time when the organized part of our hobby was not as unified as it should have been, but thanks to the people involved now, we are making great progress.



## **Forging a Friendship between the APS and ATA**

Starting with that moment in Grand Rapids, the partnership between the APS and the ATA has grown to be a strong one. I met Dale Smith in New York City last May at the World Stamp Show NY2016 and we talked at length about our respective visions for the hobby. It turns out we had a lot in common about where we believed the hobby was and where we wanted to see it go. Many philatelic organizations are suffering the same frustrations, shrinking memberships, tight budgets and an aging group of volunteers – neither the APS or ATA has been immune to that.

That meeting, and a few just like it, sparked the Summit on the Future of Philately at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pa. If you were unable to attend, you can still view the summit on our Facebook page or read the report from the meeting at [www.stamps.org/userfiles/file/reports/FOP-Summit-Summary.pdf](http://www.stamps.org/userfiles/file/reports/FOP-Summit-Summary.pdf).

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Out of that summit, we formed the Council on Postal Collectors, made up of leadership from the APS, ATA, American Stamp Dealers Association, National Stamp Dealers Association, the National Postal Museum, Amos Media and the United States Postal Service. The council met in December and again in April. Dale and Trish Kaufmann, APS vice president, are spearheading an effort to recruit writers to promote the hobby through other – nonphilatelic – organizations to demonstrate the crossover appeal of stamp collecting. The group has been meeting regularly and, in time, I believe it will expose a wide range of noncollectors to the world of stamps. Dale has invested countless hours of his time and talent to working across the hobby to improve our outlook and as an ATA member, I am proud of his leadership.

## **The Road Ahead**

While we are making progress, there are some issues that we will

need to address further in time and I'd like to share those challenges with you:

**1. Our Business Model:** Our hobby has been slow to adapt to the world around us. Stamp shows and stamp clubs – the fixed assets – have been our means of educating, connecting and selling for more than 100 years. If you've noticed the rise of companies such as Amazon or Facebook, you know that people are buying and connecting in different ways. While it is not for everyone, the audiences that use them are too large to ignore. We should meet the people where they are. We know there are approximately 150,000 collectors

buying and selling on eBay in the United States alone. Yet many of them have not found a reason to join organized philately. APS members know we are in the midst of a fundraising campaign to overhaul the website, build a nonmember database of collectors who buy and sell online and create an on-demand library of education programs that collectors can access 24/7. This is aimed at increasing recruitment of younger-than-50 collectors, who cannot be active in clubs or shows, but collect stamps.

**2. Partnerships in Action:** The APS/ATA partnership is not just one on paper, it is one in reality. ATA and APS leaders communicate regularly and are actively working together to promote and serve the hobby. In June, I will be at the National Topical Stamp Show to talk more about this partnership and how it will benefit the hobby. The same is true of the local stamp clubs and other affiliates that you belong to, and I would encourage you to get those partnerships moving.

**3. Capacity:** The hobby has relied on volunteer strength for a long time and



*The author, at NY 2016, celebrating the recovery of an Inverted Jenny missing since 1955.  
Photo courtesy New York Daily News.*

**MINT, TOPICAL SETS RARELY OFFERED BY OTHER SOURCES.**

**PLEASE SEE MY EBAY STORE:**

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

**THANK YOU, PETER MORVILLE**

it has served us well. Unfortunately, life moves at a different pace for people in my generation or younger, and giving time is their greatest challenge. People are starting families later, working longer hours and the hobby is competing with so many other things. The infrastructure to serve our hobby is large, but our ability to maintain it has decreased. Partnerships are a good start, but – ultimately – we will need to marry our resources in much closer ways so that we can maintain our effectiveness. This is a tough conversation, but one that will be very necessary as we move ahead in the years to come.

It's easy to be discouraged when the hobby has had years of setbacks in growth and activity. Even though the Chicago Cubs took 108 years to win the pennant again, the fans showed up on opening day every year. We are making great progress and together, we can make it happen faster than that. I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please feel free to contact me at [scott@stamps.org](mailto:scott@stamps.org), or send a letter to me at: 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte PA 16823. 

***Scott English has been the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society since August 2015. He is also a member of the ATA (#57333).***

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# TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

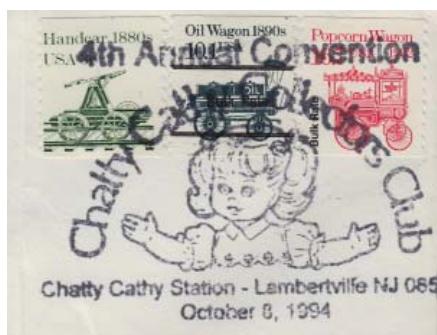
## Wayne L. Youngblood

### The Types of Postmarks Available

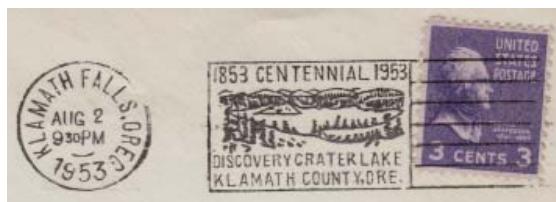
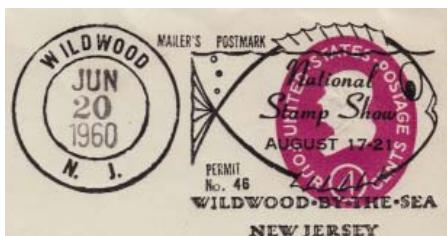
*Due to a serious illness, George DeKornfeld was unable to produce his regular column this issue. We hope he will be able to resume his column soon.*

Regardless of what topics you are collecting, as you search for those beyond-the-catalog items represented by cancellations and postmarks, you will encounter a number of different types. It is a helpful thing to be able to identify the differences between them.

**Machine.** Machine cancellations can be text-only, pictorial or a combination of both. They also can be nationally or locally focused. Because of the cost of producing metal die-hub cancellations, local machine cancels are fairly unusual, and good strikes are quite desirable.



**Printed.** There are some pictorial cancellations that are printed, rather than applied with a device. These are – in many cases – non-standard, small-run types not typically applied to collector mail. The impressions from these are



**Handstamps.** Hand-stamped cancellations make up the largest majority of topically related postmarks. They may be small, large, simple or elaborate. Impressions vary considerably depending upon ink, paper and pressure applied.



usually very uniform in appearance.

**Mailer's Postmark.** Occasionally, those who have a mailer's postmark permit will create a pictorial device for personal use or an event. These are few and far between and are highly collectible. ☐

# Study Unit Spotlight

## This Month: Esper

*[Editor's Note: This is the 39th installment of a regular feature intended to – indeed – spotlight one of our study units and the fine work done in its journal. This month we feature “The ‘27’ Club,” from the October 2016 Reflections. To be considered for “Study Unit Spotlight,” please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal during the past year or so (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it to the Topical Time editor ([wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward ([stamps@jeffhayward.com](mailto:stamps@jeffhayward.com)). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]*

### The “27” Club

Don Neal

**Robert Johnson** (1911-38) is a member of the “27 Club.” The words “27 Club”

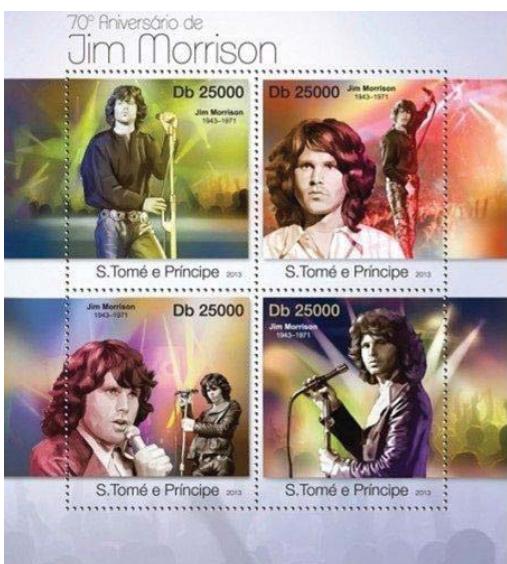
refer to the strange phenomenon of influential musicians dying untimely deaths at the age of 27. The term may not have existed during Johnson’s time, but it became notable to music fans when four musical visionaries – Brian Jones, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison – all died at the age of 27 between 1969-71. At the time, the coincidence gave rise to speculation, but it was not until the death of Kurt Cobain, about 2½ decades later, that the idea of a “27 Club” began to catch on, and conspiracy theories caused some to do histori-



**Robert Johnson**, as pictured on U.S. Scott 2857, 1994.

cal research. While the club has been largely connected to musicians, it has expanded since, as many young actors and artists have lost their lives due to everything from high blood pressure or addiction to suicide and freak accidents. And, as morbid as the subject may be, the “27 Club” and many of its members have become a topical interest for stamp collectors, although the practice of philatelically “honoring” many these people is not without controversy. Many have not yet been featured on postage stamps, but some

**Jim Morrison stamps issued in 2013 by São Tomé and Príncipe on the 70th anniversary of his birth.**



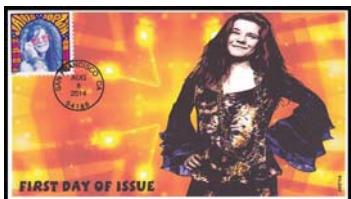


**July 3, Jones was found unresponsive in his swimming pool and died later that day.**

may be found on pictorial cancels, meters or other related items.

Johnson was one of the masters of Delta Blues. His premature death is steeped in legend. During his lifetime, Johnson was largely unknown, playing on street corners and dive bars, but eventually he recorded chilling, folkloric songs about hellhounds, the Devil and general despair amid swinging, dissonant, sometimes off-kilter guitar lines, the likes of which have since reverberated through rock & roll for decades. In

August 1938, just a few months after his 27th birthday, some witnesses, including blues legend Sonny Boy Williamson, claimed Johnson made moves on the wife of the jealous owner of a roadhouse where he was playing near

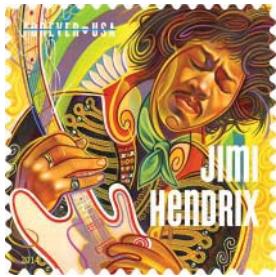


**The stamp shown below left, part of a sheet of four Rolling Stones stamps issued by Chad in 2015, includes Brian Jones (center). On June 8, 1969, following the recording of Let it Bleed, Jones was asked to leave the band. The cover at left notes that milestone. Less than a month later, on**



**Janis Joplin stamp released in 2014 (Scott 4916) by the United States (top) and in 2013 (above) by the Central African Republic to mark the 70th anniversary of her birth.**

**Janis Joplin FDCs created by ESPER members (from top left) John Colasanti, Nirlay Kundu, Tom Peluso and Dave Curtis.**



The U.S. Jimi Hendrix stamp of 2014, Scott 4880.

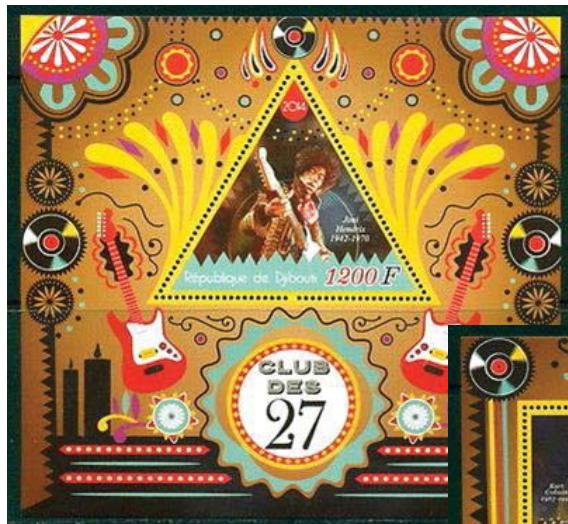
Greenwood, Miss., drank from an open bottle of whiskey he was offered and died three days later of strychnine poisoning and pneumonia. In 1961, a reissue of Johnson's recordings made his music known to a wide audience. Eric Clapton has called Robert Johnson "the most important blues singer that ever lived."

Other members of the "27 Club" include legendary rock icon **Jim Morrison** (1943-71), the rebellious lead singer of the Doors, whose hits included *Light My Fire*; Alan Wilson (1943-70), co-founder, lead singer, and songwriter for the American blues rock group Canned Heat. Wilson studied

the history of blues, and his biggest influences included Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters. Canned Heat's song, *Going Up the Country*, reached No. 11 on the charts in 1969; **Brian Jones** (1942-69), founder and original leader of the Rolling Stones; and **Janis Joplin** (1943-70), with her passionate raw vocals, came to prominence as the lead singer of the San Francisco psychedelic blues band Big Brother and the Holding Company, hitting it big with *Piece of My Heart* in 1968.

When **Jimi Hendrix** (1942-70) died, the world arguably lost the greatest guitarist ever. Jimi could sing as well, and his band, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, created

classic hits such as *Purple Haze* and *Foxy Lady*. **Ron "Pigpen" McKernan** (1945-73), was one of the founding members of the Grateful Dead, along with his friend Jerry Garcia. The band's song *Truckin'* was recognized by the United States Library of Congress in 1997 as a national



Shown above and at right are two sheetlets issued by Djibouti in 2014, marking the "27 Club," featuring Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain. They were part of a set of four that also featured Amy Winehouse and Jim Morrison (Morrison and Winehouse sheets not shown).



treasure. Other members include **Pete Ham** (1947-75), lead singer, songwriter and guitarist for the rock band Badfinger, the first act signed to the Beatles' Apple record label. Their hits included *Come and Get It* (written and produced by Paul McCartney), *No Matter What* and *Day After Day* (produced by George Harrison); **Kurt Cobain** (1967-94), legendary singer, guitarist and primary songwriter for the band Nirvana, wrote the band's signature song, *Smells Like Teen Spirit*; **Amy Winehouse** (1983-2011), who gained critical acclaim with her powerhouse vocals, original lyrics and eclectic mix of musical genres, and who won five Grammy Awards in 2008 for her album *Back to Black*. She was a fan of the 1960s girl groups and borrowed her hairstyle and makeup aesthetic from groups such as The Ronettes.

