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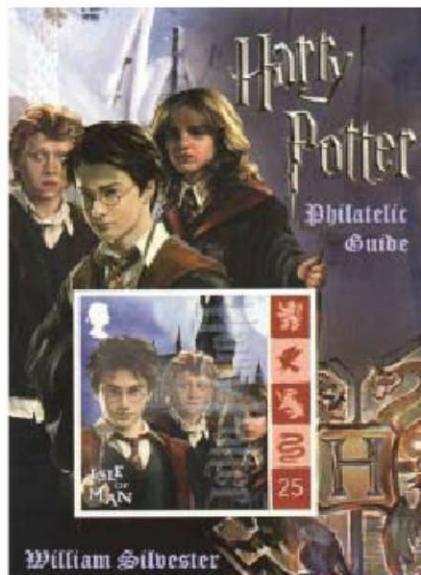
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Meters by Topic



See Page 42



How to Write
a Topical
Handbook

See Page 25

...and
MUCH
more!



Journal of Thematic Philately
AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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Boldly to the Future continues for ATA! See Page 10.



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C.G.



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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 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,
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**Please contribute to the 2015 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...
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JACK'S JOURNAL

From Mentor to Mentee to Mentor to Mentee

In 1999, Larry Davidson and I spent a wonderful week at the American Philatelic Society Summer Seminar on Philately. We were among the 17 collectors who took the stimulating course “Topical/Thematic Collecting: The Joys and Tribulations,” led by Mary Ann Owens, assisted by George Guzzio. Together, they were pioneers in helping the philatelic exhibiting community accept thematic collecting as a valid branch. Individually, each earned several international large gold awards for their thematic exhibits. So we expected to learn a thing or two.

And we did. For five days we listened, admired, challenged and grew in knowledge and inspiration. Afterwards, Mary Ann became our mentor, continuing to patiently answer our many questions over the years. With her guidance – and many suggestions from judges and other exhibitors – and several rewrites, Larry and I both have gone on to win Grand awards at the National Topical Stamp Show.

Now we mentees have become mentors. We are passing on what we learned. We want to inspire others as we ourselves have been inspired. We are helping others as we have been helped. The cycle continues.

And philately thrives. One of the great things about our hobby is how most collectors are willing to help one another, whether one-time or long-term. Usually it is not planned – it just happens. One collector asks another a question. That’s all it takes. May you enjoy your role as mentor or mentee or both. ☐



About ATA



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

NTSS Reports on our Website

www.americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2015.shtml

- Youth page, *Topical Tidbits: Tidbits* is now a quarterly publication. The latest issue is “Moving the Mail.” There are now more than 400 pages in the youth area of our website.

- Free holiday checklist: ATA’s annual holiday checklist – free to everyone – will be posted through Dec. 31. This year’s list details stamp issues featuring comics of Charles M. Schulz, celebrating 50 years of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Checklists

Our Checklist Coordinator, Tom Stillman, has learned that Karen Cartier has,

indeed, very big shoes to fill. If you enjoy working with your own checklists, you might enjoy helping Tom (and ATA) with some aspect of our checklist service. Contact the ATA Office for information.

Forms to use for checklist updates/changes as well as for new checklists are on our website: www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml. Send the information directly to Tom Stillman: atachecklists@gmail.com or PO Box 210748, San Francisco CA 94121-0748.

TopicalsOnLine

Do you have 10 minutes? Instead of pacing, flipping through a magazine or eating a snack, use that stray 10 minutes and check out www.TopicalsOnLine.com. You'll be amazed at the great selection of stamps and will want to go back when you have more time to browse. ATA members get a 10% discount, and all purchases benefit the ATA.

Awards

APS StampShow Literature Competition in Grand Rapids in August.

- *Topical Time* and its editor, Wayne Youngblood, earned another Gold.
- Two ATA handbooks earned Silver awards: *Watercraft II*, edited by Katherine Kirk, and *Plants V*, edited by Christopher Dahle. Congratulations to all!

“Under the Big Top” Video

The ATA and the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library have partnered to produce a 17-minute video based on the late Roland Essig's circus exhibit. You may download it free at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWBetETT9L8. This video would make an excellent program for your club. Roland left his philatelic estate to the ATA and we are pleased to help promote his topical legacy. Thanks to MaryAnn Bowman for coordinating this project.

Recent Shows and New Members

Sept. 4-6, **Balpex**, Hunt Valley, Md. Ambassadors: **Joe Sullivan, Lucy Eyster, Gerry Frazier, Doug Hadley, Herschel Kanter, Don Neiman, Don Smith**. New Members: 4. (This information is updated from that appearing in the Sep-Oct *Topical Time*.)

Sept. 11-13, **Seapex**, Tukwila, Wash. Ambassadors: **Jack Congrove, Eric Knapp**. New Members: 2.

Sept. 18-20, **Milcopex**, Milwaukee, Wis. Ambassadors: **Robert Mather, Frank Kos**. New Member: 1.

Sept. 18-20, **Greater Houston Stamp Show**, Humble, Texas. Ambassador: **Jean Stout**. New Members: 2.

Sept 26, **Waxahachie Chautauqua**, Waxahachie, Texas. Ambassadors: **Ray Cartier, Karen Cartier**.

Oct. 10-11, **Cupecx**, Urbana, Ill. Ambassadors: **Dale Smith, Andrea Smith**. New Member: 1.

Oct. 11, **Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show**, Renton, Wash. Ambassadors: **Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm**.

Oct. 23-25, **ASDA National Stamp Show**, New York, N.Y. Ambassadors: **Allan Fisk, Tony Curiale, Caroline Scannell, Fred Skvara**. New Members: 4.

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

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

You may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (e.g. *Topical Time* archives, handbooks, checklists, DVDs) be brought to these shows for you.

For the shows listed in green, we will have the capability to print checklists upon request.

Nov. 6-8: **CSDA National Postage Stamp Show**, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Dec. 4-6: Florex, Orlando, Fla.

Dec. 13: Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show, Renton, Wash.

Jan. 29-31: **APS AmeriStamp**, Atlanta, Ga.

WANTED:

“Detail person” to assist with ATA’s checklist service. Contact ATA Office

APS Website Reviewer. Responsibilities: To review the APS website monthly and compile lists of thematic exhibit winners and ATA unit literature awards at WSP shows, and send lists to NTSS Exhibits Chair and ATA Office. ☐

Call for Nominations: Distinguished Topical Philatelist 2016

The American Topical Association is now accepting nominations for our organization’s highest award: Distinguished Topical Philatelist. This very special honor is bestowed upon a person who has made significant contributions to topical philately and the ATA in particular.

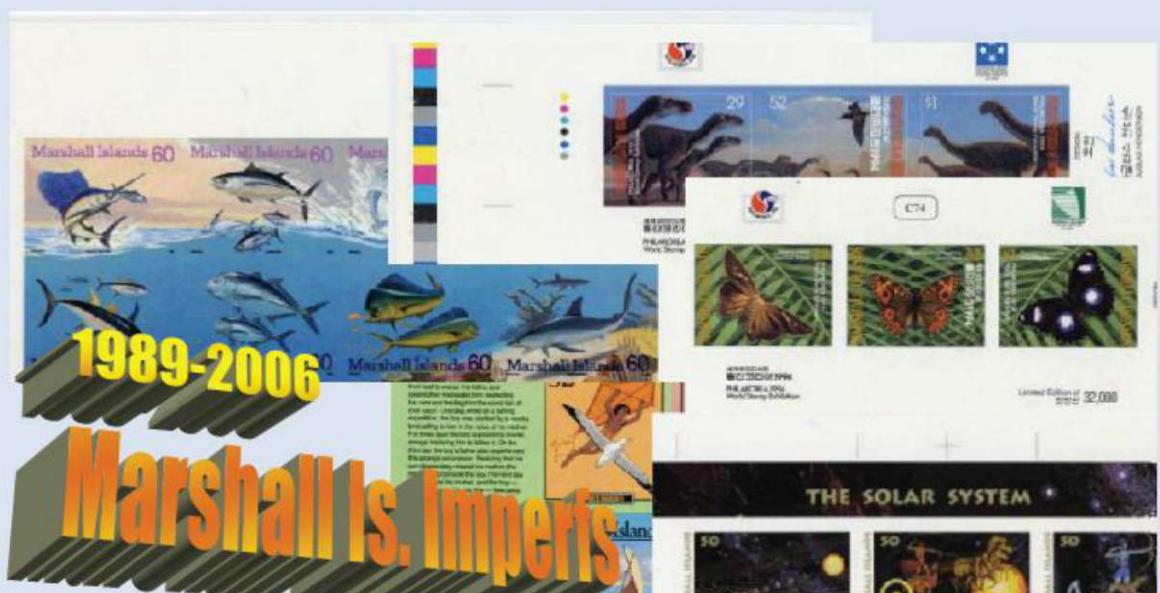
Individuals, study units and chapters may send nominations. The letter of nomination should detail the person’s contributions to philately – in particular, topical philately.

The award will be presented at the ATA Annual Meeting held during the NY 2016 World Stamp Show on Friday, June 3, 2016. (There will be no NTSS show in 2016.)

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome (Jerry) Husak. Since then, 117 people have received the honor. Recipients have included residents of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Italy. Find a complete listing of past winners at our website. The special url is: www.americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml.

The selection committee consists of Donald W. Smith (chair), Donald Beuthel, Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Dorothy C. Smith, Darlene Thomas and Mark H. Winnegrad. Deadline for nominating letters is Dec. 31, 2015. Please send nominations to Donald W. Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907.

This year’s winner was Donald P. Wright, an entomologist active in the ATA Biology Unit, past editor of the unit’s newsletter and author of, or contributor to, four ATA handbooks. ☐



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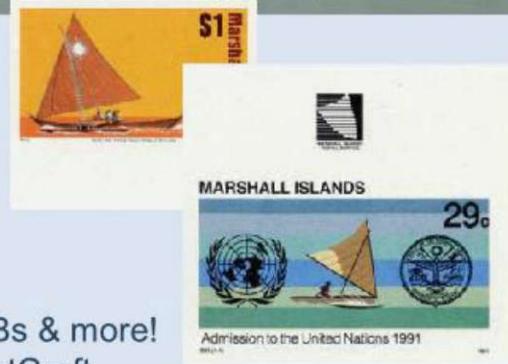
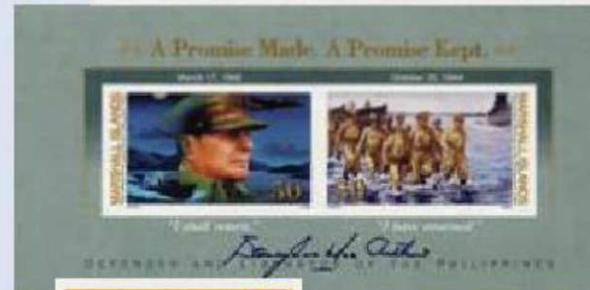
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WWII collectors:

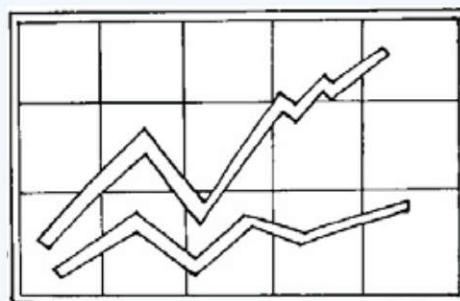
For the 50th Anniversary of WWII, 100 sets were issued depicting events and battles. The stamps were available as singles or with an attached bottom inscription tab. Available perf & Imperf and gutter pairs!

Boldly to the Future

It is hard to believe we are already in the last months of 2015, as the time went so quickly. Thanks to you, it has been a great year for ATA. Your generosity allowed your association to greatly improve member services. ATA checklists, handbooks and publications (including this issue of *Topical Time*) are better than ever, and continue to expand and improve.



All through the year we've had opportunities to enjoy the fun of topical stamp collecting. The National Topical Stamp Show, held in Portland, Ore., was a success in every way. We enjoyed meeting other collectors and sharing enthusiasm for our hobby. We saw many interesting exhibits and visited the dealers to add items to our collections.



If you have given the ATA your email address, you recently received a link to the delightful video, "Under the Big Top," produced jointly by the ATA and the talented people at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Denver. This very creative program on circus stamps was made from a collection donated by Roland Essig, who left it to ATA in his will.

Your contributions helped ATA accomplish these things, but there is more we can do. Please, as we approach the year's end, send a contribution to the ATA. Your contribution, in any amount, helps your ATA go...

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

2015 BTTF Goal: \$35,000
Given/pledged to date (May 31)

2015 BTTF Goal	\$35,000
Received to date	\$16,304
Still Needed:	\$18,696

These are some ways you can send your BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE gift for 2015:

- Check drawn on U.S. bank in U.S. funds - ***best, since it saves us fees*** - payable to "American Topical Association," PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA.
- PayPal: to americantopical@msn.com. This is preferable if you pay electronically.
- Visa, Mastercard, Discover card – send card info to address above, or phone or FAX it to ATA Office @ 618-985-5100.