To date, the "27 Club" has almost 60 members. **Alexandre Levy** (1864-92) was a Brazilian composer, pianist and conductor. He is perhaps the first-known member of the "27 Club." Other Black members include **Louis Chauvin** (1881-1908), a ragtime musician primarily remembered today for *Heliotrope Bouquet*, the rag in which he shares compositional credit with Scott Joplin.

**Jesse Belvin** (1932-60) was an R&B singer, pianist and songwriter popular in the 1950s. His composition, *Earth Angel*, was recorded by the Penguins and became one of the first R&B singles to cross over onto the pop charts, selling a million copies in 1954-55. His biggest hit was *Goodnight My Love*, which reached No. 7 on the R&B chart.

**Rudy Lewis** (1936-64) was known for his work with the Drifters as the lead vocalist for a string of hits, including *Please Stay*, *Some Kind of Wonderful*, *Up On The Roof* and *On Broadway*. On the day after he died, the group was set to record *Under The Boardwalk*, which had been written for Lewis. Former lead vocalist Johnny Moore was brought back to perform lead vocals



Also in 2014, Mozambique issued a souvenir sheet of four stamps (below) commemorating Nirvana and the 20th anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death.



In 2011, Guinea-Bissau issued a souvenir sheet of three stamps in tribute to Amy Winehouse.



**The Ronettes**, shown on this 1995 issue from Mali. Amy Winehouse patterned her hair style after those worn by the Ronettes and other “girl groups” of the 1960s.

for the recording. Dyke and the Blazers was an influential funk band led by **Arlester “Dyke” Christian** (1943-71). Among the group’s most successful records was the original version of *Funky Broadway*. **Linda Jones** (1944-72) was a soul singer with a strong gospel-influenced style. Her biggest success, the ballad *Hypnotized*, reached No. 4 on the Billboard R&B chart and No. 21 on the Hot 100. **Jacob Miller** (1952-80) was a Jamaican reggae artist who became the lead singer for the reggae group Inner Circle.

The band achieved major success in the 1970s with Jacob Miller as the lead singer, but split up after his death in 1980. The group reformed in 1986 and had a major hit with the 1987 song, *Bad Boys*, which serves as the theme song for the long-running television program *COPS*. ■

## Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections

Organized in 1988, the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER) promotes the philatelic study of Black people and events related to the African Diaspora. When founding member Esper G. Hayes met Jesse Owens at a stamp show, they both noticed they were the only African Americans in attendance. Owens suggested that Esper find a way to take pride in themselves, which was the inspiration for the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections. With members in more than 200 countries, the organization’s members visit schools, libraries and civic centers to introduce children and African Americans to philately and to promote Black History. In addition to ESPER’s award-winning quarterly newsletter, ESPER also has covers and philatelic material available for sale to members. More information about ESPER can be found at the website [www.esperstamps.org](http://www.esperstamps.org), or by contacting Manuel Gilyard at PO Box 1757, Lincoln Station, New York NY 10037-1757.



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# CINDERELLA CORNER

## *Arthur H. Grotén*

### Centenary of Charles Dickens, 1912

Charles Dickens (1812-70) is generally considered the finest novelist of the Victorian era. His output was prodigious despite having no formal education. His fame and literary importance remain to this day.

There have been many stamps issued in his honor. They are not the subject of this article.

Early Dickens ephemera is highly sought after. I was fortunate enough a year or so ago to obtain a cover franked with his signature. It was sent from the Wilshire St. office to Strand, and is dated Jan.



Figure 1. A stampless cover franked with Dickens' signature.

13, 1844 (Figure 1). This was shortly after his return from his first American tour. The chalk-surfaced calling card dates from that trip (Figure 2).

Such was Dickens' fame that the Centenary of his birth was celebrated internationally. The Charles Dickens Centenary Testimonial Committee issued a stamp as a fund-raiser in support of Dickens' descendants. It was engraved and printed by Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd. of London and New York.



Figure 2. Charles Dickens' calling card.



**Figure 3 (left).** Versions of a Dickens stamp released on the centennial of his birth. One is denominated for Great Britain, the other for the United States.

**Figure 4 (below).** A listing of patrons who helped support production of the Dickens stamp.

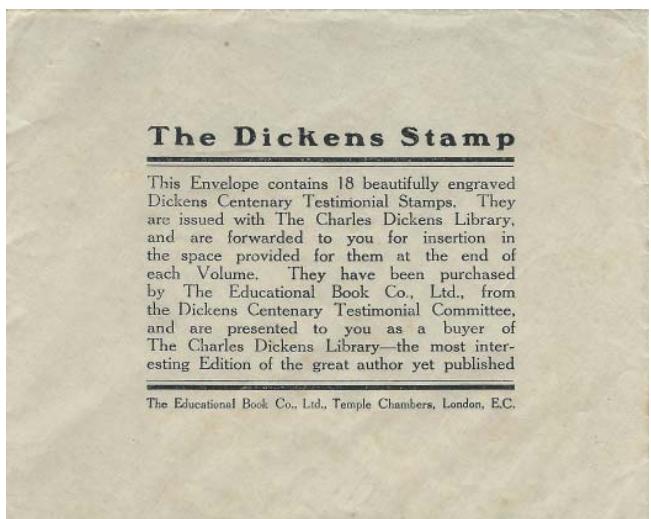
*The Charles Dickens Centenary Testimonial Committee:*

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Esq.	Esq.	ED.	FRANCIS ARTHUR JONES, Esq., Hon. Secretary, Press Club, New York.

The stamps, which are very similar, are denominated 1d (Great Britain) and 2¢ (United States), the latter being much scarcer (Figure 3). The sheets of 12 (four by three) were sold for 1/- and 25¢, respectively. They came in special envelopes listing the patrons on both sides of the Atlantic, a listing that included a Who's Who of the cultural world. Figure 4 shows the list found on the American version of the envelope.

A special nine-volume "Centenary Edition" of Dickens' works was produced as *The Charles Dickens Library*. Each volume had one of the testimonial stamps affixed either to the cover or in a special space at the end (Figure 5).

I know there are Dickens thematic collectors out there. Look for these and other items to spruce up your collection. 



**Figure 5.** An envelope that contained a sheet of Dickens "Centenary Testimonial Stamps."



# Encouraging Exhibiting (but not for exhibitors only!)

## Jack André Denys

### Philatelic Elements

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

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

The new *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting* (MOJE) notes the need for philatelic elements in a thematic exhibit:

*"A thematic exhibit develops a subject by illustrating it with a wide variety of appropriate philatelic material (3.5.13)."*

*"The use of a wide range of philatelic items is indicative of greater philatelic knowledge (APP. 2.1.13)."*

Likewise with the new topical exhibits:

*"Topical exhibits are composed of a variety of philatelic items (3.5.14)."*

*"It would show as many philatelic items as possible. (APP. 2.1.14)"*

The "Exhibiting" section of our ATA website, [www.americantopicalassn.org/exhibiting.shtm](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/exhibiting.shtm), includes a list of "Philatelic Elements for Thematic Exhibits," developed by the late Joan Bleakley in collaboration with Darrell R. Ertzberger and John M. Hotchner. The introduction begins:

*"Exhibits that reach the vermeil or gold award level contain a broad range of philatelic elements (postal stationery, covers, cancellations, postmarks, meter stamps, booklets, et al.). This listing is intended as a handy reference for preparing or judging thematic exhibits. It is by no means complete, nor would it be possible to have every element listed here in any one exhibit."*

The list itself contains hundreds of philatelic elements, all having postal connotations – the criteria for inclusion.

It is important that the variety of elements/items is spread throughout the exhibit. To that end, the late Mary Ann Owens, pioneer of thematic exhibiting in the US, developed a "Philatelic Elements Inventory Checklist" (*The Philatelic Exhibitor*, July 1991, reproduced on the following two-page spread). Mary Ann wrote, "When you stand back and look at the frames, no one or two elements

**Text of column continues on Page 48.**



MEMORIAL	
AIR MAIL	
OFFICIAL	
POSTAGE DUE	
REVENUE	
OTHER	
POSTAL STATIONERY	
POSTAL CARD	
ENVELOPE	
AEROPRAGMME	
OTHER	
CANCELLATIONS	
MACHINE	
HAND	
METER	
OTHER	
COVERS	
WITH 1 STAMP	
WITH MULTIPLES	
REGISTERED	
AIRMAIL	
DOMESTIC DEST.	
FOREIGN DEST.	
CENSORED	
MAXIMUM CARD	
OTHER	
MISCELLANEOUS	

should stand out. There can be too many singles, too many covers, ...too many anything.

"Many exhibitors are not aware that their elements are not spread out throughout the exhibit. They know they have many elements but they end up with some of them clustered when it is not necessary.... Some of your items will fit more than one category."

Mary Ann's inventory checklist is one way to identify the number of elements on each page, chapter or frame. As mentioned, it is printed on the previous double-page spread for you to duplicate (and adapt as you wish). Mary Ann cautioned, "Not all elements are available for every thematic." I recall her saying that she was never able to locate a coil stamp for her international large gold winning exhibit, *The Elephant*. ☐

## Lonely Onlys...

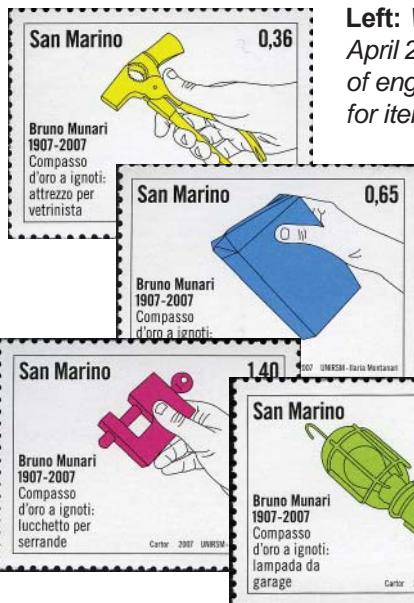
### Can You "Top" These Topicals?

*Mark Sommer*

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

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

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



**Left:** When San Marino released a set of four stamps April 20, 2007, celebrating the centennial of the birth of engineer Bruno Munari, it likely set several "firsts" for items on stamps, even though each is an everyday type of tool. From top, we see a window dresser's tool, paper carton (although could be considered the same as the milk carton), a roll-up shutter lock and a common caged trouble light. Similarly, we're fairly certain you've never seen an Allgloben on a stamp, shown below right on Sweden Scott 2559b (also from 2007), from a set of four. Swedish Innovations stamps. This device is a sealed flower vase allowing fresh flowers to be taken to allergy-sensitive environments.



# Units in Action

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

## Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA) ARPA Journal

ARPA-related highlights from last fall's Sescal Stamp Show, including awards won for five Armenian-related exhibits, are shown in the September 2016 ARPA Journal.

One of the awards was for Igor Grigorian's exhibit, *Incensed Armenian Scented Paper*, which has also been written about in the journal in the past.

Several pages of Armenian-related new stamp issues also appear in this issue.

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

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

## Biology Unit Biophilately

Lyman R. Caswell offers his second installment of the four-part article on "Alexander von Humboldt: The First Environmentalist." This installment explores von Humboldt's Orinoco



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Voyage and includes stamps depicting the many specimens he acquired on his voyages up the Orinoco River.

Numerous pages of biology-related new issue information is also provided in *Biophilately* for December 2016.

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

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

## Captain Cook Society Cook's Log

Margaret Cameron-Ash writes a short article asking "Did James Cook Meet Benjamin Franklin?" after discovering a pamphlet written by Franklin after Cook had recently returned from a voyage. The article appears in the January-March 2017 issue of *Cook's Log*.

The author corresponded with a Yale University professor who was able to confirm from one of Franklin's letters that he was, in fact, acquainted with Cook and had suggested methods Cook could use to preserve food on his voyages.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

or, \$NZ40 in New Zealand. Contact Brian Wyeth, 12 Baska Dr., Kerikeri, Northland 0230, New Zealand

**Email:** [nz@CaptainCookSociety.com](mailto:nz@CaptainCookSociety.com)

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

### Carto-Philatelic Society

*The New Carto-Philatelist*

The October 2016 issue of *The New*



*Carto-Philatelist* leads with an update to an earlier article with "Further lighthouse map stamps."

Several new lighthouse stamps with maps have been issued by Estonia and Latvia since 2013. The original article in 2013 included more than 80 lighthouse map stamps issued by 15 different countries.

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

**Email:** [mb37zx@aol.com](mailto:mb37zx@aol.com)

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

### Chess on Stamps Study Unit

*Chesstamp Review*

Joram Lubianiker reports two new chess stamp issues in the July-September 2016 *Chesstamp Review*. The first new issue, from Azerbaijan, is a minisheet of five stamps to commemorate the 42nd



chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The second new issue from Kyrgyzstan commemorates the Baku Olympiad and a minisheet of four stamps depicting chess positions.

Congratulations to the COSSU for celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2016!

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

**Email:** [keithfam@embarqmail.com](mailto:keithfam@embarqmail.com)

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

### Christmas Philatelic Club

*Yule Log*

Part four of "The Origins of Biblical

and Christmas-Themed Names" continues with Bethlehem in the *Yule Log* for October-December 2016.

Stamps and postcards associated with Bethlehem of Judea are shown in the article.

A large number of covers, postmarks and stamps are shown from cities around the world with the same name.

Also in this issue, Christine Sanders shared the American Christmas carol,

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*O Little Town of Bethlehem*, on stamps, covers and postcards from around the world.

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

Email: [jpba4stamps@windstream.net](mailto:jpba4stamps@windstream.net)  
Website: [www.christmasphilatelicclub.org](http://www.christmasphilatelicclub.org)

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

ESPER notes "Kwanzaa marks its 50th anniversary" in the October 2016 *Reflections* and makes note of the organization's event, ESPER Day. In addition to providing a history of Kwanzaa, Kwanzaa stamps and FDCs issued by the USPS are also shown in the article.

Also in this issue is an article on the "27 Club." The 27 Club refers to the death of notable musicians at the age of 27. There were 60 members of the 27 Club at the time this article was published.

Dues are \$25 in the United States, and \$35 elsewhere. Contact Manuel Gilyard, PO Box 1757, Lincoln Station, New York NY 10037-1757.

Email: [esperstamps@esperstamps.org](mailto:esperstamps@esperstamps.org)  
or, Earnest Shinault, Sr., 3523 Douglass Ave, Memphis TN 38111-5721.

Email: [eshinaulsts@yahoo.com](mailto:eshinaulsts@yahoo.com)  
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## Europa Study Unit

*Europa News*

*Europa News* leads with 10 fully



illustrated pages of Europa-related new issues. One of those new issues, from Vatican

City, celebrates World Youth

Day and depicts

Pope Francis

with children of different ethnic backgrounds.

The Europa Study Unit also included auction No. 135, with 250 lots in the November-December 2016 issue.

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

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

## Halloween Spooktacular Stamps & Stuff *The Bubbling Cauldron*

Several Halloween Study Unit announcements appear in the Summer-Fall 2016 issue of *The Bubbling Cauldron*.



HSS member Mark Kooger also shows his philatelic interests and how he began collecting Halloween-related stamps.

Several Halloween-related tales and poetry also appear in this issue.

Dues are \$15 in the United States and Canada, \$20 elsewhere. Contact Denise Lazaroff, PO Box 624, Simpsonville, SC 29681-0624.

Email: [deniselazaroff@gmail.com](mailto:deniselazaroff@gmail.com)

Check out  
[www.TopicalsOnline](http://www.TopicalsOnline)

## **Journalists, Authors, & Poets on Stamps (JAPOS) JAPOS Bulletin**

Edward Janusz writes a biography of Norwegian poet, "Henrik Wergeland, Romantic of the North," in the Spring 2016 issue of *JAPOS Bulletin*. Wergeland used poetry to explore his nationalism and love of Norway's geography and nature.



Henrik Wergeland appears on only four stamps issued by Norway.

Dues are \$9 in the United States, and \$12 elsewhere. Contact Clete Delvaux, 800 E. River Dr, Unit B, De Pere WI 54115-4159.

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

or, Mark Winnegrad, 1450 Parkchester Rd, Apt 5A, Bronx NY 10462-7622

## **Judaica Thematic Society Judaica News**

"Rembrandt's Masterwork: Moses with the tablets of the law" is the lead article in *Judaica News*, January 2017. Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg shares



the biblical narrative of Moses bearing the tablets, and Rembrandt's painting, which appears on two stamps issued by Antigua & Barbuda and Nicaragua.

The painting was completed in 1659 and is housed in Gemäldegalerie, Berlin.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available, in electronic format only, at no cost. Contact Gary Goodman at the following email address.

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

## **Lighthouse Stamp Society The Philatelic Beacon**

Paul Longcrier starts a new series, "Lighthouses of South Korea - Part One," in *The Philatelic Beacon*, January-February 2017.



In his series, Longcrier will write about some of the 41 South Korean coastal lighthouses that have been commemorated on philatelic items. Part One begins

with the history of two lighthouses from Busan, which is the largest South Korean seaport.

The Baseball and Baby Bottle Lighthouses are just two of many unconventional lighthouses in the "City of Lighthouses," also appearing in this issue.

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

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

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

# Masonic Study Unit

## *Philatelic Freemason*

The Masonic Study Unit announces the recent discovery that James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens was listed as a Brother of King David Lodge No. 100 in Illinois. Jesse Owens set three world records for the long jump, 220 yard sprint and 220 yard low hurdles. He also won four gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

Dues are \$10 in the United States, \$12 in Canada and Mexico and \$16 elsewhere. Contact Robert A. Domingue, 59 Greenwood Road, Andover MA 01810.  
**Email:** [radpm67@gmail.com](mailto:radpm67@gmail.com)

Email: [radpm67@gmail.com](mailto:radpm67@gmail.com)

or, Gene Fricks

Email: *genefricks@comcast.net*

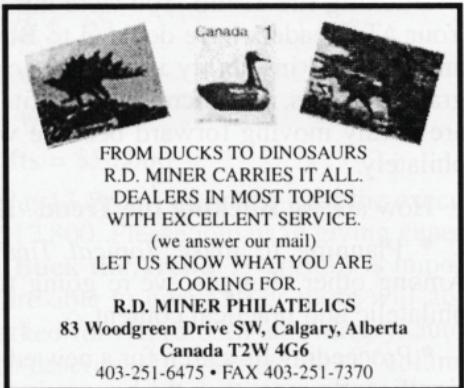
# **Mathematical Study Unit**

*Philamath*

Editor Randy Woodward shares his journey to two math-related Oregon towns: Tangent and Philomath, which he visited after attending the APS Stampshow last summer in Oregon.



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In addition to the history of each town, Woodward included photos of each town's post office.

An article on Jingren Chen and his work and achievements also is included in the October 2016 issue of *Philamath*.

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

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

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

## A biography of Peter Ilyich

Tchaikovsky, regarded as Russia's greatest symphonist, appears in *Der Musikus*, December 2016.

Tchaikovsky is often remembered for his ballet music, including *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*. A checklist of Tchaikovsky stamps also accompanies the biography.

Fourteen illustrated pages of music-related new issues are also included in the journal.

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

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

## Napoléonic Age Philatelists *Campaign*

Nineteen pages of Napoleon-related new issues and discoveries appear in *Campaign* for October-December 2016.



One of these new issues, from

Mali, shows an oil painting of Napoleon I and was painted in 1810 by Carl von Steuben. The stamp was released by Mali in June 2015.

The stamp shows Napoleon wearing the uniform that he wore only on Sundays and state occasions, along with his bicorne hat.

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

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

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

Editor Andrea Smith begins the *The Rookery Report* for



Fall 2016 reminding members "It's All About Penguins," and explores ways to collect penguins on both philatelic and nonphilatelic items.

Jean Stout also shares matchbook covers with penguins that she includes in her penguin collection.

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

Email: [gentoo172@yahoo.com](mailto:gentoo172@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.penguinstamps.org](http://www.penguinstamps.org)

### The Perfins Club *Perfins Bulletin*

The Perfins Club has asked for several volunteers to fill leadership positions, including a foreign catalog editor and an assistant to the bulletin editor.



John Hart also "Reminisces; My First Club Convention," sharing that he enjoyed meeting new friends

and learning more about perfins – even if he spent too much money on stamps.

Auction No. 151 was also conducted in the November-December 2016 issue of the *Perfins Bulletin*.

Dues are \$16 in the United States, \$23 in Canada and \$26 elsewhere. Contact John Hart, 6500 Upper Applegate Rd, Jacksonville OR 97530-9314

Email: [jg.hart@charter.net](mailto:jg.hart@charter.net)  
Website: [www.perfins.org](http://www.perfins.org)

### Petroleum Philatelic Society International *Petro-Philatelist*

In "25 years of LUKOIL," in the most recent issue of *Petro-Philatelist*, Hugo Vargas provides a history of Russia's second-largest oil company. Formed in 1991, LUKOIL



carries out oil and gas explorations in Russia and 30 other countries.

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A Russian stamp was issued in September 2016 to commemorate LUKOIL's 25th Anniversary.

An update to the Petro Study Unit's certification committee report (checklist) is also included in this issue.

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

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

### Pitcairn Islands Study Group *Pitcairn Log*

In the October-December 20016



*Pitcairn Log*, Steve Pendleton offers his opinion of the future for collecting Norfolk Island stamps now that the Philatelic Bureau of Norfolk Island will no longer issue new stamps.

Ted Cookson also provides a recap of all the PISG's activities at World Stamp Show New York 2016.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, and \$25 elsewhere for regular members, \$30 or more for contributing members, \$15 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Ed Morgan, 25 St. Julian Ct., Pawleys Island, SC 29585-6309

Email: [eanddfof@gmail.com](mailto:eanddfof@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.pisg.net](http://www.pisg.net)

### Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>) *Coil Line*

Ron Blanks reports that club secretary Dan Farrar discovered – in a post office trash can – two examples of a new plate number, B111, for the 10¢ Stars & Stripes presorted standard coil issue.

An update of recent plate numbers,

roll sizes, die cuts and tagging is also included in the December 2016 *Coil Line* for PNC<sup>3</sup> members.

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

Email: [mjconway@hotmail.com](mailto:mjconway@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org)

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

Steve Pendleton provides an overview of Antarctic explorer Nobu Shirase's expedition to the South Pole beginning in 1910. After several setbacks, Shirase was able to successfully land his expedition to the Ross Sea area and explore some new territory.



Postcards from the venture are very rare, and three are shown in the article.

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

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

### Rotary on Stamps Fellowship *ROS Bulletin*

In addition to several administrative announcements for Rotary Study Unit members, there are several pages of Rotary Club new issues reported in the December 2016 *The ROS Bulletin*.



One of those stamps was a private stamp issued in Germany to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Foundation and the End Polio Now campaign.

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

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

### Scouts on Stamps Society International SOSSI Journal

Now that it has been announced that Norfolk Island will no longer issue its own stamps SOSSI President Lawrence Clay reflects on scout-related stamps issued by Norfolk Island since 1947.

Bob Gelwick also shares U.S. pictorial cancels from the 1987 Girl Scout 75th anniversary in the September-October 2016 *SOSSI Journal*.

Dues are \$25 in the United States, \$30 in Canada, \$35 in Mexico, and \$40 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for \$20 worldwide. Contact Lawrence E. Clay, P.O. Box 6228, Kennewick, WA 99336-6228.

Email: [lclay3731@charter.net](mailto:lclay3731@charter.net)  
Website: [www.sossi.org](http://www.sossi.org)

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

In the Winter 2017 *Journal of Sports Philately*, Ilya Ronin

points out “JUDON’t Know Anything” about the sport of judo. The biggest misconception about judo is that there are kicks and punches used in the sport. Using stamps, the



### Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

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

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

Lynn Vernon  
8430 Iris Rd  
Plymouth IN 46563-9055  
Email: [gentoo172@yahoo.com](mailto:gentoo172@yahoo.com)



author shows the many techniques used in judo. Four pages of sports-related new stamp issues also appear in this issue.

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

Email: [markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)  
Website: [www.sportstamps.org](http://www.sportstamps.org)

### Windmill Study Unit *Windmill Whispers*

“Beer and Sausage” and related windmills is the feature article in *Windmill Whispers* for April-June 2016.

Included in the article are the histories of well-known sausage manufacturer Rügenwalder Mühle and microbrewery Ostfriesen Bräu, along with philatelic meters for each company and related windmills.

Eight pages of windmill new issues and a checklist update also are included in this issue.

Dues are \$12 in the United States. Contact Orville Tysseling, 9740 Washington Church Rd, Miamisburg OH 45342-4510.

Email: [otyssel@aol.com](mailto:otyssel@aol.com)

Dues are £7.50 (payable by check) in the United Kingdom (or €10 payable in cash). Contact Fred Atkins, 35 Laxton Way, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2QL, United Kingdom.

Email: [fred.atkins@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:fred.atkins@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Website: [www.wsuweb.eu](http://www.wsuweb.eu)

### Wine on Stamps Study Unit *Enophilatelica*

David Wolfersberger continues his series “Beer on Stamps - Part 2,”

in the November 2016 *Enophilatelica*. In this installment Wolfersberger covers brewing, breweries and brewers from around the world, as depicted on stamps.



Five pages of wine-related new issues and checklist updates are also in the Nov. 2016 *Enophilatelica*.

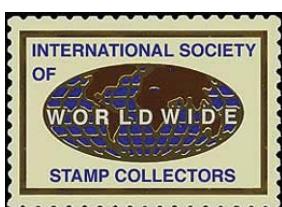
Dues are \$17 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$14 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Paul J. Parham, 1768 Aurora Ave N No. 303, Seattle WA 98109-2758.

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

Website: [www.wine-on-stamps.org](http://www.wine-on-stamps.org)

### **Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of *The Circuit***

The ISWC continues its dead country series with “Bohemia + Moravia” in the November-



December  
2016 *The  
Circuit*.

The  
German  
protectorate

was created after the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Germany in 1939. The first stamps from Bohemia + Moravia were issued in July 1939 and depicted landmarks and castles from the region.

Dues are \$15 worldwide. Contact Joanne Berkowitz, Executive Director, PO Box 19006, Sacramento, CA 95819-0006.

Email: [joannebe@pacbell.net](mailto:joannebe@pacbell.net)

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

Please keep  
your Study Unit coordinator  
up to date  
with what's happening  
in your group:  
[jeffhaywardata@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhaywardata@gmail.com)

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<b>FAIRY TALES</b>
<b>FAIRY TALES</b>
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# Webmaster's Log

*Amanda L. Morgenstern*

## Website Visits Increase

The ATA website has grown steadily over the last three years. Statistics below show how much traffic the website has received during that time.

Year	Unique visitors	Number of visits
2014	26,776	47,925
2015	33,375	60,065
2016	34,311	64,847

Unique visitors means the number of different individuals that visited our website. Number of Visits is the number of times those visitors came to our site. Our 2017 goal for “Unique Visitors” is 36,000. I’m very excited to report that as of the end of March 2017, our number of visits was 8,256 greater than last year at that time.

### Advertising Now Available on ATA Website

Visit the new ATA Advertisers page at [american topical classn.org/advertisers.shtml](http://american topical classn.org/advertisers.shtml)

The ATA is excited to announce it is opening the website for sponsorships and advertising. If you are interested in having an ad on the main ATA website,



1/4 column ad

232 px x 100 px



1 column ad

232 px x 450 px



1/2 column ad

232 px x 250 px

Ad Size	Physical Size	Ad Location	Six Mos. Ad	One-month Ad	One-yr Ad
1 Column	232 x 450px	Home page, right col. & Advertisers page	\$300 (\$50/mo.)	\$55	\$564 (\$47/mo.)
1 Column	232 x 450px	Any page, right col. & Advertisers page	\$210 (\$35/mo.)	\$40	\$384 (\$32/mo.)
1 Column	232 x 450px	Advertisers page only	\$150 (\$25/mo.)	\$26	\$264 (\$22/mo.)
½ Column	232 x 250px	Any page, right col. & Advertisers page	\$180 (\$30/mo.)	\$35	\$336 (\$28/mo.)
½ Column	232 x 250px	Advertisers page only	\$120 (\$20/mo.)	\$22	\$216 (\$18/mo.)
¾ Column	232 x 100px	Any page, right col. & Advertisers page	\$150 (\$25/mo.)	\$30	\$264 (\$22/mo.)
¼ Column	232 x 100px	Advertisers page only	\$96 (\$16/mo.)	\$18	\$168 (\$14/mo.)