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.

If using PayPal or credit card, please consider including a small bonus to cover fee.



VERA'S VIEWS

ATA Can be Your Holiday Helper

ATA has three “new” offerings this year that you can use to introduce topical stamp collecting to adult beginners and/or youth, priced at \$3, \$5 and \$10 – definitely within your budget – and perfect for gift giving, no matter what holiday(s) you celebrate! The first two mentioned here are brand new; the third was introduced earlier this year. Each of the items has been popular at stamp shows where it has been available. Read on, and order your items now, in plenty of time for the holiday season.

About The Adventure kit (\$5). This kit comes in a beribboned white box, all ready to give to someone whom you'd like to interest in stamp collecting. It contains ATA's wonderful 100-page color handbook, *Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting*, a topical album page with 10 matching stamps to mount, an issue of *Topical Time* and several other informational items. The best part is this: the tag on the gift box is actually a coupon good for \$5 off on an ATA membership. The kit is currently available for any of five topics: Animals, Birds, Christmas, Flowers or Watercraft. If you have a different topic in mind for your giftee, we will do our best to supply an album page and stamps for that topic – just let us know your preference. The postage cost is \$3.



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 DISNEY
Classic Fairytales
in Postage Stamps**

(\$10). ATA has some copies of a 44-page color book, 7x10" in size, published by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation. It's subtitled: *A Story Book Stamp Album for the Disney Postage Stamp Collection*. It comes with your choice of either a Cinderella or a Sleeping Beauty mini-sheet of 9

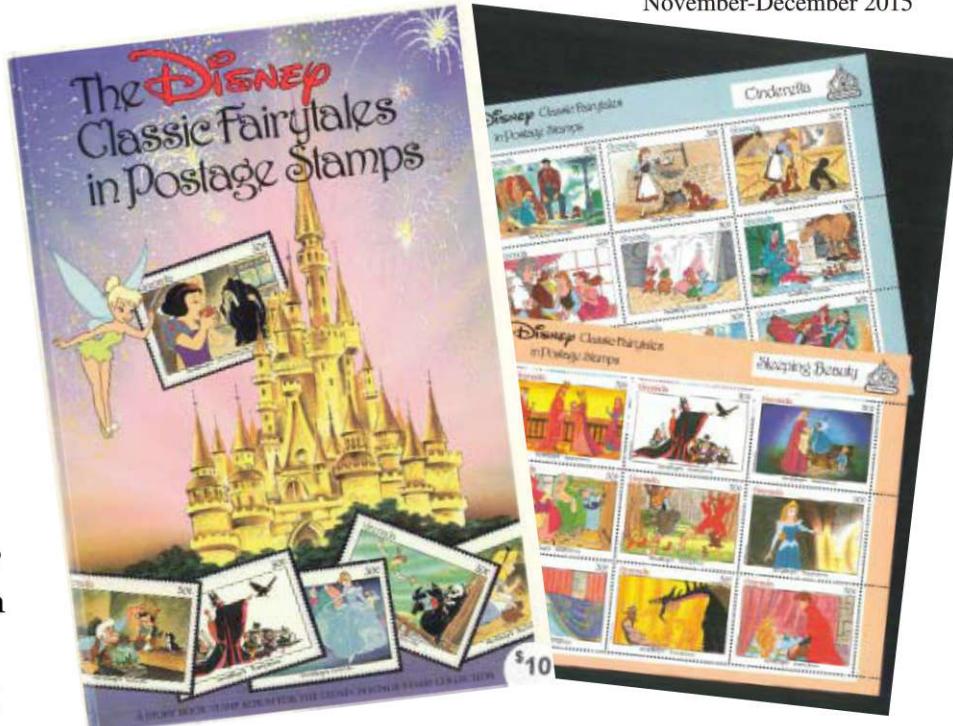
stamps. There are album spaces for the following additional Disney stamps: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Pinocchio, Peter Pan and Alice in Wonderland. Several copies of the book have sold at ATA Ambassador tables at stamp shows, and I don't expect our supply to last long. Perfect for that young person on your gift list! Postage is \$2, and remember to specify whether you'd like the book with a Cinderella or a Sleeping Beauty souvenir sheet. Order two or more books, and pay just \$8 each.

Taste of Topicals (\$3). I described this offering in my July-August 2015 column. This ATA-produced item consists of 10 album pages and a glassine envelope of 30+ stamps, all on the same topic, along with stamp hinges and other information, all housed in a 8½- by 11-inch clear page protector. *Taste of Topicals* is available for 40-some different topics, all listed at www.americantopicalassn.org/pdf/youth/tasteoftopicals.pdf. *Taste of Topicals* has been selling very well at stamp shows, and we are doing our best to have all the listed topics available at all times, but with holidays coming up we may run a bit short, so order early for the best choice of pages.

Postage for a *Taste of Topicals* packet is \$1.

If you're purchasing several gifts, the ATA Office staff will be happy to quote you exact postage for the items you'd like. Just call or email (contact information is on page 4).

Blessings of the season. The ATA staff – Vera, Jane and Angela – wish you a joyous holiday season as you celebrate Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and/or the New Year with your family and friends. We consider our relationship with ATA members to be a blessing to us, not only at holiday time but all year long. We wish you the very best. ☺



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TOPICAL POSTLINE

More Corn...

In the July-August *Topical Time* (Page 13), you showed a Fairfield, Iowa, fancy cancel of an ear of corn and a Nira, Iowa, third-day cover that had a similar ear of corn used as part of a rubber-stamp cachet. I have a couple bits of information for you.

First, I have attached an image of a registered Fairfield, Iowa, cover that you might find interesting, both for the cancels and for the pointing finger return marking [*shown nearby*]. This is from my *Horsing Around* collection and exhibit (regular field corn is known as "Horse Corn"). I don't have



a copy of the Fishbach and Walker book so I cannot tell you if it is Type 1 or Type 2.

As for the Nira cover, there is an article on the "second day" (actually third day) ceremonies at Nira on Aug. 17, 1933, for the National Recovery Act stamp in the July-August 2015 *First Days* on page 46.

— Rob Henak

Thank you Rob, yours is a great cover! I also appreciate the information on Nira. There is no information on the corn cancel, or how it got to Nira as part of the cachet, but there is much interesting information on the town. Is it possible, perhaps, that the ear of corn was a commercially available rubber-stamp device used as a cancel and, later, part of the Nira cachet? I've seen a number of the third-day covers over the years, but did not know about the important (but temporary) revitalizing effect of the ceremony and cancel to the town that is detailed in the article.

— Wayne



Top: Nira, Iowa, third-day cover for 1933 NRA stamp, using ear of corn in cachet.

Above and right: Front and back of registered cover from Fairfield, Iowa, with ear of corn fancy cancel.

Bahaus in Israel

I just received my Sept.-Oct. 2015 edition of *Topical Time*, and read with great interest Lyman Caswell's article on The Bahaus



architecture and design, and the research that went into it.

At the same time I find it amazing and absolutely inconceivable that the author did not even mention or relate to Bauhaus architecture in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Tel Aviv's White City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, comprises the largest concentration of Bauhaus buildings in the world. These buildings were built in Tel Aviv in the 1930s by German Jewish architects who emigrated to the British Mandate of Palestine after the rise of the Nazis. In 2000, The Bauhaus Center in Tel Aviv was established as an organization dedicated to the ongoing documentation of this architectural heritage. In 2003, it hosted an exhibition on preservation of the architecture that showcased 25 buildings. To

further the architectural culture in the city, a small Bauhaus museum opened in Tel Aviv in 2008, designed by Israeli architect Ron Arad. One Israel stamp – part of a three-stamp strip, Scott 1197-1199 – depicts one such Bauhaus building. How this important information on Bauhaus escaped the author is beyond me. All this information is readily available on Wikipedia, when one Googles "Bauhaus."

— Isidore Baum

One of the very important functions of publishing philatelic information is so that more and relevant information may be found by other members and published subsequently – as you've just demonstrated. Thank you.

— Wayne



WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Topical Time *Mission Statement*

One of the things we realized as we neared National Topical Stamp Show in Portland this year, is that we did not have a real mission statement for *Topical Time*.

As this journal serves as the primary link many members have with our organization, we felt it was important to develop one. Mission statements can, and do, change over time, but this serves as ours for now. Special thanks go to Jack Denys, Vera Felts and Dale Smith for working together to help craft and refine the statement. That statement is published in the box following this column. ☐

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.

ATA TopicalsOnLine

American Topical Association



TopicalsOnLine is Great Member Resource

By Robert Lamb

This year *TopicalsOnLine.org* celebrated its second birthday. ToL was created by ATA in 2013 to provide an internet sales site for ATA members and topical collectors.

The site started with only about 3,000 listings, but has grown and today sports almost 21,000 listings and continues to add about 500 a month. All of the stamps are listed by ATA members who can be counted on to list stamps at fair prices and offer good material. About 500 ATA members and about 200 non-members are currently registered on the site.

While most of the listings are complete sets, there is an exceptional number of individual stamps available for collectors who only want to get a single stamp depicting their topic – without

buying the whole set. This is a great way to obtain only those stamps you need.

You can search for your topic two ways. All stamps have to be listed by topics, so you can choose one of the topics for your search. If you select “Christmas” on the topics list, hit “Apply” and you will get 1,082 listings on the site. But, if you want something more specific, it is often better to enter the topic in the “Keyword/Description” field and click on “Apply.” For example, enter “camel” in the keyword field and click on “Apply.” You

will get 42 listings. Don’t forget after each search, click on “Reset” before starting a new one.

If you have any questions about using *TopicalsOnLine.org*, go to the site and click on “Contact Us.” We will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Remember, every purchase from *TopicalsOnLine.org* helps the ATA! ☺



A Christmas stamp featuring camels.



Camel stamp with airplane.



Perhaps a stretch, but Snoopy flies his “Sopwith Camel.”



TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

B'ar (Daniel Boone)

In the latter part of August, many of us here on the East Coast enjoyed watching the news reports and video of a mother bear and her five cubs helping themselves to a refreshing dip in an above-ground swimming pool in Rockaway, NJ. As the human family watched from their house and the wife recorded the video, these fuzzy critters were having one heck of a time climbing in and out of the water and splashing around, albeit while wrecking the family's pool equipment and most everything else in the backyard at the time. One of the youngsters even took a quick ride on a plastic kiddies' slide near the pool while mom watched approvingly from her spot in the cool water.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Black bear sightings are becoming more and more common in the East, particularly in suburban areas where folks are tightly packed. Rural areas, including mine, have seen a strong uptick as well. A few months back I was enjoying some quiet time in my stamp den when a noise on the porch caught my attention. Looking out the window I saw a young bear dragging one of the Adirondack chairs out to under one of the bird feeders hanging at the edge of the porch. Mission accomplished, he or she climbed right up and started dining on the bird seed in a manner that reminded me of a box of cereal being emptied, much to the dismay of the Grosbeaks whose nosh had been so rudely interrupted.

By now it should have become glaringly obvious that this time around we'll be looking at some pictorial postmarks celebrating our *Ursidae carnivora* friends and, in this issue, we'll be concentrating on Black, Brown and Polar

Black bears sightings are becoming more and more common in the East, particularly in suburban areas where folks are tightly packed. Rural areas, including mine, have seen a strong uptick as well. A few months back I was enjoy-

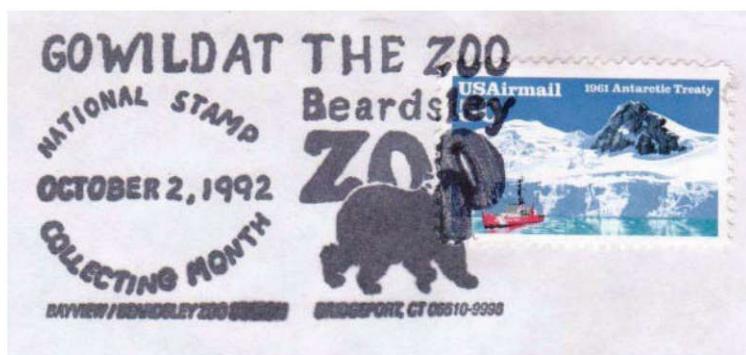


Figure 3.

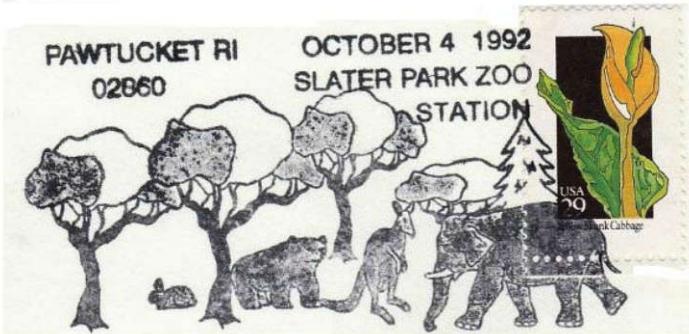


Figure 4.

nicknamed “the clowns of the forest,” these bears tend to be more scared of us two-legged critters than not, making altercations unusual (that said, you don’t want to ever find yourself standing between a mother bear and her cubs as in such a scenario it would most certainly be “game on.”)