[www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org), please read the following or visit the website @ [www.americantopicalassn.org/advertising.shtml](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/advertising.shtml). ATA is offering 25% off for the first 25 takers who commit by June 1.

## Advertising Package

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Receive \$2 per month off the price of a web ad when you also run any size print ad. Find *Topical Time* ad rates at [www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/ltt\\_adrates.pdf](http://www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/ltt_adrates.pdf)

### Submit Inquiries, ad copy & payment to:

Online Ad Manager & Webmaster: Amanda L. Morgenstern  
[webmaster@americantopicalassn.org](mailto:webmaster@americantopicalassn.org) (618) 357-5497

### Advertising guidelines for [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org)

- You must be an ATA member.
- Online advertisements are subject to ATA approval.
- Ads will be posted on the first day of the calendar month and removed on the first day of the next calendar month.
- All advertising intended for print must be **received no later** than the first of the month preceding publication (i.e. June 1 for July-August issue).
- If you have a website and wish your ad to link to your site, we are happy to do so at no extra charge.
  - The ATA's house designer can design (extra charge) an ad for you or you may provide your own artwork following the dimensions specified. Artwork should be submitted in .jpg format.
  - Ad changes are permitted for those subscribing to six months and one-year ads, but please submit new artwork to the ad manager a week before the new month begins.



- The ATA will contact you one month prior to your ad expiration to discuss renewal.
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- PayPal to [american topical@msn.com](mailto:american topical@msn.com) (please consider a small donation to cover PayPal fees).
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover (please consider a small donation to cover card fees). 

## **Penguins on Stamps Study Unit is Featured Unit at NTSS**

The Penguins on Stamps Study Unit was organized in 2007 to promote the study of philatelic material pertaining to *Spheniscidae* (penguins). Members receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Rookery Report*. Membership Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere, electronic \$10. Youth membership (younger than 18) is \$5 for electronic delivery of *The Rookery Report*.



**Please stop by our Featured Study Unit Booth at NTSS - Free Handouts!**

For more information, contact: Mr. Lynn Vernon,  
8430 Iris Rd, Plymouth Ind 46563-9055

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

Email: [gentoo172@yahoo.com](mailto:gentoo172@yahoo.com)

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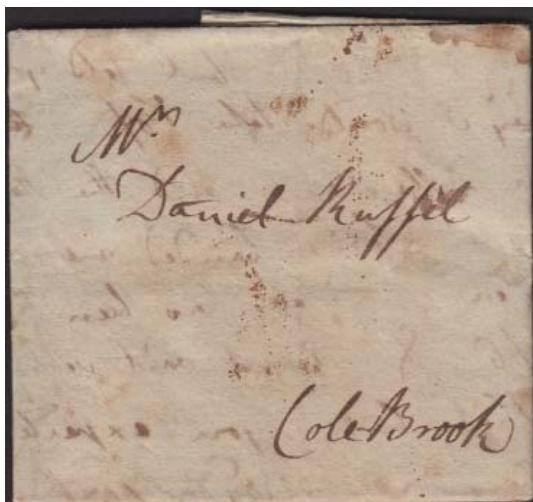
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06127-0569**

# Growing a Topical or Thematic III

Wayne L. Youngblood

Parts I and II of this feature, which ran in the last two issues of *Topical Time* (January–February, Page 55, and March–April, Page 59), focused on various elements of forming a new topical or thematic collection, including the stamps themselves, revenue stamps that are appropriate to the topic or theme, postal uses, named postmarks, slogan and pictorial cancellations, meters, permits and other related ephemera.

This three-part guide, utilizing horticulture as a theme (because it is broad enough to support many different elements), should translate to most any area for starting a new topical or thematic collection, or for continuing to develop an existing one. As I mentioned in Part II, identifying and finding material related to your interest is the single-most challenging (and fun) aspect, whether you're collecting for your own amusement or planning a multi-frame exhibit. But some of the thrill of the hunt can be tempered by not knowing *where* to hunt or without having ideas of what to search for.



**Figure 1.** This 1792 folded letter discusses wheat that was supposed to be used as partial payment for an outstanding debt.



**Figure 2.** A free-franked letter from 1898 contains a letter from a representative to a constituent, along with (originally) several packets of seeds, "as requested."

In this final segment we'll take a look at a few examples of appropriate content (with some attention to philatelic significance), as well as what is now frequently referred to as "illustrated mail"; that is, advertising and business covers bearing topically related images or advertising. Examples of each should be available from all over the world for most any area you wish to collect.

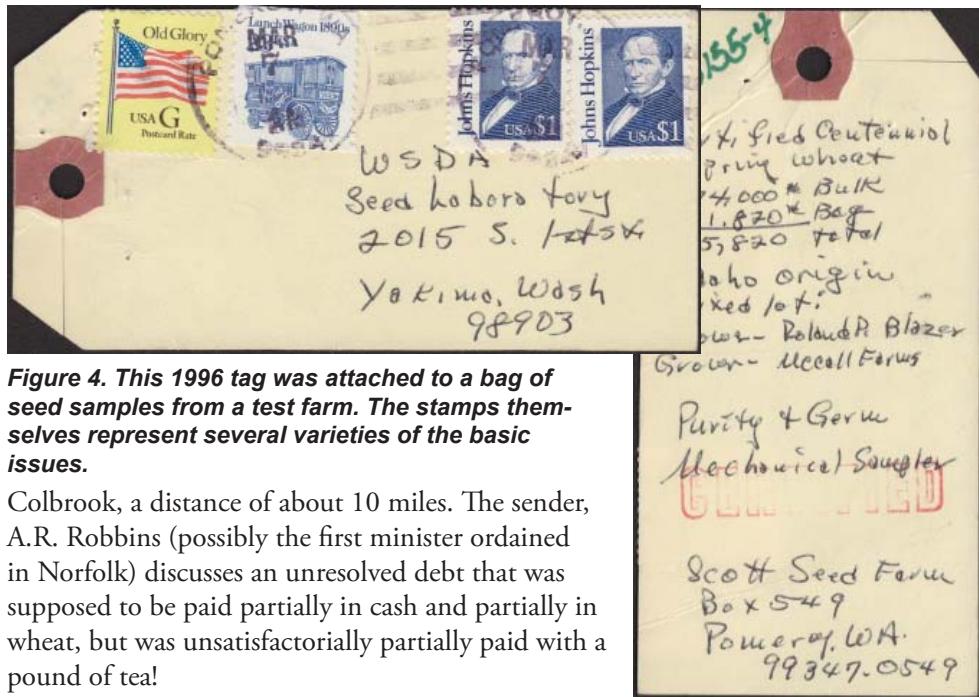
As I've previously mentioned, there is a wealth of material available for most anything – and there is much you may not even have identified as being of interest. The single-most important thing you can remember, however, is to always get the biggest "bang for your buck." What this means is always doing your best to find the best, most appropriate, earliest and most attractive items you can. Running close second is the advice that if you run across something you've never seen that is desirable for your collection, you likely should go ahead and purchase it, even if it stretches you a bit. This is particularly true for postal history items. If you haven't seen it before, chances are good you may never see one like it again!

### Content and philatelic significance

With that, let's take a look at a few items of interest to a horticultural topic or theme. Shown in Figure 1 is the earliest item I've located thus far. It is a stampless cover from Norfolk, Conn., dated Jan. 7, 1792, and addressed to an individual in



*Figure 3. A C.O.D. tag with postage straddling two different definitive series of stamps. The postage paid for transmission of a live tree (to which it was attached) in 1968.*



**Figure 4.** This 1996 tag was attached to a bag of seed samples from a test farm. The stamps themselves represent several varieties of the basic issues.

Colbrook, a distance of about 10 miles. The sender, A.R. Robbins (possibly the first minister ordained in Norfolk) discusses an unresolved debt that was supposed to be paid partially in cash and partially in wheat, but was unsatisfactorily partially paid with a pound of tea!

Figure 2 features a free-franked letter from Nelson Dingley in 1898. Dingley was a journalist and politician who served as governor of Maine (1874-76) and in the House of Representatives from 1881 until his death in 1899. In his letter, Dingley takes "great pleasure" in sending a constituent packages of seeds, as requested. The free-franked cover shows another postal aspect.

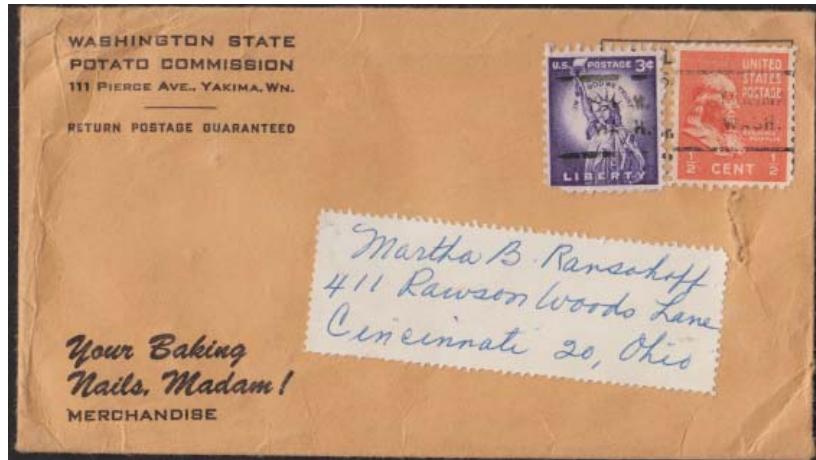
Slightly different is the item shown both front and back in Figure 3. It is a tag from Suncrest Evergreen Nurseries of Homer City, Pa. (franked with \$1.80 in postage). The C.O.D. tag was attached to a live tree sent March 26, 1968, to an individual in St. Louis, Mo. In this case the tag represents the postage – specifically – to mail a tree. The franking contains stamps from both the Liberty and Prominent Americans series. The 40¢ Thomas Paine stamp that would replace the Marshall

issue had just been released in January 1968 and was likely not yet available at the Homer City post office.

Similarly, the March 7, 1996, tag

**Figure 5.** This 1¢ Parcel Post mailing (within the city of Boston) contained seeds.





**Figure 6.** A small cover from the Washington State Potato Commission represents a short-lived rate.

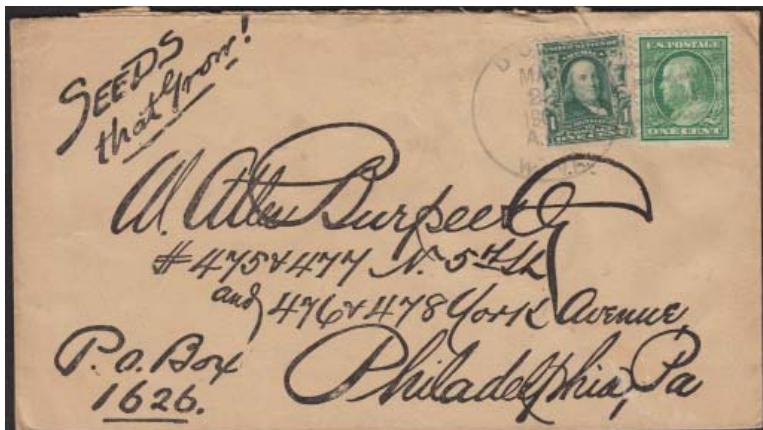
shown in Figure 4 (front and back) is addressed to the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Seed Laboratory in Yakima, Wash. It was attached to a seed sample sent by a seed farm in Pomeroy, Wash. In addition to the obvious horticulture tie-in, there is philatelic significance as well (always a good thing). The 23¢ Lunch Wagon coil and \$1 Johns Hopkins stamps represent phosphorescent tagging varieties for those issues. Thus the tag has both topical and philatelic relevance.

The undated locally mailed cover (Boston, Mass.) shown in Figure 5 is completely appropriate. It is a packet that contained seeds, very likely mailed during the six-month period in 1913 when the use of Parcel Post stamps was restricted. The cover also represents the short-lived fourth-class plant material rate in effect 1888-1925, that allowed for up to two ounces to be mailed for 1¢.

Another unusual rate is represented by the cover shown in Figure 6. In this case the mailing, from the Washington State Potato Commission (originally containing aluminum baking nails to be driven into potatoes before cooking), bears 3½¢ in precanceled stamps from the 1938 Presidential and 1954 Liberty series. More significant than the mixed franking, however, is the fact the piece represents a short-lived rate that went into effect June 23, 1959, to pay a rate for third-class non-standard, or odd-shaped item. The rate was discontinued in 1963.

**Figure 7.** A printed envelope that contained a seed order bears a mixed franking of an outgoing series and new-release stamp.



**Figure 8. An 1866 piece of illustrated mail that pictures a number of different flowers and fruits.**

Finally, in Figure 7, we see a preprinted addressed envelope to the Burpee Seed Co., which almost

certainly contained a seed order. The cover, postmarked March 29, 1909, bears two 1¢ stamps. One is the 1¢ Franklin, Scott 300, released in 1903. The other is Scott 331, the beginning of the Washington-Franklin series, which had just been released in December 1908. The mixed-franking cover represents a cross-over use of an old and new stamp to meet the then-current 2¢ first-class rate.

### Illustrated Mail

To wrap up, let's take a look at a few pieces of illustrated mail. Again, when selecting examples, always be on the lookout for the the most attractive, most appropriate covers for your purposes.

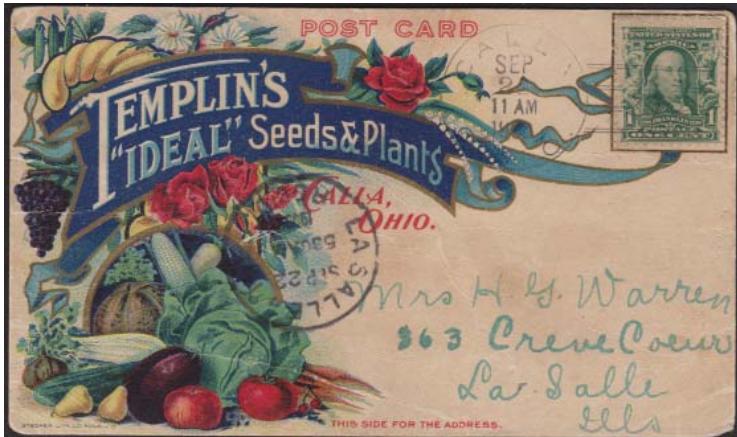
Figure 8 pictures a fairly early example of a fully illustrated cover. Mailed



Sept. 22, 1866,  
from Lockport,  
N.Y., the light  
pink letterpress-  
printed cornercard  
(which matches  
the stamp nicely)

**Figure 9. Two distinct styles of illustration appear on this attractive example of illustrated mail from the 1870s.**





**Figure 10.** An example of an early 20th century multicolored litho advertising post-card, with a lush representation of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

features a wide variety of horticultural goodies, including roses,

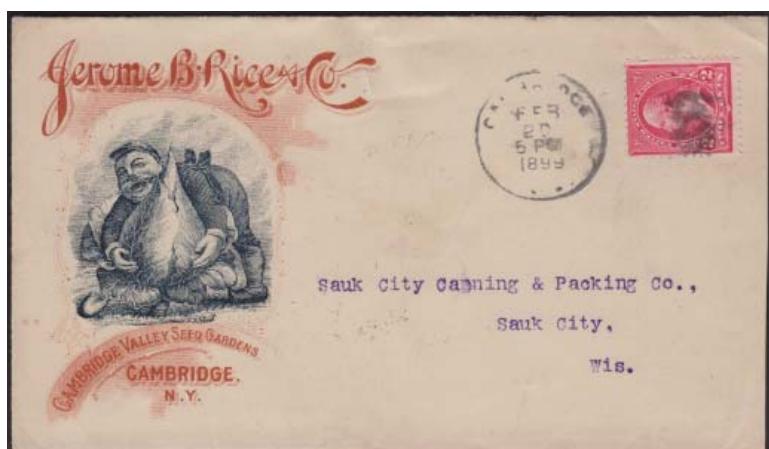
currants, grapes, apples, pears and other berries and flowers.

Although the cover shown in Figure 9 represents only a single printing type, it is a very early example of multicolored letterpress advertising art, reminiscent of two distinct styles. The cornercard itself, from the Pomona Garden & Nursery, is rendered in the style of 1850s embossed cameo art picturing a cornucopia, and is printed in a grayish-blue color. The reverse features a gorgeous two-color rendering of raspberries, printed in light green and deep red. This elaborate cover would not have been an inexpensive item to produce in the 1870s. It is franked with a strip of three Scott 156, the 1¢ Large Bank Note with secret mark.

In Figure 10 we see a great example of the type of multicolored lithographic printing that became possible (and affordable) near the end of the 19th century. The item, a very early picture postcard, also features a Doane cancellation (Calla, Ohio, Sept. 21, 1905), and an attractive next-day receiver from LaSalle, Ill. (a distance of close to 500 miles). The content on the reverse of the card is simply an acknowledgement of an order received, but the card itself is an attention getter! The cornucopia that is spilling out the "Templin's 'Ideal' Seeds & Plants" company name has already yielded roses, daisies, grapes, peas, corn, kale, turnips, cabbage tomatoes, apples, cherries, pears, cucumbers, corn and even an eggplant!

Single-product depictions are nice as well. The 1899

**Figure 11.** This two-color advertising cover illustrates the obvious superiority of this company's product.



**Figure 12. This single-color cover from 1891, on an embossed stamped envelope, clearly shows cucumbers that have been transformed into Heinz Keystone Gems sweet pickles.**

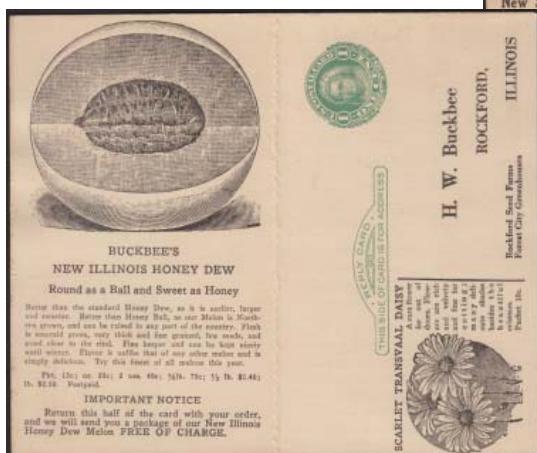
cover shown in

Figure 11, from the Jerome B. Rice & Co. seed gardens, features an enormous man, struggling to harvest an enormous head of cabbage. The two-color cover is printed by offset lithography.

In Figure 12 we see a fairly early Heinz Co. (of ketchup fame) cover. Heinz was originally founded in 1869 by Henry Heinz, who canned small quantities of horseradish in the basement of his father's house. The company went bankrupt in 1875. The following year he started over, this time bottling ketchup and a few other products, buying out his partners and reorganizing as the H.J. Heinz Co. in 1888 (just three years before this cover was mailed). Although the focus of this advertising cover is the firm's sweet pickles, horseradish and celery sauce (for dyspepsia) are marketed on the reverse.

Our final item, shown significantly reduced in Figure 13, is a 1925 mailing of a message-reply card for Buckbee's Seeds, of Rockford, Ill. Every square inch of this unusual card has been utilized for advertising.

What will your search reveal? There's no shortage of great material! ■



**Figure 13. A 1925 message-reply postal card features multiple crop items, including honeydew, daisies, the new 1926 catalog and a unicorn plant.**



## METERS BY TOPIC

### *Wayne L. Youngblood*

# Babies Are Our Business

One of the interesting things that pictorial meters can do is give us a bit of

perspective about other times. They also can be a bit confusing when there is no context to give us a clue.



an interesting example, likely from the 1950s, judging by its rate, style and overall appearance. Unfortunately it has been trimmed from its cover of origin, leaving it without any form of context. The meter, showing a note and a safety pin, proudly proclaims "Babies are our business... our only business!"

In today's context, this type of message could take on a slightly creepy meaning, but the meter is actually fairly easy to trace. By checking trademark registrations ([www.trademarkia.com](http://www.trademarkia.com)) I was able to find out that this was a trademarked slogan, coined by the Gerber corporation – of baby food fame. The trademark was registered Oct 1, 1957, and expired July 4, 2008. So, if you'd like this slogan for your very own, it is available.

The pictorial meter shown below, also very likely from the 1950s, shows a nurse and the "Isolette" infant incubator. Like the Figure 1 example, this meter was trimmed from its cover, but there are visual clues that help us date it.

The Isolette is still a popular model of incubator within the medical community.

Infant incubators are actually an outgrowth of the poultry industry, invented by Martin Couney, a German immigrant, who called it the "Kinderbrutanstalt" (child hatchery). He also jokingly referred to them as "peanut roasters." They were increasingly popular displays at the 1896 Berlin Exposition, 1901 Pan-American Expo and 1909 Hudson-Fulton Expo, but became most popular as a Coney Island Boardwalk attraction from 1903-43! The medical community did not accept the life-saving technology at the time because they were "against maternal nature."

Undaunted, Couney refused payment for all the lives he saved, feeling the promotion was important for gaining medical acceptance, which came much later. In the meantime, he saved the lives of some 6,500 babies he was entrusted with. ☺



# Chapter Chatter

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

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

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

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

**Newsletter:** AASC Newsletter, Harry Winter, editor

**email:** [harwin@umich.edu](mailto:harwin@umich.edu))

**Newsletter topics (February):** Gwen Nystuen mentioned at the January meeting that she collects reptiles and amphibians.



Swamp frog, Papua New Guinea 1968 (Scott 259).

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

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

**Newsletter:** Robert Mather, editor

**email:** [burrobob@wi.rr.com](mailto:burrobob@wi.rr.com)

**Newsletter topics (February):** At the February meeting members were asked to share philatelic material related to any U.S. President.



Mail train, U.S. 1913

(Scott Q5).

The article "French Spy Stamps" tells the story of how the 1939 French Mercury Stamp (Scott 361, illustration no. A93) aided the French underground known as the Maquis by facilitating communication between the underground and British Intelligence. The U.N. Security Force in West New Guinea is described in the article "UNTEA (United Nations Temporary Executive Authority)." (March) At the March meeting the club held a "Show & Tell" using the theme "1967." Members were asked to bring items (stamps or covers) related to that year (i.e. stamps that were issued that year, covers postmarked in 1967 or material related to events that occurred in 1967). Several stamps depicting trains accompany the article "The Role of the United States Post Office in the Development of the Railway Mail Service."

Members were asked to bring items (stamps or covers) related to that year (i.e. stamps that were issued that year, covers postmarked in 1967 or material related to events that occurred in 1967). Several stamps depicting trains accompany the article "The Role of the United States Post Office in the Development of the Railway Mail Service."

## 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:** (1st Quarter) San Francisco suffered a major earthquake and fire on April 18, 1906, in which most of the city was destroyed and several thousand people died. From Oct. 19-23, 1909, the Portola Festival was held to celebrate the city's recovery from the devastation and to promote itself as the host city for the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exposition. The first Spanish Governor of Upper and Lower California was Gaspar de Portola (1716-84) after whom the festival was named and who discovered San Francisco Bay in 1769. The history of



Discovery of San Francisco Bay, U.S. 1913 (Scott 400).

the festival and the poster stamps that were created for it and their use on mail is detailed in Harry K. Charles, Jr.'s very interesting article "The Portola Festival – October 19–23, 1909."

### **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:** (February) The newsletter notes that the 40th stamp in the Black



**Tlingit Totem,**  
**Alaska, U.S. 1967**  
(Scott C70).

Heritage Series would be issued Feb. 1. It honors Dorothy Height, the civil rights leader and activist. There is a page with a number of line drawings and text in comic-book style in the newsletter that traces the history of "Maximilian: Emperor of Mexico" (1832-67) who only served as emperor from 1864-67, until he was executed by firing squad. The piece was written and illustrated by Monty Wedd (Montague Thomas Archibald Wedd, 1921–2012), an Australian comic artist, animator and author. (March) There is another article by Monty Wedd, "The Siege of Gibraltar" that tells the story of General George Augustus Elliott, governor of Gibraltar during the 1779-83 siege of the island by France and Spain. The siege was unsuccessful. The theme for the club's annual show, Bufpex, which was held March 4-5, was the 150th anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska.

### **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 (February):** Member Tim Allen donated a large lot that included covers with event and pictorial cancels that can spice up topical/thematic collections. There were two trivia questions in the newsletter that I found very interesting (I am known to have a certain fondness for philatelic quizzes). The questions were 1) How many ½¢ United States stamps are there? and 2) Name three presidents that did not attend their successor's inauguration.

(March) At the March meeting, Art van Uchelen gave two talks, one of which was "Marc Chagall and Stained Glass on Stamps." There is a short article "Happy St. Patrick's Day," by editor Tim Greene, that gives some background on the famous saint. But he also provides an interesting anecdote concerning George Washington. The winter of 1779-80 was particularly brutal in Morristown, N.J., where the Continental Army was encamped. To help buoy the



**St. Patrick, Ireland 2016**  
(Scott 2102).

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

spirits of his troops, General Washington gave the troops a one-day holiday on March 17 that is now known as the St. Patrick's Day Encampment of 1780.

### **Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 127), Mercerville, N.J. Website: [www.hamiltonphilatelic.org](http://www.hamiltonphilatelic.org).**

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

**Newsletter topics (March-April):** Jack Sack gives an illustrated summary of Tom DeLuca's presentation at the February meeting on "Disney Novelty Postcards." A number of postcards with unusual features are discussed – die-cut cards, 3-D cards, cards with a noisemaker, cards with movable parts and others. In April, Hal Vogel's talk, "Postal History of the 1838–1842 Wilkes Antarctic Exhibition," was based on his exhibit, which was awarded the single-frame Grand at Ropex 2016. Wilkes was the first explorer to see a major segment of Antarctic and the first to call it the Antarctic Continent.



**Charles Wilkes, U.S. 1988  
(Scott 2387).**

### **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 (March-April):** One of the two stamps in the nameplate of the newsletter is the 2017 U.S. stamp for Henry David Thoreau. The other stamp was issued in 1978 by Great Britain (Scott 840), showing a Shetland pony and nicely relates to Debi Gagermeier's article in this issue "Horses Galore." In the article she mentions that it was her father who taught her about topicals. He had each of his children pick a topic in which they were interested, and she chose horses. He then created topical albums for each of his children with hand-drawn borders and the stamps artistically laid out. But she soon moved beyond horses and "began a myriad of other topics."



**Postrider, Saar 1952  
(Scott B91).**

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

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

**email:** [tomwb50@aol.com](mailto:tomwb50@aol.com)

**Newsletter topics (February):** The cachet and cancel for Knopex 2017 will honor Pat Summitt, a basketball coach who won Olympic silver and gold medals. The cover will highlight the 1991 basketball stamp and the 1991 Olympic rings stamps. The stamp of the month (actually included in the newsletter), contributed by Dan Hubbard, was a 1924 stamp from Germany (Scott 334) showing the German eagle. Tom Broadhead's article, "Too Cold for Me – Antarctic Philately," is illustrated with several interesting covers. (March) At the April meeting Mike Downs presented the program "Cats." The stamp of the month in this issue was a 2005 definitive from Germany depicting a crocus.



**Crocus, Ger-  
many 2005 (Scott  
2307).**

**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 (February):** At the York Stamp Show in January there were a number of frames of topical-themed postcards. If you collect the presidents on stamps one of the great sets to collect is the U.S. Presidential series of 1938. At the February meeting Hal Klein presented a look at the postal history of this series, commonly known as the Prexies. In the nameplate of the newsletter is an image of a 1930 stamp from Ecuador (showing loading of sugar cane, Scott 310) that had been overprinted in 1934 as a postal tax stamp (Scott RA25).