Our first pictorial postmark (Figure 1), technically a fancy cancel – and a pretty neat one at that – was used at Bear, Ark., in 1930. Bear, also known as Bear City, was founded in 1882 and spent a brief period of time in the limelight as a potential gold-mining town, the story of which, unfortunately, was based on scams, rumors and speculation. Today Bear has hardly any

inhabitants and

is entirely surrounded by Ouachita National Forest.

Figure 2 takes us up to Wisconsin for a pictorial used in 1986 at Mukwonago. Originally the tribal seat of the Bear Clan of the Potawatomi Indians, these native



Figure 6.

Americans called their village “Mequanego” (which translates into “Bear’s Den” or, as seen in the cancel, “The Place of the Bear”) and is how the modern name for the town came about.

Our next two U.S. cancels were both used in 1992 and both commemorate different zoos. Figure 3 celebrates the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, the only zoo in the entire state of Connecticut. In 1878, a wealthy farmer donated 100 acres of land to the city with the understanding that the land would remain as a public park in perpetuity. Within

Bears while keeping their compatriots (Panda, Sloth, Andean and even Teddy Bears) for a different episode at another time.

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the smallest of the three species of bears found in North America, with mature adults weighing in at an average of around 600lbs. Affectionately



Figure 5.



Figure 7.

a few years, the city contracted with Frederick Law Olmstead, the architect of New York City's Central Park, to create a bucolic setting for the residents to enjoy, and so he did. Now somewhat comparable to Central Park, the only thing missing was a zoo. Coincidentally, Phineas T. Barnum (think Barnum & Bailey's Circus) happened to live in Bridgeport and was known to regularly exercise his circus critters through the park, much to the delight of the locals. Because of this, it was only a matter of time before the pieces were put together. So, by 1921, the Beardsley Zoo (named after our land-donating farmer) opened its doors. This pictorial confused me for a while since the second "O" in "ZOO" almost makes it look like the

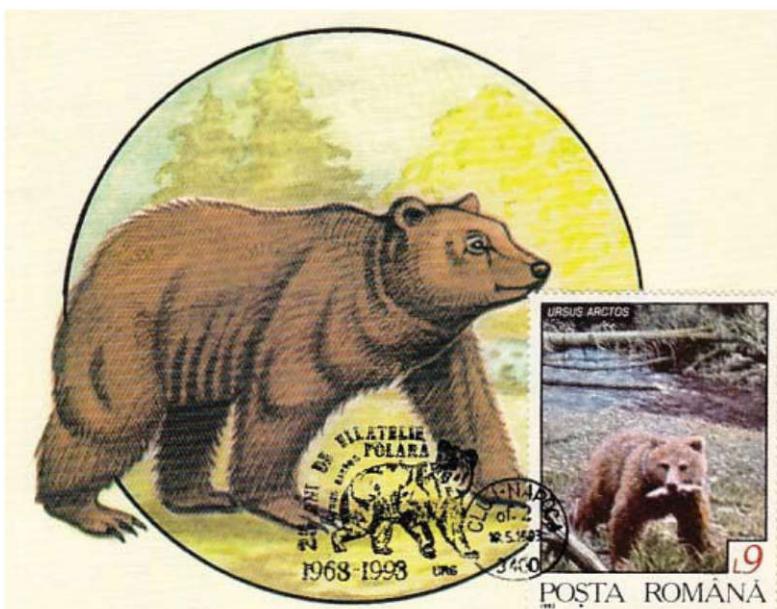
animal in the cancel has a trunk (as in elephant), but this is strictly an inking mirage, and if we look closely at the critter's legs, we can see, because of the fuzz, this is indeed a bear.

Figure 9.

animal in the cancel has a trunk (as in elephant), but this is strictly an inking mirage, and if we look closely at the critter's legs, we can see, because of the fuzz, this is indeed a bear.

Figure 4 takes us to The Slater Park Zoo of Pawtucket, R.I. Named after Samuel Slater, the famous industrialist, this park with zoo opened in 1894.

Here, our 1992 pictorial provides a menagerie of zoo animals, with our bear juxtaposed between a rabbit and a kangaroo.

**Figure 11.****Figure 8.****Figure 10.**

Next, let's take a look at brown bears (*Ursus arctos*), a species that can be found in many places around the world. This group includes our own American grizzly, big browns and the Eurasian brown. Some of these big boys, such as those that inhabit the Alaskan coast and Russia, can get to polar bear size (humongous) and most have an attitude that makes viewing them a safe endeavor only from a distance.



Figure 12.

The interior bears, like the grizzlies of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and those of the mountains in Europe, tend to run a bit smaller in size, but their attitudes are similar to their larger kin.

Figure 5 takes us to Canada, where we see a first-day of issue pictorial postmark used at Banff, Alberta, in 1997. Here the postmark neatly mimics the image found on the then-issued C\$8 stamp, including the characteristic hump on the bear's back.

Another 1997 Canadian marking of a grizzly bear can be found in Figure 6, this one tying both a postage stamp and an

Alberta Conservation stamp to its envelope, a nice touch (and a handy way to sneak a non-postal item into an exhibit!)

Crossing the Atlantic, our next stop is Estonia (Figure 7), where we see another first-day (Esimene Päev) cancel. I get a kick out of this one because the stylized pictorial

Figure 14.

showing a smiling, happy and cuddly-looking brown bear (Pruunkaru) is in such stark contrast to its angry, growling counterpart depicted on the stamp.

Finland is up next (Figure 8), with a first-day postmark depicting a snuffling bruin canceling

its bear stamp counterpart. The

brown bear is the Finnish national symbol and, due to its large population (one which is constantly being fed by bears moseying in from Russia), provides for bear-watching both as a national pastime and a tourist industry.

A sub-species of the brown bear, known as the Brown Eurasian (*Ursus arctos arctos*) was at one time prevalent throughout much of Europe. Due to



Figure 13.



Figure 15.



Figure 16.

human encroachment, the population retreated over time to mountainous regions and today is found only in the Pyrénées between France and Spain, as well as some other small pockets on the continent. Near extinction in the 1990s, the French government responded by slowly importing some Slovonian Eurasians to bolster the population. This has met with some success.

Figure 9 brings us to a 1991 first-day pictorial used at Saint-Larry-Soulan in the Hautes-Pyrénées region of France, which serves to remind us of the Eurasian's plight as an *Espèces protégées* (protected species). The Figure 10 marking welcomes us to "The Land of the Bear" (Bienvenue au pays de L'ours) and was applied at Saint-Béat, France, in 2001 using the same stamp as in the previous example.



Figure 18.

is the behemoth of the ursine world, the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), a marine mammal whose native range lies largely within the Arctic Circle. Mature males average 1,500 pounds in weight. Currently considered a "vulnerable species," the bear has been the subject of attention. Many localities and postal administrations have issued postage stamps and pictorial postmarks over the years as a reminder of the bear's predica-

Figure 11: Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 1993. Romania has the second-largest brown bear population in Europe (Russia has the largest).

Figure 12: Bratislava, Slovakia, 2001.

Figure 13: Oviedo, Spain, 1996. Cantabrian Eurasian brown bear of the Cantabrian Mountains.

The final bruin for us to consider here



Figure 19.



Figure 17.



Figure 20.

Figure 18: What one really looks like.

Figure 19: Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K., 1972. First-day cancel on British Explorers issue (Scott 664-667).

Figure 20:
Singelfingen, Germany, 2008.

Figure 21:
Schwarzenberg,
Germany, 2012.
International Polar
Exhibition.

Figure 22: Alba
Iulia, Romania, 1991. **Figure 21.**

ment and to support conservation initiatives. Given this centralized theme, let's again approach these in list form:

Figure 14: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 1998. First-day marking.

Figure 15: Polar Ship *Dukegat* cancel for Arctic voyage originating in Graz, Austria, and ending in Ålborg-Thule, Denmark. Austrian franking, 1977.

Figure 16: Vienna, Austria, 1999. Christmas Advent Festival at the Schönbrunner Tiergarten (Zoo).

Figure 17: Baku, Azerbaijan, 2007. First-day pictorial of Polar Bear's paw print.



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Figure 23: United Nations Geneva, Switzerland, 1997. First-day pictorial.

Let's close with a final listing, these a mix of celebrity and cartoon bears:

Figure 24: Heimbach, Germany, 2013. International Art Academy Exhibition.

Figure 25: Oita, Japan, 2011. International Wheel Chair Marathon, an approved event of the International Paralympics Committee.

Figure 26: Bäriswil, Bern, Switzerland, 2008. First-day pictorial for a stamp celebrating *The Little Polar Bear*, a series of childrens' books by Dutch author, Hans de Beer.

Figure 27: Valley Forge, Pa., 1984. Smokey Bear of "Only YOU can prevent forest fires" fame.

Figure 28: Sacramento, Calif., 1998. State Fair pictorial features a bear with an ice cream cone (they are, after all, omnivorous).



Figure 24.

animals. We did examine a goodly number of pictorial postmarks, yet there are many more out there to be collected and cherished (we "bearly" scratched the surface) and I'd like to thank you for bearing with me.

And again, remember to keep at a safe distance from these critters, especially the bigger of their clan.



Figure 22.



Figure 23.

Figure 29: Capitan, N.M. (where Smokey Bear was found), 2008.

Well, that's it for this time, folks.

Here we'll conclude our look at these majestic



Figure 25.



Figure 26.

pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear.

"It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear poop. Black bear poop is smaller and contains a lot of berry seeds and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smells like pepper spray."

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

I'll leave you with this, a sign reportedly placed on a trail by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

"In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Montana Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle the bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry

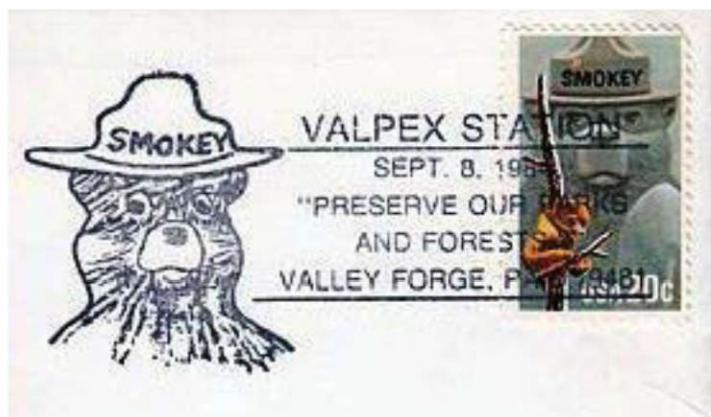


Figure 27.



Figure 28.

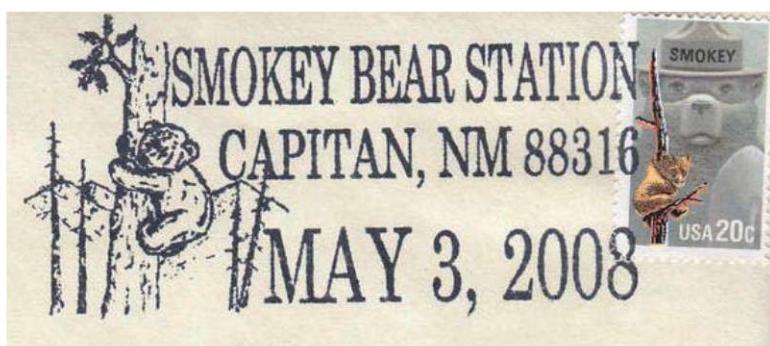


Figure 29.

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How to Write a Topical Handbook

by William Silvester

Philatelic handbooks have long been an important part of topical collecting. ATA recognizes this fact by publishing more than 160 handbooks on a myriad of subjects over the years, including the *Disney on Stamps Handbook* written by me. As the “American Topical Association is about sharing, informing, educating and researching all things thematic,” and the organization requests “your help and your willingness to share your thematic knowledge,” I can’t think of a better way you can help than by writing a handbook on a topic near and dear to your heart. Your handbook may be utilized by the ATA, or you may choose to distribute it yourself.

As so many handbooks have already been published on so many topics, it might be difficult to find one that has not yet been done. One solution to that is to find a mini-topic or a topic within a topic and expand on that by including not only the relevant stamps but also the covers, cancels and meters that go into making an interesting collection. For example a birds-on-stamps collector might want to concentrate on eagles, a watercraft collector could deliberate on aircraft carriers or a movies-on-stamps collector might do *Lord of the Rings*. Add covers, meters and cancels and it quickly expands into a handbook-sized topic.

Handbooks can range from a few pages with lists of stamps available for a specific topic, with a description of each (though these are more likely to be termed checklists), up to a full-color illustrated tome with every imaginable philatelic item listed and described in detail. I prefer somewhere in between.

It just so happens that I recently completed just such a handbook, so the process I used is still fresh in my mind. Before it slips away I will share it with you. These instructions are directed to those who have a computer and at least a rudimentary knowledge of “Word” and “Paint” programs, or the equivalent thereof. A succinct handbook can be done on a typewriter with photocopied images added, but I prefer something a little more in-depth and, dare I say, 21st century.

I wrote my first handbook in the 1990s. Those were the days when computers were just becoming more common and, though my Commodore Amiga was not up to the task of a complicated handbook, I felt that if I wrote one I would be able to find someone to publish it. My subject was the *Handbook of Disney Philately* and I was fortunate enough to get in touch with Issie Baum of Wonderful World of Stamps. He sold Disney stamps and covers and felt the handbook was a good fit for his business so he agreed to publish it. I did the research, wrote the text and supplied what covers, cancels and meters I had for him to duplicate and put in the handbook. He also had all of the Disney stamps available at that time, which I did not, and so he was able to copy those as well. In the end we produced what I think is a respectable effort, considering the technology of the time. It was reasonably popular and went to four supplements as well. It has been out of print for many years but the occasional copy is still floating around.

Fast forward to 2011, when I contacted ATA and asked if the organization would be interested in publishing an updated version of the Disney handbook. It was and it did. *Handbook of Disney on Stamps* was the result and, as it contains lots of text and full-color images of all authorized Disney stamps, it was published in two volumes.

HANDBOOK OF DISNEY ON STAMPS

PART 3 3rd Edition

*Unauthorized Disney Stamps,
Stamps and Labels,
Personalized Stamps,
and Handbook Update*



William Silvester
© 2015

[Editor's note: note: Both the print (\$75) and electronic (\$30) versions of the handbook are still available from the ATA Office.] I still had plenty of information and images left over dealing with other aspects of Disney philately, so I wrote *Handbook of Disney on Stamps – Part 3*, shown in Figure 1, with information on unauthorized Disney stamps, labels, personalized stamps and an update of the original handbook. Not long after, I added *Handbook of Disney on Stamps – Part 4*, with cancels, postage meters, cards, covers and cinderellas. Both handbooks are in a third edition and are available in pdf format by email or on CD from Disneyana on Stamps Society. They are updated annually.

Why do I write these handbooks? Primarily because when I start collecting a topic I like to find out as much as possible about the subject, so I tend to amass a

Figure 1. Cover of Handbook of Disney on Stamps – Part 3, effective and easily made using Word for Windows program.

large amount of information. As I sourced this data for my exhibits or write-ups I often wished I could share all this stuff with others. So I did. I also do it because I enjoy it. At first I published a newsletter called *Disnemation*, but I could not put everything I wanted into a newsletter, a handbook was a much better vehicle.

I have a number of other topical collections, so I thought I would write handbooks for them as well. My next effort was *A Philatelic Guide to the Commonwealth Games*, also available in pdf format with the current edition at 190 pages. This was followed by my latest book, *Harry Potter Philatelic Guide*, shown in Figure 2. It is this handbook that I will describe as I go through the process of creating a handbook.

So, where to begin?

You might be thinking to yourself, "I'm not a writer." You don't need to be. Much of the information you impart is simply describing what is on the stamps or adding a bit of background information not found in catalogs. While the information you impart might seem obvious to you, not everyone will know the scientific name of the flower on that stamp you have included, or what the insignia on a World War II fighter has to do with

Disney. This may either be information you already know or found through your research. Wikipedia is a great source of information if used knowledgeably (and with further research for “questionable facts”). Put information in your own words and give credit whenever possible to the source. This will avoid plagiarism accusations. This is your handbook and it can be as long or as short as you want. Some topics don’t have a lot of stamps and do not require a massive tome. No matter, there will still be someone interested in a handbook on your (and his or her) topic.

I use Microsoft “Word” for everything, so the main essential needed to follow my instructions is a computer. “Word” works well for a handbook, as pictures can easily be added and resized to fit the page. It is also one of the more common word-processing appliances, so anyone who uses your handbook can easily open it. “Paint” or some other similar basic image application is also very useful if you want to remove your address from a cover or cut and paste a cancel instead of showing the entire envelope. I also have a scanner included in my printer, so I can scan my collection with ease. The only other essential is a connection to the internet which I will explain later.

First, I wrote an introduction to describe what the collection was all about, how I became interested in the Harry Potter stamps, a warning to watch out for illegal issues (a bane for most topics), the beginnings of my collection and a brief overview of what became available over the ensuing years. Lastly, I describe how to use the handbook, mention that it is not a catalog, so no prices are included and mention that though there are no catalog numbers, every set has a date of issue so they can be found easily, no matter what catalog someone uses. If you are using scans of licensed stamps in the handbook (such as Disney, Harry Potter or Batman), always add a note with something like: *“This handbook is not authorized, approved, licensed or endorsed by, nor is it in any way affiliated with (license holder’s name). All illustrations are copyright (license holder’s name) or the issuing country. This book is produced with the sole purpose of aiding collectors and others interested in (your topic) philately.”* You might also consider a bibliography at the end if you quote a lot of sources.

Next, I wrote a brief biography of J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter’s author. I had already written and published the *Harry Potter Collector’s Handbook*, so I had the

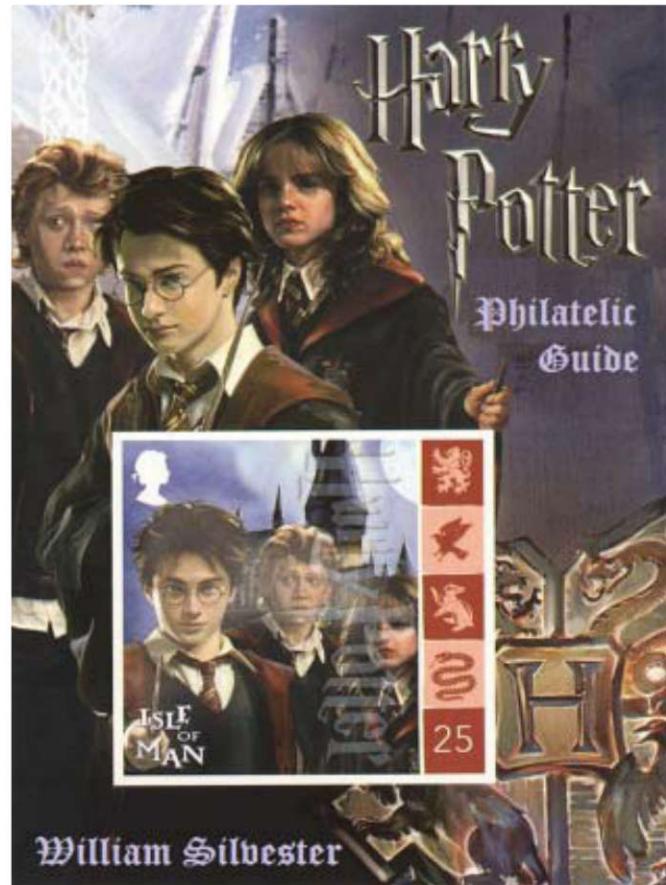


Figure 2. The cover of Harry Potter Philatelic Guide. A Manx postal card scan was adjusted to include the new title and author’s name.

HARRY POTTER ON STAMPS

ALBANIA

The Republic of Albania, located in southeastern Europe, was mentioned only a few times in the seven books of the Harry Potter series. Still, it played an important role as it was here, in a remote forest, that Rowena Ravenclaw hid her mother Helena's stolen diadem. Its location remained secret for several centuries until Tom Riddle (aka Lord Voldemort) found out that Helena was the Hogwart's ghost known as the Grey Lady. House Ghost of Ravenclaw. Riddle managed to extract the location of the diadem from her, recovered it and made it into one of his horcruxes.

After his first defeat in 1981, Voldemort, in a weakened state, fled from Britain to Albania. Here, ten years later he was sought out by Quirinus Quirrell who wanted to either learn from him or try to capture him. That went bad for Quirrell when the Dark Lord took over his head. Quirrell then got a job as a professor at Hogwarts in an attempt to steal the Philosopher's Stone and after failing in that Voldemort returned to Albania.

Peter Pettigrew was the next misguided wizard to seek out Voldemort in 1994 and after he ran into Bertha Jorkins in an Albanian roadside inn, Voldemort broke her mind as he sought information about Hogwarts and learned of the Triwizard Tournament. With Pettigrew's help he concocted a plan to get into Hogwarts, kill Harry Potter and return to his old self.

The first and only Harry Potter stamps from Albania were issued on 15 October 2008 and consisted of a block of four stamps with scenes from the recently released film version of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. The stamps were imprinted "EMISION PER FEMIJE" ("Children's Program").



20 1 - Harry Potter and Professor Albus Dumbledore
30 1 - Harry Potter and the Black's former house-elf, Kreacher
50 1 - Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and students fighting in the Ministry
100 1 - Harry Potter and Kreacher

Figure 3. A typical page showing write-up and stamps from Albania. The same layout is used throughout the "Stamps" chapter.

Potter stamps, the first set (I arrange the stamps alphabetically by country) is from Albania and depicts scenes from *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (Figure 3). I did some research and added some tidbits of information about how Albania figured in the *Harry Potter* books (Lord Voldemort hid out there for a few years). Then I scanned my block of four stamps and added it to the page. The first problem I encountered was that the booklet Albania issued with the stamps was printed in a very limited run of 500. Consequently, I did not have a booklet to scan, but I felt it should be included in the handbook. This is where the internet connection

basis for that piece. As the *Harry Potter* books are a fairly recent phenomenon, I did not have to go back too far with the stamps involved, since the earliest-known (to me anyway) philatelic item was a meter used in 2000.

Following that, I put in a table of contents, to which I will add page numbers when the book is finished. Chapter 1: Stamps, Chapter 2: Postal Stationery, Chapter 3: Cancels and so forth.

Next came the stamps. Some countries do not put out a lot of background information on their stamps so, other than what catalogs say, there is often not much that can be added. What can be done is a detailed description of the stamp, perhaps some background story to the design. In the case of the *Harry*

Next came the stamps. Some countries do not put out a lot of background information on their stamps so, other than what catalogs say, there is often not much that can be added. What can be done is a detailed description of the stamp, perhaps some background story to the design. In the case of the *Harry*



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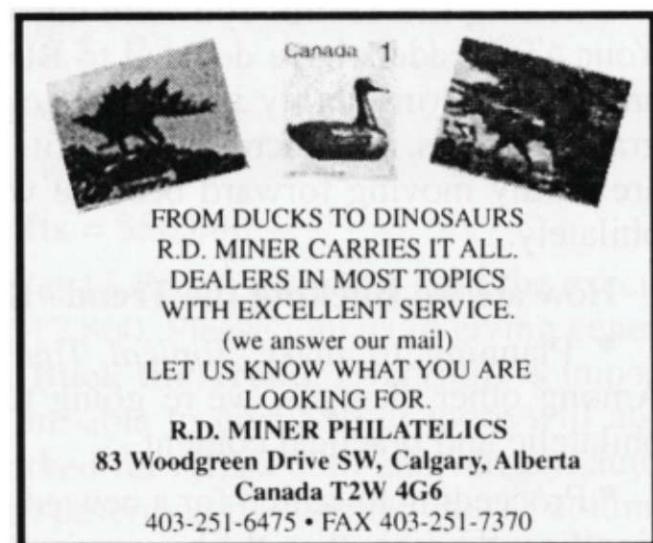
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comes in handy. I simply went online, Google-searched “Harry Potter Albania Stamps” (the quotes are important for a specific search) and found the image I required. I copied it and pasted it onto my Albania page. Next, I added the first-day cover, which I did have in my collection, and moved on to the next country to repeat the process.

I try to add as much information about the stamps as possible. Although I may not collect every aspect of the topic, someone else using the handbook might. For example, Isle of Man issued its *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* set in sheetlets of 5. Now, some collectors might be content to have just the set of stamps; others will want the sheetlets for the extra illustrations in the selvage. The second Manx set featured *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and, again, the set was issued in sheetlets of five, but there were also two first-day covers, one with the cancellation in black, another with the strike in gold ink. I only found out about the latter after a Google search for something else Manx related, which is another benefit of going online.

There was an abundance of information available about the 20-stamp booklet issued by USPS, so I included as much of that as I thought was interesting and relevant. I also included tidbits about the United States from the booklets, as topical collectors are also interested in the background of the images as well as the stamps.



BELGIUM

27

Belgium is seldom mentioned in the Harry Potter books but many Belgian witches and wizards attend Beauxbatons Academy of Magic in France probably because there isn't a wizarding school in Belgium. While the Weasley family was staying at the Leaky Cauldron in London in 1993 a wizard from Belgium, who was also staying there, was shown the *Daily Prophet* article of their recent trip to Egypt, by Ron.

Like Australia's Souvenir Stamp Sheets listed above, Duostamps are not Harry Potter stamps as the pictures of the characters are on the tabs and not the stamps. These are unique to Belgium. The first set featured *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and was printed in sheets of fifteen and either sold in that form, cut down to strips of five and inserted in cellophane and sold or sold in a pack with 2 cards.

Duostamps – Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban - 2004



The labels depict: Harry riding his broom, closer view of Harry on his broom, Harry with his wand, Harry and Hermione riding Buckbeak and Harry and Hogwarts.