**George Washington, U.S. 1938 (Scott 804).**

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

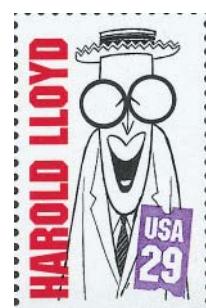
**Website:** [www.mid-citiesstampclub.com](http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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

**email:** [editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

**Newsletter topics (February):** Bob and Pat Weidman report on a ride on the Victoria Peak Tram in Hong Kong and illustrate the article with a 1977 Hong Kong stamp (Scott 340) showing a funicular (inclined plane) railway. The Weidmans also describe the Hong Kong Star Ferry that connects Hong Kong to Kowloon in southeast China. Ray Cartier describes the single-frame exhibit of single-page exhibits from MCSC members. The theme was "Television," and pages shown were related to TV shows or channels. A few that were included: *Leave It To Beaver*,

**Harold Lloyd, U.S. 1994  
(Scott 2825).**



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where Ben Termini showed stamps with real beavers, Stanley Christmas showing two pages *Where No Man Has Gone Before*, referring to the Star Trek TV series and John Barrett referred to ESPN Sports with *Some Winter Olympics in Europe*. Ray Cartier's page, *Look Up In the Sky*, relates to Superman on TV and he shows stamps to portray each of the opening lines of the show. For the line, "disguised as Clark Kent," he showed the 1994 29¢ stamp from the USPS Silent Screen Stars set of 10, one of which shows Harold Lloyd (1893-1971), an American actor and silent film star. His research showed that it actually was the oversized glasses of Lloyd that gave the TV producers the idea for Superman's disguise.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (February):** There is a biography of Dorothy Height (1912–2010), the subject of the 40th Black Heritage stamp issued by the USPS on Feb.

1. A graduate of New York University, the civil and women's rights activist was president of the National Council of Negro Women and established the Center for Racial Justice. The

February meeting was "Alphabet Night – The Letter R," and members were asked to bring items that relate to that letter: Romania, roses, rockets and more. (March) The editor gives

some background on the March 7 set of stamps issued by the USPS for the Work Projects Administration (WPA).

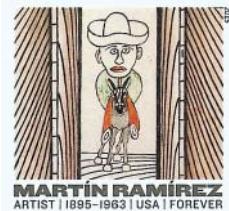
The stamps depict posters from the Library of Congress that the WPA used in the 1930s showing WPA projects.

Part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the WPA was active between 1935 and 1943, with the goal of providing

employment for mainly unskilled workers. The March newsletter gives some details on some of the "R" presentations in February. Bob Mather talked about Martin

Ramirez (1895–1963), whose art was the subject of a set of five U.S. stamps issued in 2015. Born in Mexico in 1925, Ramirez immigrated to the United States where he worked on the railroads and in the mines. He became unemployed and homeless after losing his job because of the Great Depression and was detained by the police in 1931. In poor physical condition and diagnosed with schizophrenia, he was committed to several mental institutions in California, where he spent the rest of his life, and where he created his drawings. One the stamps shows Ramirez's drawing of a man riding a donkey, which probably drew Bob's attention to this issue.

Anna Trischan provided information on the Hungarian Revolution, and MaryAnn Bowman showed pages of Sheboygan County towns that begin with "R." The theme for the March meeting was the year "1967."



**Man on a Donkey,  
U.S. 2015 (Scott  
4969).**

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

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

**email:** [mccsc442@yahoo.com](mailto:mccsc442@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter topics:** (March) Kurt Romig describes the World Heritage souvenir panes issued by Japan between 2001-03, featuring buildings and art treasures from various shrines, palaces and

**Horse statue,  
Japan 2001  
(Scott 2760g).**



museums. Illustrated in the newsletter is a nice FDC for the 32¢ Marilyn Monroe stamp issued by the USPS in 1995 (Scott 2967). The all-over cachet showing Marilyn Monroe and Mickey Mouse would fit into several topical collections.

### 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:** (February/April) In December Florence Wright presented a

program using Christmas stamps from around the world to tell the “Bible Story.” Several spring meetings had topically related programs including March 9, where Paul Brach gave a program on “Cypripedium Orchids,” one of the genera of Lady’s slippers orchids. At the April 13 meeting members were asked to bring items related to “Summer Olympics on Stamps.” The theme for Ropex 2017, to be held May 19-20, is the 200th anniversary of the initial digging of the Erie Canal. The newsletter notes the release by the USPS of a stamp honoring Robert Panara (1920–2014), a teacher at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, part of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.



*Magi following star, Jordan 1966 (Scott 533).*

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

**Newsletter:** *St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter*, email: [spstamps@gmail.com](mailto:spstamps@gmail.com)

**Newsletter topics:** (February) Mark Isaacs’ “On the Cover” column shows a metered mail envelope from the San Marino philatelic office, an unusual item. (March)



*Falcon, San Marino 1986 (Scott 1108).*

Mark shows a 1943 cover from Jersey franked with one of the locally printed stamps (Scott N4) showing a scene of Portelet Bay. The stamp was one of six issued (Scott N3–N8, showing views of the island) during the German occupation of the island. They were designed by Edmund Blampied (1886–1966), a Jersey artist. In 1993, on the 50th anniversary of the occupation, Jersey issued a set of six stamps (Scott 640–645) depicting the original six stamps in a stamp-on-stamp design. It was interesting to me that of the four new club members introduced in the March newsletter, three collected the world, as I do. I chose to show the 1986 Europa stamp from San Marino showing a falcon. Perhaps one of the new members collects San Marino or birds or the Europa topic.

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics:** (February) At the January meeting Joe Reichenbach presented a program on Canadian Revenue stamps, which would fit in a number of topical collections. Among the topical interests of new members introduced at the meeting were seashells, collected by Gordon Trotter, and Rotary International, collected by

Gerhard Peters. (March)

At the February meeting

### Ramshorn snail, Switzerland

1998 (Scott B635).

there were several short presentations with a thematic aspect, including mollusk stamps of Switzerland and Liechtenstein, by Gordon Trotter, Pan Pacific International material, by Dawn Hamman and Italian Cinderellas, by Lance Grandone.



### 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:** Don Woodworth gave a talk at one of the November meetings titled "Distilled Spirits Excise Stamps and Rectification Tax Stamps," while in December, Gary Hendren presented "World War II – The Alpha & Omega."

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (February):** Editor Ray Perry, in an illustrated article, writes

about the history and some of the traditions of Valentine's Day over the centuries. James E. Byrne's article, "Topical and Thematic Collecting: Getting Started," describes his entry into stamp collecting and notes that one of the appeals of topical/thematic collecting, "...is the discovery of stories that we never expected." As an example, he illustrates one of the stamps issued by Laos in 1963 for the 100th anniversary of the International Red Cross. It shows Queen Khamphoui (1912-82) in ethnic clothing handing out gifts. He discovered that following the Laotian Civil War when the Pathet Lao assumed political power in 1975, she was imprisoned in a "re-education" camp set up by the communist government, and where she died. John Paré has an illustrated and informative article titled "Ten Ideas for Building a First Day Cover Collection." (March) The editor looks at the stamps issued by the United States commemorating the Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts. Besides reprinting the laws of both organizations, he lists a number of well-known persons who were members of the Scouts. Alex Gill relates the story of the "1932 Winter Olympics," including background on the 1932 2¢ carmine-rose stamp (Scott 716) showing a ski jumper, which was issued Jan. 25, 1932, to commemorate the games.



Queen Khamphoui,  
Laos 1963 (Scott  
B87).

## 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:** (February) An article titled "Summer Holidays," by the editor, shows a series of stamps depicting various summer activities (remember,

**Ball Bay, Norfolk Island**  
1947 (Scott 3).



summertime in Australia is from December to February). At the November meeting some of the items for "Show & Tell" included golf and tennis postmarks (Wayne Pratsch), the Queen's 90th birthday and Buckingham Palace (Michelle McCarthy) and South African meters depicting animals (Vera Radnell). A number of these items are illustrated in the newsletter. Included with the newsletter mailing were photocopies of Parts 5 & 6 of Daryl Kibble's exhibit, *Message Behind the Angel Story: God's Redemption of Mankind*. In Joan Orr's article, "Postal History: Registration Labels," the author discusses the use of these labels in an exhibit. One of the covers she shows is a registered first-day cover from Norfolk Island with the name of the place of mailing rubber-stamped on the registration label. Six stamps from the Norfolk Island 1947 set of 12 are on the cover. All of the stamps have the identical image of Ball Bay on the island.

### 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:** (April) At the February meeting of the  
Calgary Regional Group of the British North America  
Philatelic Society, Jon Johnson talked  
about the postal history of the Canadian

**Cowley, Alberta  
postmark.**



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Merchant Marine during World War II. Do you collect dams? Well, Elizabeth Saunaranta shows several postmarks from towns adjacent to hydroelectric or irrigation dams. The towns used the phrase “Best Little (town, village) by a Dam Site.”

## Great Britain

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

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

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

**Newsletter topics (March):** Some of the interesting thematic material in this issue include Jeff Dugdale's article, “Hou Done It,” where he tells the story of Harry Houdini (1874-1926), the famous magician who was born in Budapest, Hungary. Since 1979, Great Britain has issued several stamps for one of the world's best-loved children's authors, Beatrix Potter (1866-1943). Barry Floyd illustrates her biography with the stamps showing her delightful creations. What astounded me was his information on her estate “...in her will she left 4,000 acres of land, 16 farms, cottages and herds of cattle and Herdwick sheep to the National Trust.” Another interesting article is by Chris Yardley, “Postage Stamps Defining Social History: An Example of Cold-War Politics.” The author describes and shows a number of Russian stamps that promote the socialist state's achievements.



*The Tale of Peter Rabbit, Great Britain 1979 (Scott 867).*

## South Africa

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

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

**Newsletters:** 1) *Thematics*, Robbie Harm, editor, email: [robertharm9@gmail.com](mailto:robertharm9@gmail.com); 2) *ThemNews*, Wobbe Vegter, acting editor, email: [wobbe.vegter@gmail.com](mailto:wobbe.vegter@gmail.com)

**Newsletter topics:** *ThemNews (February)* Errol van Greunen presents “Heraldry As A Theme,” describing the history of its use over the centuries since its origin in the 12th century. Numerous philatelic examples are shown. In “Shellfish Pursuits: Part 2,” Victor Millard discusses and illustrates the Mollusca class *Cephalopoda*, highlighting the four orders: *Octopoda*,

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**Gregor Mendel, Vatican City  
1984 (Scott 729).**

*Ammontida, Nautilida and Sepiida.* Beyond some of their biological characteristics, Millard looks at how these animals have been used as food, in art and even currency. Mike J. O'Connor's article, "The Orchid and I: Part 2," describes the name changes in the land of orchids and the process of making orchid hybrids. He then goes over some of the indigenous orchid genera (*Disperia, Eulophia & Satyrium*) of South Africa. "Mendel's Garden of Genetics: Part 1," by Saji Kumar J., traces the history of our understanding of how

various traits are inherited from one generation to another. Beginning with the theories of Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.) and Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) he takes the reader to Charles Darwin's (1809-82) theory of evolution, and then to Gregor Mendel (1822-84), the Augustinian monk. Mendel's work

with pea plants led him to discover the laws of heredity that were named Mendel's Laws of Genetics. From there he goes on to the role of chromosomes in heredity and the discovery of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) in 1953 that led to the era of molecular genetics. "That's Not A Face! Or Is It?" is an article by Jan Vogel that looks at stamps with heads and faces that have something wrong with them. Among his many examples are stamps showing heads composed of various fauna and flora or squares or lines. Finally, there is an article by Lyman R. Caswell, "The Bauhaus: Part 1," which discusses the Bauhaus school in Germany that had a huge influence on 20th-century architecture and industrial design. ☐



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## YOUTH IN TOPICS

### *MaryAnn Bowman*

# The Magic Kingdom (of Stamps)

When you hear the words "Magic Kingdom," your thoughts may almost automatically turn to the world of Disney. Represented by Cinderella's Castle, Florida's Disney World conjures up days of fun and exploration of the park's themed areas. Whether strolling through Main Street, visiting the concept of the future in Tomorrowland, journeying to dark jungles and remote regions of the world in Adventureland, forging through the old-time wild west in Frontierland, experiencing the colonial era of America in Liberty Square or stepping into a fairy tale in Fantasyland, the expectation is that you will find your time at the park relaxing and enjoyable.

Hmmmm.... That doesn't sound much different than the amazing adventure you can have with your stamp collection!

National Topical Stamp Show's youth area will have Disney as its theme. As I write this, preparation and planning is underway to incorporate Disney stamps and Disney-related activities into the area. A timely donation of Disney stamps will allow every child an opportunity to select a complete set of Disney stamps for his or her collection.

You may recall a time in the 1980s where many stamp collectors were upset and wrote angry letters to the editors of philatelic newspapers bemoaning the fact that Disney stamps were nothing more than "wallpaper." Times have changed since then. Disney stamps appeal to people of all ages. They are not just stamps for kids. Topical collectors can often find their collecting interests illustrated on Disney stamps. Additionally, these appealing and colorful stamps designed by Disney art professionals are a delight to look at and will conjure up memories of your childhood.

When I first started thinking about using Disney as a theme, I was aware of a few issues, but did not realize the number of countries and the extent of the themes that were carried out on the stamps.

The first Disney topical stamp was the United States commemorative stamp featuring a portrait of Walter Elias Disney. Issued in his boyhood home of Marceline, Mo., on Sept. 11, 1968, the stamp also depicted children of the world emerging from the Sleeping Beauty Castle of Disneyland.

Since that time, the United States Postal Service has honored Disney with other issues. In a 2004 series of "The Art of Disney," the first set of four 37¢ stamps



*The first U.S. Disney stamp, Scott 1355.*

had the subtitle “Friendship,” and depicted well-known characters Goofy, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Mufasa, Simba, Jiminy Cricket and Pinocchio.