The sheet reduced to a single strip for sale in a packet.

Figure 4. One of the duostamps pages for Belgium, to show the use of different sizes to make both scans fit on a page.

The same procedure was followed for each succeeding chapter, including everything philatelic that I could find. “Personalized Stamps and Labels” was my next chapter, of which Australia has a number of what they call souvenir stamp sheets. These are 8½- by 11¾-inch sheets with regular-issue stamps and *Harry Potter* themed labels. Strictly speaking, the four souvenir stamp sheets issued by Australia are not *Harry Potter* stamps, as the relevant pictures are on the tabs

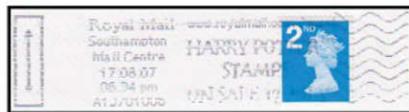
GERMANY

43

Germany has not issued any Harry Potter stamps but a couple of postage meters have been used. One was used in 2000 by Carlsen Verlag of Hamburg, the publisher of Harry Potter books in Germany showing Harry on a broomstick and a second was used by the Warner Bros office in Hamburg in 2001 to advertise *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

**GREAT BRITAIN**

Spray cancels with the slogan *Harry Potter / Stamps / On Sale 17 July* were used in post offices throughout the United Kingdom in 2007 to advertise the release of the new stamps.



In addition to the cancels on the first day covers (shown above) there were a number of other special cancels used. Most of these feature towns and cities with some connection to Harry Potter or J.K. Rowling.

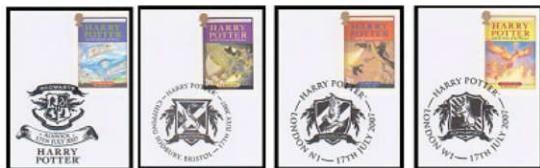


Figure 5. A typical layout page for meters and cancels. Again, different scales are used to show the items but not to reduce them so much that they are illegible.

Cancels and meters make up the next chapter and, if you don't collect these, you'll have to go online to find images to include. Fortunately, as there are still so few stamps required to complete a *Harry Potter* collection, I also collect meters and cancels. I then did a chapter called "Covers," for everything that did not fit in the preceding chapters, and concluded with a chapter on the Owl Post.

The latter included a few paragraphs on the history of the Wizarding World's postal system and then images of the Hogwarts letter sent to Harry Potter in the first book. Here, also, are a variety of cancels and Zazzle and PhotoStamps, some of which are available only at Universal Studio's Orlando, Fla., Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

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of the stamps and around the border, not on the stamps themselves. Still, they are philatelic and are considered collectible. I found out the date of release, identified the characters on the labels and added that information under the image.

Belgian duostamps were next (Figure 4). These are similar to the Australia sheets just mentioned, but are usually sold in strips of five in a cellophane pack, with the stamp on the right and a label on the left. Then there is the Great Britain "Smiler" sheet, in this case printed with thermochromic ink which reveals an image when warmed with the customer's thumb.

After another half dozen of these, it was on to the next chapter; "Postal Stationery." Here, I included postal cards with stamps pre-printed on the back from Isle of Man and Netherlands. There is also an aerogramme and a return envelope marked "Owl Post" from the Isle of Man.

At this stage, if you feel it necessary because, a) the handbook isn't long enough or, b) you just want to, a chapter dealing with thematic stamps can be added. Unlike topical stamps which have images of your topic on them, thematic stamps are generally stamps related to, but not necessarily depicting, your subject. For example, the *Harry Potter* topic might feature the British stamp

with a scene from King's Cross Station or a U.S. stamp with an owl a Canadian stamp with a werewolf or many other related items.

Lastly, I put in a checklist of all stamps available. As I was working on the handbook, items would be discovered of which I was not previously aware. This would sometimes mean going back and inserting them in their proper place – easily done with “Word.” It also gave me an opportunity to expand my own collection.

Not all illustrations fit as nicely onto a page as one would like, so images are not always to scale (you could make a note of that in your introduction). To get all of the items from a specific country on, say, two pages, I would reduce the larger images to a more compatible size, but still have them large enough to be able to make out details. Some cancels or postage meters are on sketchy-looking envelopes and postcards with writing on them so, using “Paint,” I cut around them and place only the actual cancel in the handbook, instead of the entire cover (Figure 5). You may notice a little cheat that I did on the second German meter. I did not have a complete copy, so I had to find another one in Google Images, and add the missing section. Closer examination will show that the second copy is not as clear as the first. Eventually, I will find a better copy and replace this one.

The last thing to do is add your copyright notice: © your name and year completed. It is not necessary to register your copyright for it to be effective. Anything you write is automatically copyrighted.

After two or three re-reads of the text to correct errors in spelling or grammar I click on “save as” and convert it into a pdf copy. Now the handbook is ready to either be sent by email to anyone who requires it or placed on a CD and sent by snail mail. Whether you wish to charge for your handbook is up to you. I recommend at least a token fee and, of course, postage and packaging costs if you put it on a CD and mail it.

Over time you will probably come across old information that you want to include or new issues will be released that will require an update. It is a simple matter to insert them and periodically publish a second, and subsequent, edition of your handbook with the new information included. Using “Word” and the pdf format makes it relatively easy to keep your handbook current and available to interested collectors.

So, what are you waiting for? If you require any assistance or advice, I will be happy to help, just email me at wgsilvester@shaw.ca. If you are interested in my handbooks, or my writing in general, I have a website at williamsilvester.weebly.com. Now, get that information together, starting scanning your stamps and send your handbook out to your fellow collectors. ☺

William Silvester is a lifelong philatelist and freelance writer living in Victoria, B.C., Canada. Bill has contributed a number of articles to Topical Time and other philatelic publications and has written handbooks on Disney, Commonwealth Games and Harry Potter, his three favorite topical collections. He is president and founder of Disneyana on Stamps Society, an ATA study unit. Bill has a website at williamsilvester.weebly.com.

My Topic

Henrik Rossell

Dawn Hamman

This is the 12th in a series of brief vignettes spotlighting interests of some of our fellow ATA members.

Henrik Rossell is a retired portrait photographer and retail manager who was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has lived in the United States since 1978. He shared some information about his topic.

By Henrik Rossell

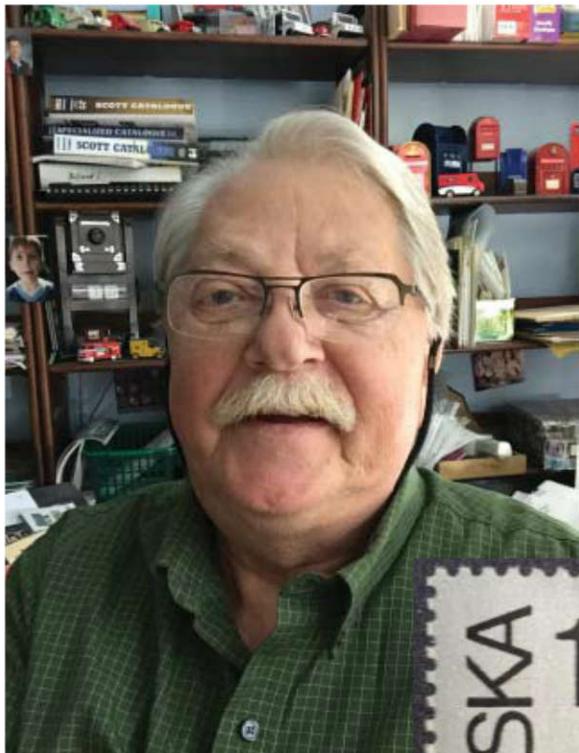
Since I am a Danish citizen residing in the United States, I collect stamps with the

Danish flag. There are quite a lot of them, as Denmark is involved both politically and culturally with most of the world's countries.

It all started in 1987, when I looked at a 1973 Polish stamp (shown nearby) with all kinds of flags on it, including the Denmark flag at the far right. I thought to myself, "Why don't I start collecting stamps with my home country flag on them?" The collection has expanded ever since.

When looking for stamps with this topic,

it can
be very
hard
to see
which
flag is
being
dis-
played.
The
Dan-
ish flag
is red



Above: The U.S. Overrun Countries stamp showing the Danish flag.

Above right: A 1973 Polish issue featuring a tiny Danish flag at far right.

with a large white cross. So is the Swiss flag, but with a smaller cross, therefore I have to be careful. Sometimes the stamp is not in the proper color but I recognize the shape and lines of the flag. If pictured in black and white, the flags of Sweden, Finland, Saar and the Dominican Republic look similar.

I am preparing a checklist on the topic "Stamps with the Danish Flag." □

Thematic Aspects of Revenue Stamped Paper (RSP)

by Don Woodworth

I'm not a topical collector, but I play one on TV – or when I'm writing an article to help my friend, *Topical Time* editor, Wayne Youngblood.

I'm actually a dyed-in-the-wool revenue stamp collector. In casting about for a topic to write about, it occurred to me that perhaps there is a hint of topicalism (or perhaps thematicism) in the collecting of revenue stamped paper (RSP), which is one of the many branches of revenue stamp collecting that I enjoy. I am particularly attracted to the many beautifully engraved vignettes that often decorate RSP – more of which anon.

First, a brief introduction to RSP is in order for those who may be unfamiliar with it.

Revenue stamped paper came about as the result of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Tax Act of July 1, 1862, which created the Office of Internal Revenue within the Treasury Department and also established a comprehensive series of taxes, the payment of which could be shown by "adhesive stamps, or stamped paper, vellum, or parchment." Stamped paper, commonly referred to as "revenue stamped paper" by stamp collectors, consists of documents such as bank checks, bank drafts, bonds, insurance policies, receipts, stock certificates and myriad other documents with a revenue stamp or stamps imprinted directly upon them. The last of the taxes imposed under this act were not lifted until July 1, 1883. Similar taxes were again imposed during the Spanish-American War (1898-1902).

The original 1862 tax on checks was for 2¢ on any check of \$20 or more. As many people avoided the tax by simply writing two separate smaller checks, the law was changed in 1865 to encompass checks of any amount – giving rise to the existence of revenue stamped paper. Where it might not have originally made sense for a business to have a supply of checks printed on revenue stamped paper when a good proportion of the checks they wrote might have been issued tax free, once the law was changed to encompass all checks, it then made sense for many firms to have such checks printed. Revenue stamps, which could also be used on checks, were susceptible to pilferage, but checks printed on revenue stamped paper were largely immune to the threat of theft. Thus, these checks and related documents proliferated in the 1865-83 post-Civil War time period and, again, for a lesser number of items during the 1898-1902 Spanish-American War.

Revenue stamped paper exists for all of the Union states and former Confederate states readmitted to the Union in 1865-83, plus for several of the territories (such as Utah). The same applies to the Spanish-American War period. There is an excellent series of seven *Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper* books (now out of print but usually available through philatelic booksellers) printed by Castenholz & Sons that catalog most known revenue stamped paper material. Printed in the early 1990s, these books are some 15 years out of date, but still constitute the best starting point for anyone with an interest in developing an RSP collection. This is an open-ended field, so new discoveries are made often – something that makes this area of collecting doubly interesting.

Revenue stamped paper was printed by security printers approved by the federal government. After the taxed paper was printed, it could then be purchased by private printers, who then printed checks and other documents upon it. Printers printed sample books showing their work and a large variety of designs from which potential customers could choose. A firm could choose a very plain type of check or, at higher cost, have elegant artwork printed.

Collectors recognize 24 basic designs of revenue stamped paper and have assigned them designations of Type A through X. Many sub-varieties exist for some types. There are no Types Y and Z. Type designations are not governmental, but have been assigned over time by collectors and are the standard basis of description in the *Scott Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers* – the bible of the stamp collecting fraternity for United States stamps. The catalog provides details for each type. Design Types B, C, D, G and X are the most common.

Most advanced collectors tend to concentrate on rates, unusual uses, printing errors, the products of various printers and, perhaps, on specific states or regions of the United States. I am deliberately not addressing these subjects in this article. They are topics for a later date.

With the formalities of what constitutes RSP out of the way, I will address what I think topical collectors will find to be the most fun – the wonderful vignettes that appear on these pieces of Victorian art designed to help make it a bit less painful to have the taxman part one with one's hard-earned money. Designs tend to fall into the following general categories: Agricultural, Allegorical (figures of gods, Justice, Liberty and others), Banks, Commerce and Industry (factories and stores), Fanciful Designs, Transportation (canals, ships, trains) and that great all-purpose category known as Miscellaneous. Checks from the Spanish-American War period tend to be

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somewhat generic, so illustrations shown farther-on are biased toward the post-Civil War period.

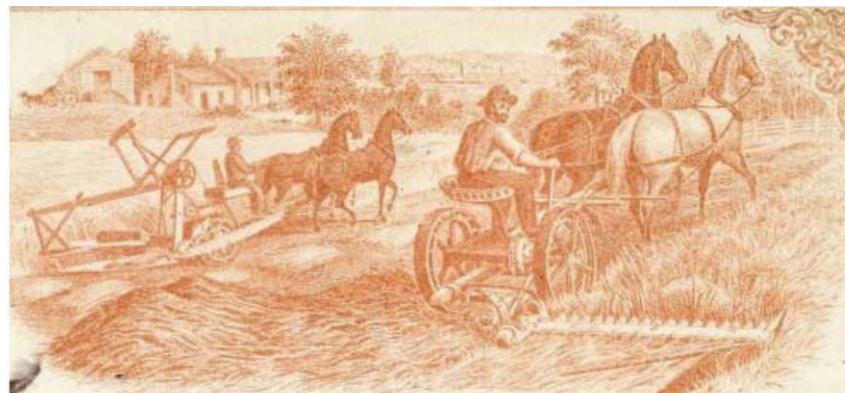
Some Scott-listed types of RSP are not known with vignettes. They appear as "Plain Jane" documents, akin to modern-day straight-from-the-bank checks with no designs printed on them. I have not illustrated any examples of these items, as I do not expect they would be of particular interest to most topical collectors. *What I have illustrated are examples of interesting vignettes that appear most commonly on reasonably priced examples of checks and drafts that will not break the budget of most collectors wishing to acquire them.*

As previously noted, the Scott catalog lists examples of RSP in Types A through X. Types A, I, J, K, L and O generally do not have interesting vignettes, or examples with vignettes tend to be rather expensive. Likewise, Types P through W tend to appear on rather large, unwieldy documents and are often rather expensive. Hence, they tend not to appeal to many collectors.

In the interest of keeping this article readable and within the space available in *Topical Time*, I have elected to show only examples of the following types of RSP: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, M, N and X.



Type B (Agriculture).
Check issued by C. H. McCormick & Bros. (yes, those McCormicks of reaper fame) in Chicago, Ill., on May 8, 1869. Note the contrast in vignettes – the young woman with a sickle and a few stalks of grain at the left and the horse-drawn

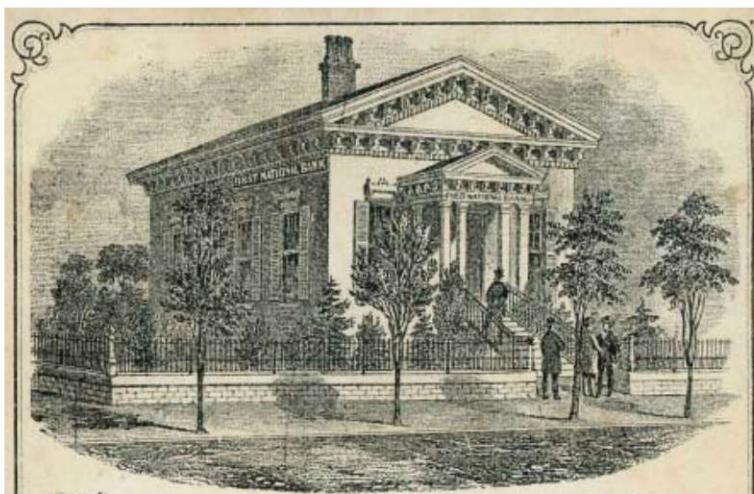
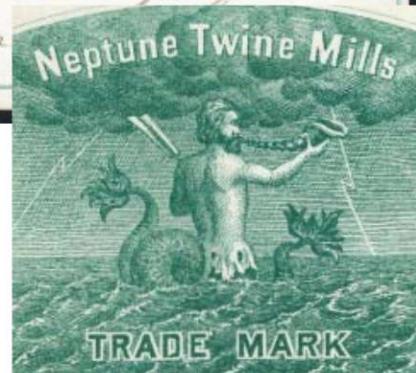


implements at upper right (see detail) showing the latest in harvesting technology.

**ATA members who purchase checklists from the new dATABse (since 1 May 2014)
are entitled to free updates once/year,
as long as current ATA membership is maintained.**



Type C (Allegorical). Check issued by Emory Johnson, owner of Neptune Twine Mills, in East Haddam, Conn., on April 14, 1873. Though many other checks exist with figures of gods and goddesses, this one featuring the sea god Neptune (see detail) is one of my favorites.



Type D (Banks).

Check written on the First National Bank of Ironton, Ohio, on Nov 21, 1874. Note the beautiful vignette of (possibly) the actual bank (see detail) at the left of the check. Those having checks printed could choose from a wide variety of illustrations in sample books used by salesmen of the various

vendors of this type of material. In some cases, the vignette could be of an actual building or person; in other cases, the illustration could be just a good general representation.



of the brewery and the train, either bringing in raw materials or hauling out the finished product.

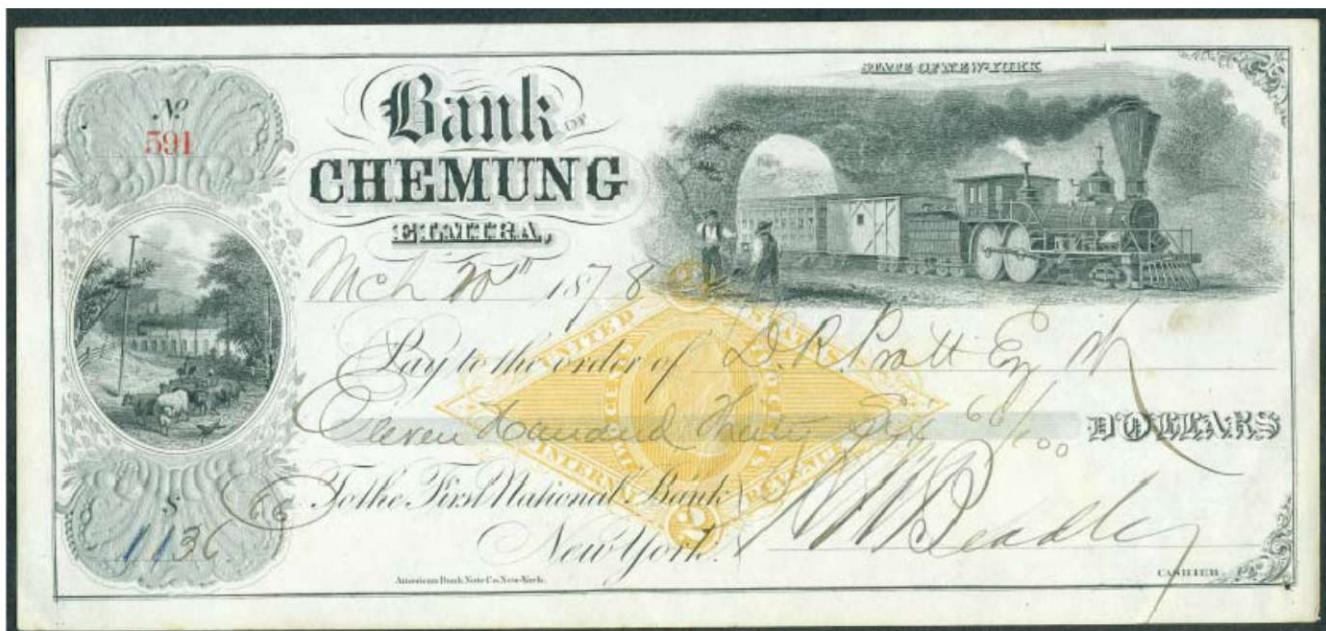
Type E (Commerce). Check written by Downer & Bemis Brewing on the First National Bank of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., on March 27, 1872. Note the vignette (inset) from the upper right of the check,



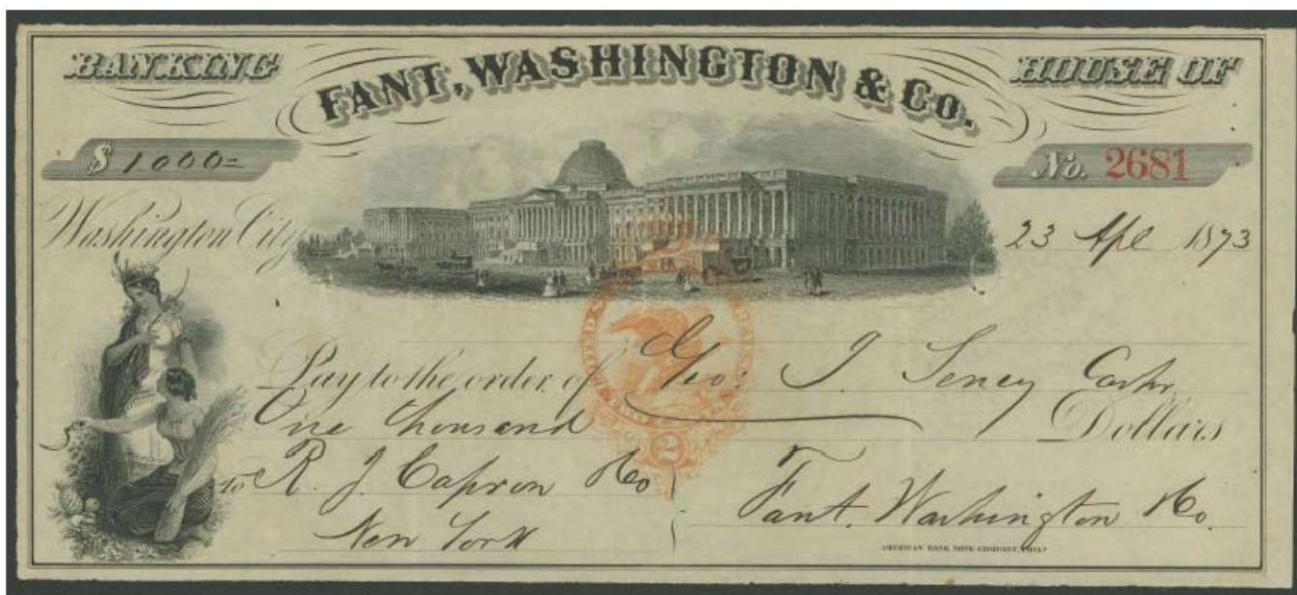
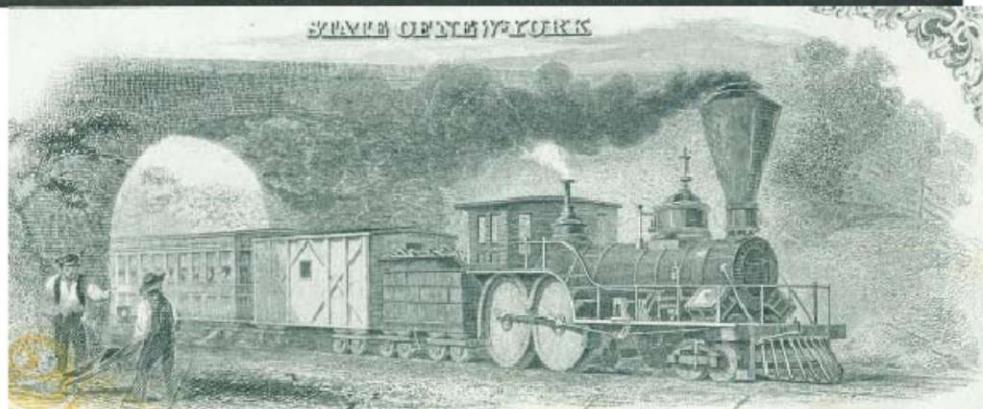
Type F (Fanciful Design). The term “fanciful” covers a wide variety of sins. My “fanciful” of choice for this category is a check written on the First National Bank of Rushville, Ill., on Nov. 8 1875, showing a young woman with a dove of peace about to alight on her outstretched hand, while she leans against



a heavy-caliber gun of the era (inset). Also shown at upper right is an eagle (a very popular theme during the era of some of America's greatest expansion) and a little device at the center right bottom showing a nice example of the engraver's art.



**Type G
(Transportation).**
Here is a draft issued by the Bank of Chemung, Elmira, N.Y., on March 20, 1878, with a wonderful vignette of a locomotive and train (inset) passing beneath a bridge. Numerous examples of trains and ships exist.



Type H (Miscellaneous). Miscellaneous is a wonderful term that means "The author can show anything he'd like." Hence, I have chosen a draft issued by Fant,



Washington & Co., in Washington City (aka Washington, D.C.) on April 23, 1873. I am always torn between which is the more interesting of the two vignettes – that of our unfinished national capitol (note the Statue of Freedom is missing from atop the dome) – or that of the well-meaning white woman explaining to the Native American woman about how harvesting wheat and pineapples is better than hunting.



Type M (Miscellaneous). A check written by the Sharps Rifle Co. of Hartford, Conn., on the American National Bank on Oct. 26, 1875. Sharps manufactured powerful rifles that were one of the favorites of buffalo hunters in the American West. Interestingly (and perhaps with poetic justice), Sharps went out of business at just about the same time that the last of the great buffalo herds were decimated.