The second set used the theme “Celebration.” Released in 2005, these stamps showed couples Pluto and Mickey Mouse, the Mad Hatter and Alice, Flounder and Ariel, along with Snow White and Dopey. Each of these pairs were partying and shown in celebratory style.

The 2006 series of four stamps was subtitled “Romance,” and you could tell that love was in the air for pairs Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Cinderella and Prince Charming, Beauty and the Beast, and Lady and the Tramp. By this time, the first class postage rate had increased to 39¢.

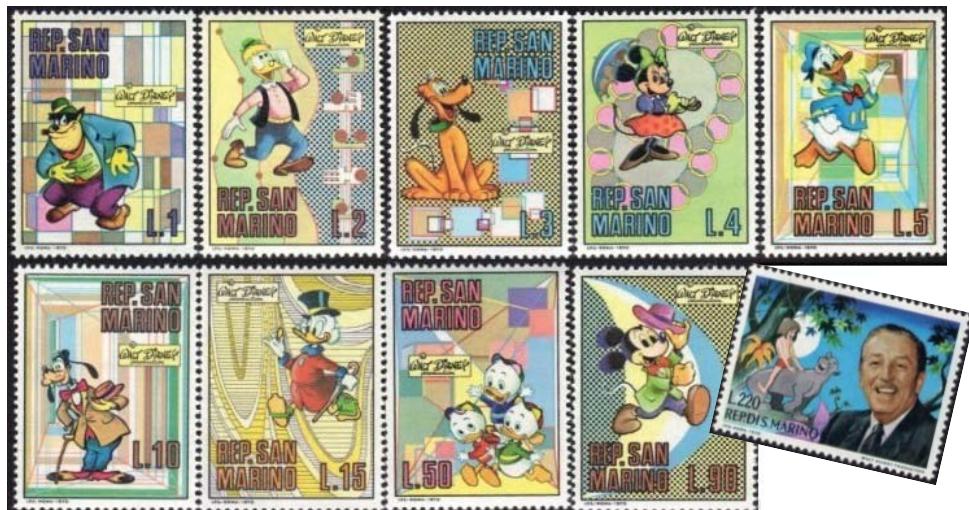
These first three sets of Disney stamps proved so popular that the USPS extended the series in 2007 and 2008.

By the time 2007 rolled around, the postage rate had increased to 41¢ and the theme of this set of 20 was “Magic.” Stamps depicted Mickey Mouse, Peter Pan and Tinker Bell, Dumbo and Timothy Mouse, as well as Aladdin and Genie.

The fifth pane of stamps honoring the art of Disney was issued in 2008 with a rate of 42¢. These four stamps illustrate the theme of imagination and feature Mickey Mouse as Steamboat Willie; Princess Aurora and her helpers Flora, Fauna, and Merry-weather from *Sleeping Beauty*; Pongo and one of his pups from *101 Dalmatians*; and Mowgli and Baloo from *The Jungle Book*.

The “Send a Hello” Forever stamps issued in 2011 were an outgrowth of the Art of Disney stamps and featured the characters of five popular Disney Pixar movies. This was followed in 2012 with another set of stamps titled “Mail a Smile” and, again, depicted movie characters from five of the Disney Pixar animated films.

If the United States was the first to issue a Disney stamp, who was next? In 1968, the small country of San Marino issued a set of 10 stamps depicting Disney



**In 1968, San Marino became the second country to release Disney stamps and the first to depict Disney characters, as well as a scene from an animated movie (bottom-right stamp). The complete set is shown above.**

**A set of stamps released in 1986 by Dominica to celebrate Ameripex, the international stamp show held in Chicago, Ill.**

characters. This country was not only the first country to depict Disney characters on its stamps but was also the first country to show a scene from an animated film (on the high value of the set).

It was almost 10 years before any other Disney stamps were issued. In 1979, countries all over the world were commemorating the International Year of the Child. Six postal administrations worked with Walt



Disney Productions and the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation to create sets of stamps and souvenir sheets - all featuring Disney characters.

Those countries are listed with their distinctive theme in parentheses behind the name of the country: Grenada (sports popular in that country), Dominica (music), Antigua (transportation), Turks and Caicos (water sports), Maldives (postal services) and Grenadines (uniforms). All of the stamps for the sets were designed and drawn by Disney artists.

Since that time, many more Disney stamps have been issued by foreign countries. They typically follow a theme. Many Disney stamps have been issued for Christmas and Easter. There are sets for sports, the Olympics, anniversaries of various Disney characters as well as Disneyland, authors Mark Twain and the Grimm Brothers, Disney animal stories and film anniversaries.

In 1986, Disney characters were first used for the omnibus sets issued for Ameripex '86 International Philatelic Exhibition. A tour of the host country, in this case the United States, showed landmarks of the country, famous

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#1095-98	\$100
#1211-14	\$250
#1383a	\$400
#1399	\$400
#1433	\$260
#1452	\$280
#1483	\$110
#1492	\$450
#1518	\$1,600
#1540	\$150
#1586	\$1,300
#1607e Bklt	\$450
#1647a Bklt	\$200



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*In addition to the many Disney stamps that have been released worldwide, collectors very actively seek "beyond the catalog" items, such as pictorial cancels, meter impressions and cinderella items (labels, not the character).*

Americans along with their Disney counterpart, and the first stamps-on-stamps issue of a Disney stamp. In later years, other international shows were honored with Disney stamps.

Even the American Philatelic Society was recognized in a set of stamps issued for Stampshow '89 when it was held in Anaheim, Calif. And it seemed like Disney philately had come into its own when *The American Philatelist* issue of August 1989 offered an extensive article on collecting Disney.

Disney enthusiasts would probably also want to collect other postally related items such as meters, cancels, slogans, postal cards, souvenir cards, first-day covers and even cinderellas. There is even an ATA study unit - Disneyana on Stamps Society, which offers a free membership.

I have gained a greater respect, appreciation and understanding for Disney stamps. Kids of all ages love Disney and so it seemed like it would make a great theme for National Topical Stamp Show in June. Aimée Devine, creator and editor of *Topical Tidbits*, has put together another great issue just in time for the show. Club leaders may want to download and print out some of these pages for use with their young collectors. If colored printing costs prohibit you from making copies for each child, use selected pages placed within a protective page protector and have available dry erase markers for youth to complete the pages. Then erase and reuse again and again.

In addition to this special Disney issue of *Topical Tidbits* (available on the ATA website, [www.american topical assn.org](http://www.american topical assn.org), under "youth"), another possible Disney-related activity for use is found in the One World, Many Stamps activity booklet released for World Stamp Show New York 2016 and involves an "It's A Small World" souvenir sheet from Belize. Two different activities, one in each booklet, appeal to young collectors of different ages. These booklets are found on the website of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs ([www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org)) under the youth resources tab.

Further, an announcement will be forthcoming regarding a contest for youth related to Disney philately. Details in the next issue.

I would like to hear from anyone who has additional Disney activities or ideas to use with youth. ☐

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.

***China 2016***

# Foreign Thematic Exhibits

*Larry E. Davidson*

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at China 2016. 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.

## China 2016

This international stamp exhibition was held in Nanning, China, Dec. 2-6, 2016. It was sponsored by the Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP) and recognized by the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). Established by the FIAP, the exhibition is aimed to boost the development of world philately. The exhibits were from 22 member countries of FIAP. A total of 1,300 frames were on display.

### Multi-frame Exhibits

<b>*Tony Dwi Putranto</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Journey of an Old King from Serengeti</i>	95, LG
<b>Luo Daoguang</b> (China)	<i>“Liquid Bread” – Beer</i>	93, G
<b>Huang Yumin</b> (China)	<i>The Horse – From Taming to Return to the Wild</i>	91, G
<b>*Huang Guojian</b> (China)	<i>A Story about Sailing Vessels: How they were Created, Developed and Replaced by Steamships</i>	91, G
<b>Gao Lu</b> (China)	<i>The Exploration of the Mouth’s Mysteries: A Human Being’s Perspective</i>	90, G
<b>Xiao Yonghua</b> (China)	<i>Social Roles of the Bridge</i>	88, LV
<b>Xu Wei</b> (China)	<i>The History of Writing</i>	88, LV
<b>Man Zhenying</b> (China)	<i>Safety Helmets</i>	87, LV
<b>Wu Zhuangqiang</b> (China)	<i>Talking Rubbish</i>	87, LV
<b>Xu Lijun</b> (China)	<i>The Call of the Forest</i>	86, LV
<b>Chai Xiao</b> (China)	<i>The Previous and Present Lives of Castles</i>	86, LV
<b>Jiao Yongliang</b> (China)	<i>Advertisements We See Everywhere</i>	86, LV
<b>Gita Noviandi</b> (Indonesia)	<i>One World, One Promise – “The Scout Movement”</i>	86, LV
<b>Kong Dongming</b> (China)	<i>That’s Me – Nature’s Little Elf: Electricity</i>	86, LV
<b>Chen Pu</b> (China)	<i>The History of Church Architecture</i>	85, LV
<b>Wei Jihong</b> (China)	<i>The Earth says to Mankind – Protecting Me is Protecting Yourselves!</i>	85, LV
<b>Tang Xiaoxuan</b> (China)	<i>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – His Times, His World</i>	85, LV
<b>Prapapin Roykaew</b> (Thailand)	<i>Olympic Games</i>	85, LV
<b>Yang Ping</b> (China)	<i>Bottles – Bearing the Weight of Development and Progress of Human History and Civilization</i>	85, LV
<b>Jin Xinhua</b> (China)	<i>Railways</i>	85, LV
<b>Li Houguo</b> (China)	<i>Cars – Entrance into the Human Society History</i>	85, LV



<b>Liang Bin</b> (China)	<i>Electric Power</i>	85, LV
<b>Fanisa Megawati Subagio</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Seven Days at a Scout Jamboree</i>	84, V
<b>Li Jianhui</b> (China)	<i>Family History of Words</i>	83, V
<b>Hu Yuliang</b> (China)	<i>I am Sound, Do You Know Me?</i>	83, V
<b>Feng Shula</b> (China)	<i>Money</i>	82, V
<b>Gu Jinhua</b> (China)	<i>Bridge – An Epitome of Human History</i>	82, V
<b>Miao Xiangguang</b> (China)	<i>Sailing Ships</i>	82, V
<b>Yuan Nongji</b> (China)	<i>Textiles</i>	82, V
<b>Lee Jae Won</b> (Korea)	<i>The History of Electricity Industries</i>	82, V
<b>Zhang Yicheng</b> (China)	<i>A Basketball Fan</i>	81, V
<b>Chen Shenghui</b> (China)	<i>The Horse – A Distant Memory</i>	80, V
<b>Chen Qisheng</b> (China)	<i>Biography of Brothers Pottery and Porcelain</i>	80, V
<b>Chen Sifan</b> (China)	<i>My Dream of Maps</i>	80, V
<b>Fanisa Megawati Subagio</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Marine Life Wild Beauty</i>	80, V
<b>Zhu Yeping</b> (China)	<i>A Complete Book of Lucky Gourmet</i>	80, V
<b>Ryan Smith</b> (New Zealand)	<i>The Armed Forces</i>	80, V
<b>Kim Chang Han</b> (Korea)	<i>The Art and Science of Tea</i>	80, V
<b>Zeeshan Advani</b> (Pakistan)	<i>Revival to Golden Jubilee of Modern</i>	
<b>Verna Veridea</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Olympic Games (1894-1944)</i>	80, V
	<i>Amazing Mammals</i>	80, V



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<b>Kirana Nurul Jannah</b> (Indonesia)	<i>Fine Feathered Friends of the Wind</i>	80, V
<b>Tsetseg-Ulzii Ashid</b> (Mongolia)	<i>Bactrian Camels</i>	80, V
<b>Zhou Yaohua</b> (China)	<i>Beautiful Flowers, Deep Feelings</i>	78, LS
<b>Lin Zhihong</b> (China)	<i>Automobiles</i>	78, LS
<b>Hu Jiaying</b> (China)	<i>Hey, Let Me Give you a Talk about Gymnastics Now</i>	78, LS
<b>Liu Pengfei</b> (China)	<i>Couriers – Messengers for Humans</i>	78, LS
<b>Xu Zheng</b> (China)	<i>An Interview with Mr. Oink</i>	78, LS
<b>Nilo Jr. Dizon</b> (New Zealand)	<i>The Hologram in Philately</i>	78, LS
<b>Subramaniam Aravandy Pillai</b> (Idn)	<i>Steely Caterpillar and its Smoking Journey</i>	78, LS
<b>Louise Slack</b> (New Zealand)	<i>From Land to Table</i>	77, LS
<b>Awaluddin Haldi</b> (Indonesia)	<i>I am a Bird, and This is How I Inspire Humans</i>	75, LS
<b>Reshu Shrestha</b> (Nepal)	<i>Cricket</i>	75, LS
<b>Wang Yixiang</b> (China)	<i>Playing Table Tennis</i>	75, LS
<b>Bahrudin Adiutama</b> (Indonesia)	<i>The Primates</i>	75, LS
<b>Zhang Xiaojun</b> (China)	<i>The Korean War</i>	75, LS
<b>Shubhrajyoti Behera</b> (India)	<i>Wonders of Nature – Conserve It or Lose It</i>	74, S
<b>Liu Junling</b> (China)	<i>The Secrets of Waterfalls – Wonders from Waters and Mountains</i>	73, S
<b>Liew Siang Ping</b> (Malaysia)	<i>Tropical Fruits</i>	73, S
<b>*Shankar Shrestha</b> (Nepal)	<i>Butterflies</i>	72, S
<b>Ummer Farook</b> (U.A.E.)	<i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>	72, S
<b>Ashwani Kumar Dubey</b> (India)	<i>World Scout Movement</i>	72, S
<b>Bilgutei Enkhbat</b> (Mongolia)	<i>My Lovely Dinosaur – Dinza</i>	72, S
<b>Annalise Smith</b> (New Zealand)	<i>Children's Stories</i>	72, S
<b>Papichaya Roykaew</b> (Thailand)	<i>Siam: King Chulalongkorn the Great (Phra Piya Maharaj)</i>	72, S
<b>Pradip Bajracharya</b> (Nepal)	<i>Fish</i>	71, S
<b>Li Yimin</b> (China)	<i>Guo Runkang's Century Life</i>	71, S
<b>Rajesh Bhura</b> (India)	<i>Mahatma Gandhi "Man of the Millennium"</i>	70, S
<b>Chadraabal Sodoo</b> (Mongolia)	<i>Genghis Khan</i>	70, S
<b>Chang Chen-hsun</b> (Chinese Taipei)	<i>Butterflies</i>	70, S
<b>Dinesh Chandra Sharma</b> (India)	<i>Philately as a Teaching Tool</i>	70, S

I wish to thank Jim Taylor of Canada for providing the results of China 2016.