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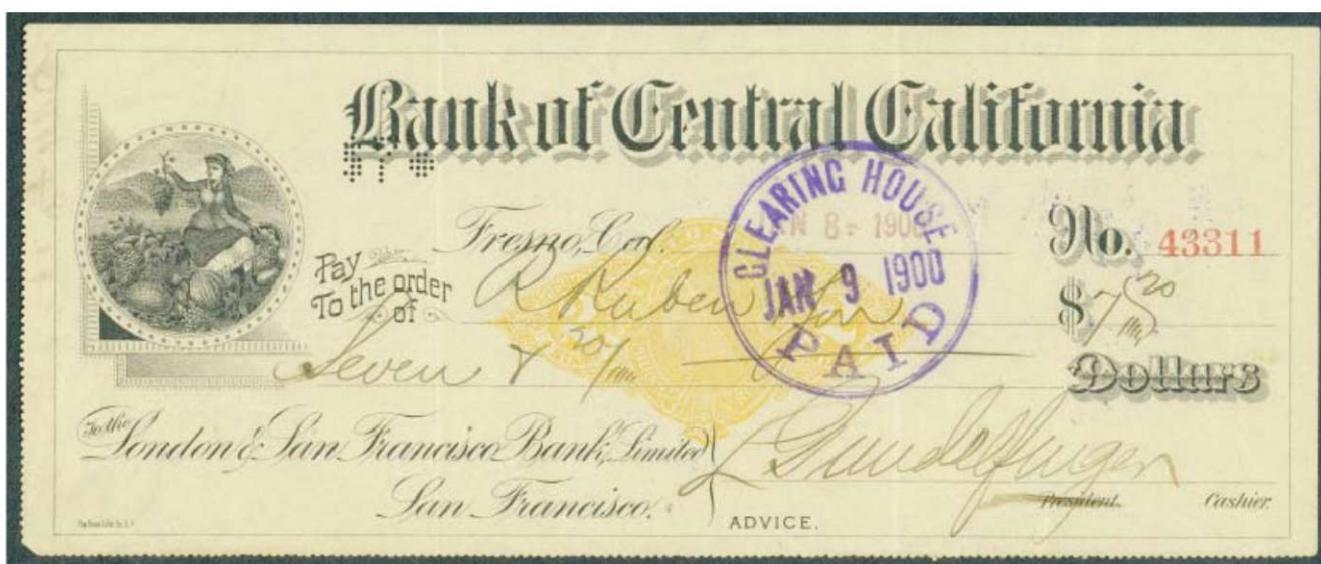
order of

2
TWO CENTS

Framingham & Lowell Railroad Co.

**Type N
(Miscellaneous).**
Draft issued by
the Mechanics
National Bank
of Newburyport,
Mass., on Sept.
18, 1874. The
term "mechanic"
was more

broadly used in the 19th century to encompass any skilled tradesman, such as the blacksmith shown at left. Newburyport had three shipyards and clipper ships were built there – hence the engraving showing a ship under construction on the ways. In a turnabout from the vignettes highlighted on the other types shown, in this case I have provided an enlargement of the Type N revenue stamp vignette. Note the eagle with spread wings at the left of the numeral "2" and the ironclad *Monitor* to the right. Small wonder that only one example of a Type N has been recorded from one of our Southern states!



Type X (Non-X-Rated). Draft issued by the Bank of Central California, Fresno, Calif., on Jan. 8, 1900. This is as close to risqué that I'm willing to venture – note the young woman holding a bunch of grapes (inset) destined soon to become wine!



So, now that you're hooked in illustrated RSP, you need to know where to find it. The best sources I know for acquiring RSP are revenue stamp dealers Eric Jackson (who has the deepest stock of this kind of material of any dealer in the United States), Richard Friedberg and Denny Peoples. The big auction houses (Siegel, Kelleher and Spink) are also good sources, but they tend to deal only in high-end material. The other great source, of course, is eBay.

I routinely search in two areas on eBay for RSP material. There are other categories to find it as well, but the most common locations are:

- Coins & Paper Money/Paper Money: US/Bank Checks
- Coins & Paper Money/Stocks & Bonds, Scripophily
- Stamps/United States/Back of Book/Revenues

In each case, I routinely sort by “Ending Soonest” and Newly Listed. There are no real pitfalls with RSP – what you see is what you get – and one can buy with reasonable assurance. RSP is usually canceled with punches or with a large “X” that cut the paper on which the RSP was imprinted, invalidating the stamp. This is a common condition with RSP and perforce must be accepted by those who collect it.

Pricing, like most things philatelic, can be highly variable, despite what is printed in the Scott catalog. What I commonly call “Plain Jane” checks without vignette can be had for as little as \$5. Many checks with nice vignettes sell in the \$20 range. Common checks with uncommonly nice designs can sell for considerably more – sometimes reaching several hundred dollars apiece in price. As with any other area of collecting, common sense and attention to one's budget are required.

There are no albums for RSP, so displaying it is a bit more of a challenge than simply putting stamps in an album. Collectors of postal history who might develop an interest in RSP have an advantage here as they are already accustomed to the extra effort necessary to display their items.

Anyone who owns a computer can easily make their own customized pages for RSP. I use 32-lb.-weight acid-free paper to record the details of the item, printing out a space into which the item of interest can be placed. The resultant print-out, plus item of RSP, is then placed into a clear archival-quality transparent sleeve. Simple friction generally holds the item in place.

I include a short write-up on each item of RSP displayed, using the following basic sources of information: the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*; the Castenholz *Field Guides*; the American Revenue Association's *A Handbook for United States Revenue Stamped Paper* and the Forty-Ninth Philatelic Congress Book's *Centennial Survey of the United States Civil War Revenue Stamped Paper Issues, 1865-1883*, plus very extensive use of the internet to find historical background information for each individual item displayed so that I have as much

background information as possible. This greatly adds to the enjoyment of looking at an item because of the additional historical context. Availability of information varies widely, so research becomes almost an unending quest, helping to preserve interest in what would otherwise become static objects increasingly ignored as one pursues additional new material.

For those wishing more information on this fascinating subject, I strongly recommend joining two organizations: the American Revenue Association (ARA) and the American Society of Check Collectors (ASCC). Both organizations publish professional and highly readable publications *The American Revenuer* (TAR) by the ARA and *Check Collector* by the ASCC. Annual dues for both organizations are modest - \$22.50 per year for the ARA and only \$15 per year for the ASCC. Those wishing more information about these two organizations can check their websites at <http://www.revenuer.org> (ARA) and www.ascheckcollectors.org (ASCC).

I hope you have found this illustrated introduction to RSP interesting. If you wish additional information about this collecting area, you are welcome to contact me at don.woodworth@att.net. ☐

Don Woodworth (Col, USAF, Ret.) is a longtime collector who is very active in numerous aspects of the hobby, ranging from writing to speaking as well as (of course) collecting. Locally, he's a very active member of the venerable Webster Groves Stamp Club of St. Louis, Mo. In addition to his passion for revenue stamps, Don is a train aficionado (big ones), and spends much of his time tracking them down and photographing them. He lives in Illinois.



METERS BY TOPIC Wayne L. Youngblood

The Message of the Medium

As we approach the holidays, we will no doubt be bombarded with all kinds of messages in the mail and through other media – both religious and secular – from many different sources, some wanting us to buy, some wanting us to give, some wanting us to pray and some simply conveying greetings of various types in an effort to please (usually combined with an advertising message). In many ways this is no different than it has ever been.



Figure 1. This 1956 generic holiday message from Whitman Publishing of Racine, Wis., urges us to play cards and give cards to enjoy the holidays.

One of the many benefits provided by metered mail is that it is not constrained by the same regulations that limit postage stamps. At least in the United States, meters can be both more commercial and more overtly convey propaganda than stamps. Messages on metered mail, of course, are meant to communicate a thought, concept or emotion and, usually, to provoke a desired outcome. This is one of the things that makes pictorial meters so much fun to study and collect.

While pictorial meters are no longer with us to the extent they were 50-60 years



Figure 2. Iconic secular Christmas images are used on these meters to convey greetings for that specific holiday.

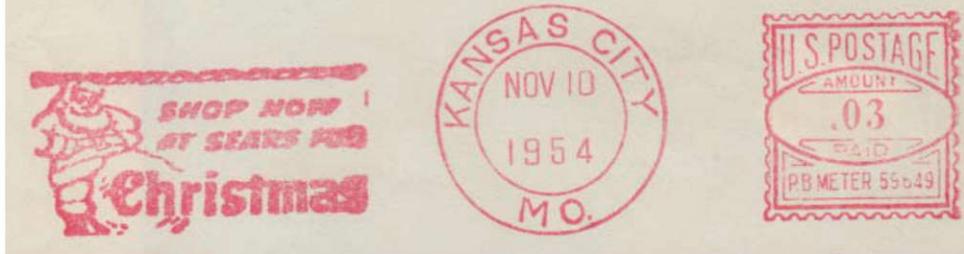


Figure 3. A very commercialized Christmas greeting from Sears, using the ultimate gift-giver as an icon.

ago, we still see them, as well as their more modern counterparts, slogan and pictorial messages on bulk-mail permits. As I was recently studying some

of these more recent items, it became clear to me (regarding pictorial meters) that with the distance of a half-century or more, we can sometimes get a clear picture of unintentional messages sent, as well as the more blatant ones.

For the most part, I remember seeing Christmas meters (both religious and secular) or generic holiday greetings, such as the one shown in Figure 1. Because there was little thought given



Figure 4. Despite the generic wording of these meters, the message conveyed by the images is holiday specific.

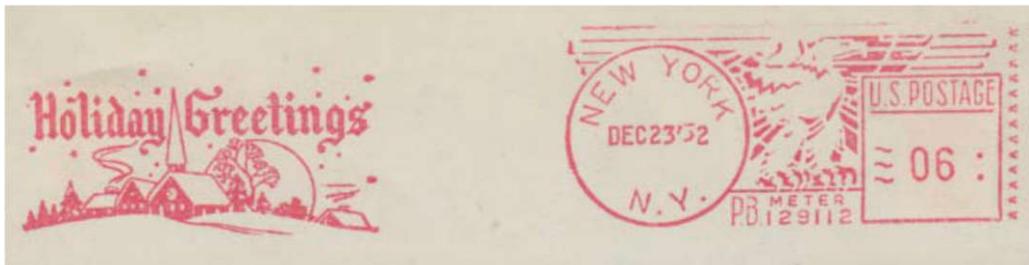


Figure 5. Very likely, what is actually communicated visually by this pictorial holiday greetings meter of the 1950s is not the specific message that was intended.

Those meters shown in Figure 2 are very simple: Iconic images, such as Santa Claus carrying a Christmas tree, with a greeting appropriate to that holiday. The one in Figure 3 is also specifically for Christmas, but with a very commercial twist.

Those shown in Figure 4, however, are a little different. While the words convey generic holiday greetings, the images (in this case a Christmas tree ornament and Santa), convey nothing other than Christmas.

One of the trickier types of subliminal or unintentional messages is shown by the meter illustrated in Figure 5. In this case, the text simply reads "Holiday Greetings," with a bucolic winter scene, complete with a looming moon in the background. Beautiful, isn't it? However, a closer look reveals that – front and center in the image is a church spire, leaving little doubt as to the religion of the sender. More than likely

this meter was not intended to convey a religious theme, but there was little attention paid to acknowledging religious or cultural diversity in the 1950s. Similarly, other meters of the time frequently show North Stars or other Christian religious symbolism, regardless what the



Figure 6. Two meters that look identical, but are not quite the same. The description is found in the accompanying text.

wording reads. No offense was meant and, in most cases, none was taken.

I did find the meters shown in Figure 6 particularly interesting for the message conveyed. At first glance, it appears the undated bulk-rate meter and dated first-class meter differ only in color. The scene, depicting three wise men and the North Star, is accompanied by part of the passage of Luke 22:14 from the New Testament of the *Bible*: "...peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Like any overtly religious passage, there are numerous wordings, depending upon translation. This, however, is not what the bottom meter reads. It is "Peace on Earth to men of goodwill," a very different meaning to the phrase. Without getting into the full religious discussion, this translates into "Peace on Earth for people upon whom God's favor rests," a very subjective and thought-provoking statement to say the least. Happy Holidays! ☺



World Stamp Show NY2016: See You There?

Although we will not hold a National Topical Stamp Show in 2016, our ATA will be at NY2016 as a “participating organization,” and we **will** hold our annual meeting at the show.

Our 20- by 10-foot “super booth” will be a “world topical headquarters,” where ATA members from all over the world (as well as other collectors) will meet and congregate.

Due to the HUGE scope of this show, we need many ambassadors and other ATA members to help staff the ATA booth.

Here's an abbreviated schedule: Our ATA Annual Meeting will be held Friday, June 3 from 1-3 p.m.

- We expect to schedule a seminar led by an internationally renowned thematic judge and exhibitor. That speaker will also lead a walk through the many thematic exhibits.
- We are scheduling an informal gathering of members of worldwide Topical/Thematic Associations.
- Friday, June 3 is expected to be celebrated as **Topical Collecting Day**.
- There will be more about all of this, plus a listing of the 11 ATA study units that will have a meeting or booth at the show – or both – in the next issue of *Topical Time*.

Meanwhile, please look for more information about this important show at the following web address: www.ny2016.org.