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

## Need ATA info fast?

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

# 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 57741-57769 and recent reinstatements (membership through April 3, 2017).**

57765	ABBOTT, Louis	
57769	BERK, James J. <i>jjberk@comcast.net</i>	Space, Astronomy
57766	BORDEN, Gene, <i>gborden800@aol.com</i>	Christmas Themed
55321	BOUVIER, Thomas, <i>thomasb.stamps@gmail.com</i>	Americana, Civil War, Penguins
57758	BRIDWELL, Christine	Lace, Nurses
57753	BRUMBAUGH, Donald	
57763	BUFFALO STAMP CLUB, ATA Chapter 131, Buffalo, N.Y.	
57747	CONNOR, Robert N.	Black Americans, including those on foreign stamps
57746	CHAMBERLAIN, David	
54313	DAVIS, Steve, <i>stamperdad@yahoo.ca</i>	Wild Cats
57757	ELLIS, Terry, <i>beardedellis@gmail.com</i>	U.S. Flag, Canadian Flag, Curling, Gandhi
53758	FYEYES, Raymond, <i>rfeyes@yahoo.com</i>	Christmas, Masonic
	10307 Kirkwren Dr, Houston TX 77089-2015	
57741	GARNIA, Jr., William	
55274	GARRETT, Robert, <i>rgarrett1400@gmail.com</i>	Wildlife, Military, Birds, Landscapes, Flowers
	PO Box 41, Claremont VA 23899-0041	
57751	GRALL, Youenn	Woodpeckers, Brittany
57744	GRENCEWICZ, Mary K	
56463	HANKINS, Judith	
57749	HINTON, David, 434 S Cedarcrest Dr, Schaumburg IL 60193-2772	Winston Churchill, Airships
55584	KOLHAGE, Danny	
57759	KOTVAL, Donald	Butterflies, Disney
57743	LONIE, Vicki	Lunar New Year, Christmas, Love, Zodiac, Cats
	2192 E Chesapeake Dr, Gilbert AZ 85234-3840	



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57755	LOVELETT, Felicia, <i>c5nest@gmail.com</i>	Birds, Horses, Biology, Symbols, Outstanding graphic design
57745	MAIN, William, <i>wrm102749@gmail.com</i>	Birds, Christmas, U.S. Airmail
57762	MOSKOWITZ, Ira	
57748	PASUIT, Jennifer, <i>stljan@comcast.net</i>	Cats, Military, History
57047	PINET, Robert, <i>robert_pinet@yahoo.ca</i>	Whales, Figs
57754	PINKERTON, Germaine, <i>pinkertong@cs.com</i>	Horses
57767	ROBINSON, Richard	
57756	RUNYAN, Craig, <i>chrunyan@yahoo.com</i>	Butterflies
	760 Ryan Ave Apt 1, Hiawatha IA 52233-1356	
57750	SCHLICHT, Kathleen, <i>pengloons@comcast.net</i>	Penguins
57742	SNOWHOOK, Donald	Disney, stamps with "involved design" (e.g. Austria Scott 2534)
	320 E Huron St, Omro WI 54963-1404	
57768	STOSS, Russell, <i>riscbonsai@yahoo.com</i>	
57760	THOMPSON, Mark, <i>markrobbin@bellsouth.net</i>	African Americans, Presidential Inauguration Covers
57761	THOMSON, John	Kingfishers, Camels, Trams, Europa, Local government
	PO Box 24, Beechboro, Perth 6023, Australia	
40773	TIMBERLAKE, Harvey	Select People, Select Americana, Select Animals, U.S. Presidents
57764	TOWNSEND, Robert, <i>townsendra@hotmail.com</i>	Astronomy, Astronomers
57752	WEST, Matthew	

### Deceased

31976	ANDERL, Marvin (Va.)	29615	MITCHELL, Marion (Md.)
48226	ANDERSON, Barbara (Ill.)	46789	NUESSLE, John E. (N.Y.)
56943	BHIMANI, Bharat (Calif.)	08003	PRUESS, Kenneth (Neb.)
LM	FARRANT, Leona (R.I.)	56869	ROSE, Jonathan (Calif.)
LM	GRAY, Jack (Ontario, Canada)	LM	SAVAGE, Judith Ann (Calif.)
56731	HOISINGTON, Nan (Mich.)	53641	SIEGEL, Jerry (Fla.)
56729	JEZIERSKI, John (Ore.)	LM	UTEGAARD, Rolf (Wis.)
LM	LEWIS, Nancy (Calif.)	LM	VESELY, Theresa (Calif.)
50129	LOESCH, Christopher (Va.)	46486	WILLIAMS, Jimmy R. (Tex.)

## ATA Membership Recruiters

The following ATA members have recruited new members from Jan. 1 to April 3, 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, Jan. 1-April 3

Hamman, Dawn and John	4	Burke, Michael	1
Winnegrad, Mark	3	Fisk, Allan	1
Asher, Barbara	1	Morgenstern, Amanda	1
Bland, Dennis	1	Sazama, Robert	1
Bruce, Sue	1	Stout, Jean	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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### Membership Information

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

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

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

### ATA Membership Dues

(ATA membership dues after July 1, 2017, are shown in parentheses)

**Electronic membership** (access *Topical Time* online): one year \$25; two years \$45; three years \$65; five years \$100 (\$105). **Domestic (U.S.) membership** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$30 (\$35); two years \$55 (\$65); three years \$80 (\$95); five years \$125 (\$155). **International membership:** (print and electronic *Topical Time*): one year \$40 (\$45); two years \$75 (\$85); three years \$110 (\$125); five years \$175 (\$205). **Life membership** (print and electronic): \$1,000.

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

Single copy, \$5 plus postage (\$2 U.S., \$4 Canada, \$7 international).

### Advertising

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

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

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# Show Calendar

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

Email: [jadeco@charter.net](mailto:jadeco@charter.net)  
 Website: [www.wfscstamps.org](http://www.wfscstamps.org)

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

Email: [tonywaw@spiritone.com](mailto:tonywaw@spiritone.com)  
 Website: [www.pipexstampshow.org](http://www.pipexstampshow.org)

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

Contact Gene Stewart (636) 343-5757

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

**June 10-11, 2017, Alabama.** Huntspex, 2017, sponsored by Huntsville Philatelic Club, Conference Training Center-University of Alabama in Huntsville, 1410 Ben Graves Drive, Huntsville, Ala. Contact Michael O'Reilly (256) 527-4601.

Email: [mcoreilly@att.net](mailto:mcoreilly@att.net)  
 Website: [www.stampshows.com/huntsville\\_hpc.html](http://www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html)

**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)

## Index to Advertisers

Page	Advertiser	Page	Advertiser
34	American Philatelic Society	78	Philatelic Database
86	American First Day Cover Society	25	Rasdale Stamp Co.
28	Bentley1Stamp	81	Rising Sun Stamps
57	Champion Stamp Shop	77	Stamp Connections
21	Eastern Shore Stamp Co.	51	Stamp Insider
72	France International	54	<i>Stamp News</i> , Australia
09	Gitner, Henry	76	Stamp News Publishing
49	Gray, R.W.	89	Stamp Smith
60	Mackey, James	78	The Tiger
53	Miner, R.D. Philatelics	05	Universal Philatelic Auctions
35	Morville, Peter	84	Virgin Stamps
50	National Stamp Dealers Association	27	Wydly.com
56	Penguins on Stamps Study Unit	36	WYstamps.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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First Name:

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# Adults:

# Children:

List names of additional attendees:

Address:

Email address:

### INFORMATION:

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

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

Locally I plan to use  hotel shuttle  my own transport

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

Philatelic publication – Publication name:

ATA Website  Postcard from Dealer

Flyer picked up at a stamp show – Show name:

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

ATA society table at a stamp show – Show name:

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

Where are you staying while attending NTSS?

Home  Friends  Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport

Another hotel  Other:

**Please volunteer to help with NTSS!**

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

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

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

Page 2

## REGISTRATION AND EVENT TICKETS

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

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

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

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

Check payable to ATA (preferable—saves all fees)

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

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

**Saturday, June 24 (continued from inside of front wrapper).**

12 p.m.	Wine on Stamps Study Unit
12 p.m.	Americana Study Unit Luncheon.
	Meet at the ATA table.
1-3 p.m.	Jack Congrove
	<i>Make Your Own Album Pages by Computer</i>
2-5 p.m.	ATA Silent Auction #4
3 p.m.	AAPE Open Forum on Exhibiting
3 p.m.	Europa Study Unit
3 p.m.	Ships on Stamps Study Unit
4-5:30 p.m.	Judges' Feedback Forum
4 p.m.	Cats on Stamps Study Unit
<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>Show Closes</b>
6 p.m.	Reception/Cash Bar
6:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet
	Ticket Required
9 p.m.	Hospitality Room Opens
	All show attendees welcome

**Sunday, June 25**

8:30 a.m.	Study Unit Officers and Editors Breakfast
<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Show Opens</b>
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	ATA Silent Auction #5
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	What's in Your Attic?
	NSDA/Free Stamp Evaluation
10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Youth/Beginner Area Open
10 a.m.-3 p.m.	United Nations Postal Administration booth open
10 a.m.	Norma Nielson
	<i>Using Genealogy Resources for Philatelic Research</i>
11 a.m.	Ed Andrews
	<i>Judging a Topical Exhibit</i>
1 p.m.	Jack André Denys
	<i>Mary Ann Owens Lives</i>
2 p.m.	Dale Smith
	<i>Removing Self-Adhesive Stamps from Paper</i>
<b>3 p.m.</b>	<b>Show Closes</b>
7 p.m.	Hospitality Room Opens
	All show attendees welcome

**Monday, June 26**

7:30 a.m.	ATA Board-Show Evaluation
8:30 a.m.	Bus leaves
	Full-Day Tour, New Glarus, Ticket Required
6 p.m.	Tour bus returns to hotel

**Need ATA info fast? Check our website [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org) for all the latest, including changes to the show schedule, exhibits and dealer listings.**

# NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW CROWNE PLAZA MILWAUKEE AIRPORT



## Brewing Up TOPICALS

June 23-25, 2017 • Milwaukee

### SHOW SPONSORS:

- National Topical Stamp Show Presenting Sponsor Rasdale Stamp Co. •
  - Honoring Mary Ann Owens Event Stamp Smith •
  - Exhibition Grand Award France International •
  - Exhibition Mary Ann Owens
- One-Frame Grand Award Dawn & John Hamman •
- Exhibition Frames Laurie Ryan • Judges Room Biology Unit •
  - Youth Table National Stamp Dealers Association •
  - Thursday Tour to Cedarburg Jeff & Adriana Hayward •
- Monday Tour to New Glarus Jack Congrove & Larry Davidson •

### NTSS 2017 BOURSE DEALERS INCLUDE:

A to Z Stamps - David Alex - Bardo Stamps - Black Cat Philatelics - CL Cachets/ 3DLAZ Cachets - Eastern Shore Stamp Co - JVC Cachets - K & R Enterprises - Queen City Coins & Stamps - Rasdale Stamp Company - RASLAD Enterprises - Romp Cachets - Robert M. Sazama - Smyth's Stamp Shoppe - Stamp Art - Stamp Smith - Stampmen, Inc. - Stamps n Stuff

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

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

Enclosed is my check for \$

If paying electronically in one of the following ways, there is no need to return this form.

A small bonus to help cover electronic charges would be appreciated.

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# National Topical Stamp Show

## 2017 Schedule of Events

This schedule is preliminary. Check your show program for additions/changes.

This section may be removed from magazine for easy show reference!

### ***Wednesday, June 21***

6-9 p.m. ATA Board of Directors

### ***Thursday, June 22***

8:30-11 a.m. ATA Board of Directors, Part 2  
11 a.m. Show Set-up  
11:15 a.m. Bus leaves for Cedarburg Tour  
Ticket required  
5:30 p.m. Tour bus returns to hotel  
7 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens

### ***Friday, June 23***

9:30 a.m. Introducing ATA's new *Amphibians Handbook*, book signing available.  
**10 a.m.** **Show Opens**  
10 a.m.-12 p.m. Penguins Study Unit  
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ATA Silent Auction #1  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. What's in Your Attic?  
NSDA/Free Stamp Evaluation  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Youth/Beginner Area open  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. United Nations Postal Administration booth open  
1-2:30 p.m. ATA Annual Meeting  
2-5 p.m. ATA Silent Auction #2  
2:30 p.m. Tribute to Mary Ann Owens and Refreshments  
**6 p.m.** **Show Closes**  
6 p.m. Reception/Cash Bar, Sabre Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel  
6:30 p.m. Dinner, President's Reception, Ticket required  
9:30 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens  
All show attendees welcome

### ***Saturday, June 24***

**10 a.m.** **Show Opens**  
10 a.m. 12:30 p.m. ATA Silent Auction #3  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. What's in Your Attic?  
NSDA/Free Stamp Evaluation  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. United Nations Postal Administration booth open  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Youth/Beginning Area open  
10 a.m. Biology Study Unit  
10 a.m. Medical Subjects Study Unit  
11 a.m. Barry Stagg, Chair, British Thematic Assn.  
*Thematic/Topical Collecting in Great Britain*

***Show schedule continued on inside back wrapper for handy pull-off reference.***