We do very much hope to see you next year in New York City! ☺





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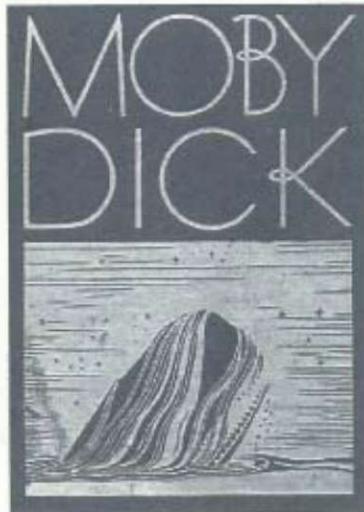
CINDERELLA CORNER

Arthur H. Grotén

Rockwell Kent and *Moby Dick*

This is the third column I've written on Rockwell Kent, arguably the greatest

American artist of the 20th century. His finest work, generally considered the finest book published in the United States in the 20th century, was his three-volume 1930 production of Herman Mel-



Moby-Dick classic 1930 edition illustrated by Rockwell Kent

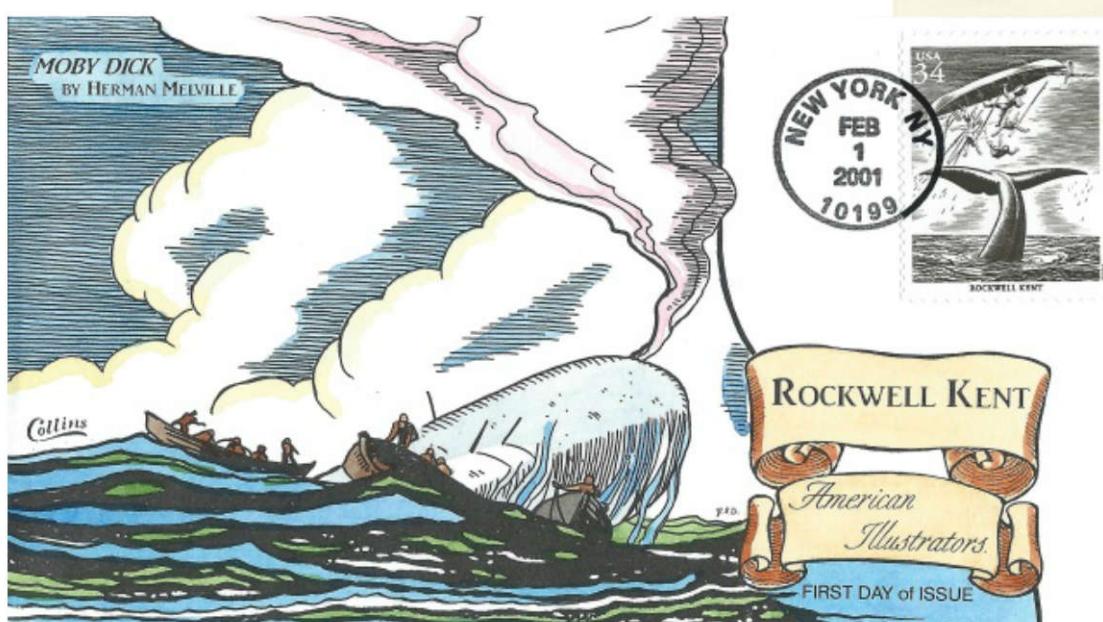
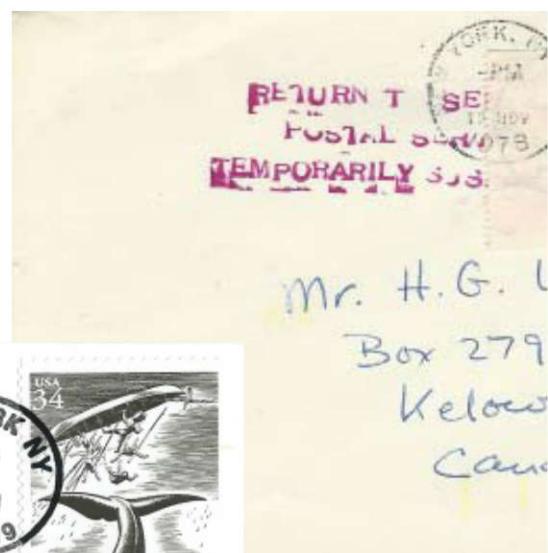
ville's *Moby-Dick*. He created hundreds of drawings, many of them now iconic.

In 1970, to honor Melville (1819-81), the United States released a 6¢ stamped envelope (Scott U554), with an image of a whale. Of the many cachets created for first-day covers was one of *Moby-Dick*,

Figure 1 (above). Kent's illustration as a cachet.

Figure 2 (right). Moby-Dick postal strike cover.

Figure 3 (below). A Collins cachet for the 2001 issue.



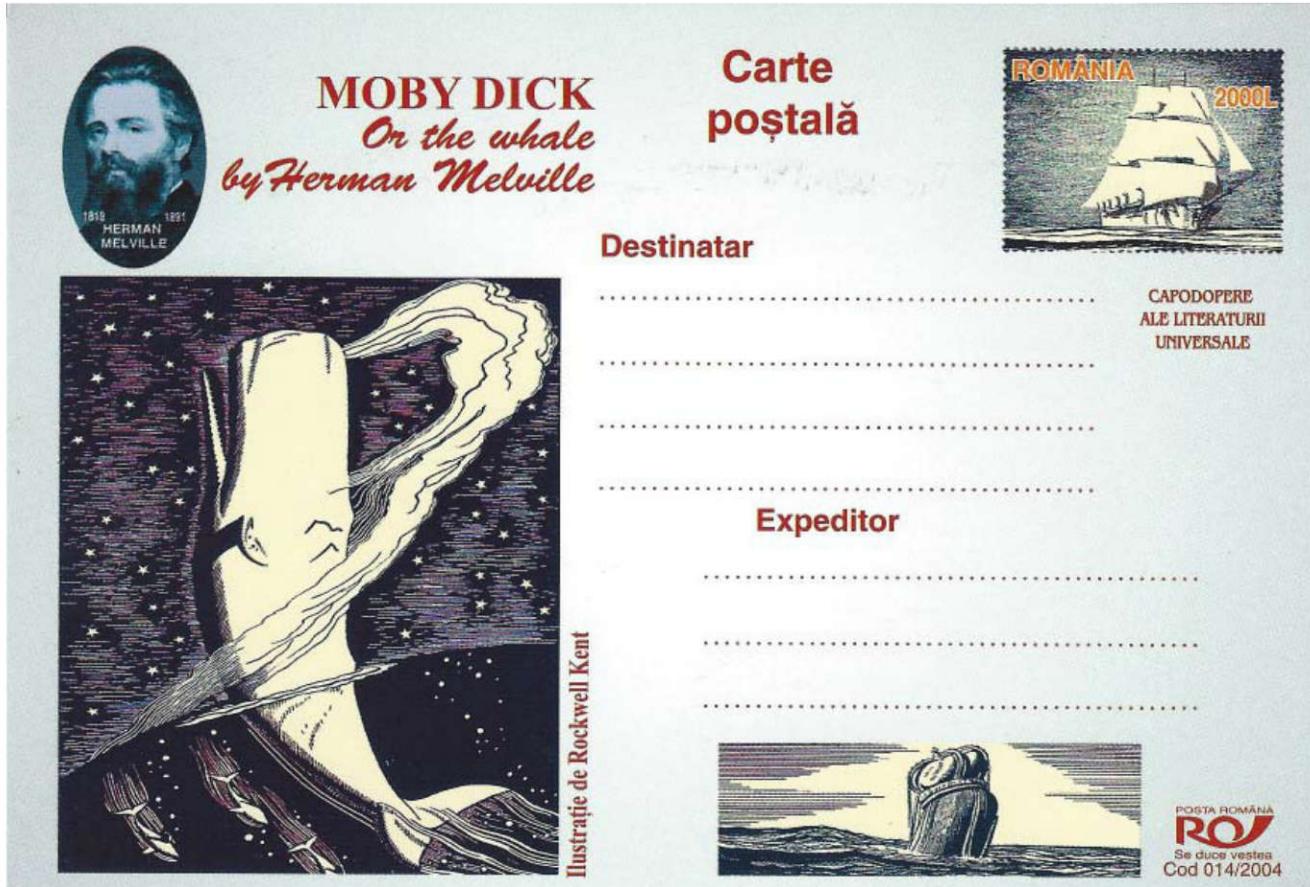


Figure 4. Part of a 2004 eight-card set from Romania, featuring Kent's Moby Dick.

showing the pictorial cover for the 1930 trade edition of Rockwell Kent's illustrated version of the novel (Figure 1). Finding interesting commercial uses is

quite difficult. The one shown in Figure 2 was returned from Canada due to a Postal Strike. The rate of 6¢ was inadequate postage, so a meter stamp was applied over the stationery's vignette.

When the United States issued its sheet of American Illustrators in 2001, the Kent drawing selected was from *Moby Dick* (Scott 3502q). Many cachetmakers produced envelopes. The Collins cover is quite striking, in a style reminiscent of Kent's work (Figure 3).

I have found very few other postal items related to Kent, not including his various poster stamps and the 1939 Christmas seal. In 2004, Romania issued a set of eight cards commemorating Melville and using Kent drawings (Figure 4). I believe that there were private productions but, then, Romania is not my area of expertise. Perhaps someone can enlighten me.

Should anyone know of other similar material, I'd love to hear about it. ☐

Arthur H. Grotens, longtime cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA, or by email: agrotens43@icloud.com.

Study Unit Spotlight

This month: Americana Study Unit

[Editor's Note: This is the 31st 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 "Collecting the Presidents: The Kennedy Half-Dollar Coin on Stamps," from Americana Philatelic News, April/June 2015 (Vol. 45, No. 228). To be considered for "Study Unit Spotlight," please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal during the past year or so (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it to the Topical Time editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature. [Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]

Collecting the Presidents: The Kennedy Half-Dollar Coin on Stamps

By Melvin Morris

More than 150 stamp-issuing entities have released stamps or souvenir sheets in President Kennedy's memory. Only George Washington – with 178 entities – has had more than Kennedy. Nonetheless, JFK has had far more actual stamps, souvenir sheets, miniature sheets, first-day covers, locals and other items released. This has enabled the writing of articles for this column on his wife, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, in-laws, cousins, dogs, homes, programs, sports, speeches, rocking chair, careers, free franks and more. It still amazes me how much more there is to write about this American president and his philatelic life.

Which brings us to the Kennedy half-dollar coin on stamps.

Within a month after the assassination of President Kennedy, Congress authorized the commemoration of the late president by the minting of a silver half-



Figure 1. Ras al Khaima 1968, stamps show both sides of the Kennedy half dollar.

dollar coin featuring his portrait. Released in March 1964, the coins quickly disappeared as collectors and the general public gobbled them up as mementos of the late president. While the coins are still minted, their circulation is somewhat limited (although they may be obtained for a premium from the U.S. Mint).



Figure 2. Tuvalu 2010 souvenir sheet.

In addition, six different countries have featured the Kennedy half dollar on their stamps and/or souvenir sheets. These include Micronesia, Mozambique, Ras Al Khaimah (now part of the United Arab Emirates), Sierra Leone, the Grenadines of St. Vincent and Tuvalu – some of the “Usual Suspects!”

Half of the six areas depict the half-dollar Kennedy coin as a minor part of their

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philatelic tribute to President Kennedy. Two feature only the coin, although one was not issued in honor of the President, but rather to note the United States Bicentennial. The sixth honors JFK with both the coin and scenes from his life.

In 1968, the Arabian Sheikdom of Ras Al Khaimah (“Khaima on stamps”) honored the fifth anniversary of Kennedy’s death with a set of stamps. Two of the stamps (Minkus 207-208) picture the front, or obverse, of the coin (with JFK’s portrait) and the back, or reverse, (with the Seal of the Presidency). These are shown in Figure 1.

In 1976, the Grenadines of St. Vincent commemorated the Bicentennial of the United States with a set of stamps. The 50c stamp shows the front and back of the American Bicentennial half dollar picturing President John F. Kennedy (not illustrated).

In 2010, to note the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of “John-John,” John F. Kennedy, Jr., the son of the president, a sheet of four stamps was released by Tuvalu (Figure 2). The left margin is completely filled with the front of the Kennedy half dollar. The four stamps

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picture JFK speaking on the first & last stamps. The other two feature the president and first lady Jackie on one and the president and “John-John” walking on the other.

In 2008, Micronesia noted the assassination of President Kennedy with a sheet of four stamps showing different portraits of him. The right margin depicts the *Dallas Morning News* newspaper with the headline of JFK’s murder. It also mentions that Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson had become president. The lower-right margin – almost as an afterthought – pictures the Kennedy half dollar (Figure 3).

The stamp on the 2009 souvenir sheet from the African nation of Mozambique (Figure 4), in honor of President John F. Kennedy, depicts JFK and the White House. The left and right margins of the sheet also have portraits of Kennedy. The



Figure 3. Micronesia 2008 souvenir sheet, Scott 764a-d.

U.S. Flag flies in the upper-left margin. The front and back of the Kennedy half dollar appear in the bottom of the middle margin.

The last of the six nations picturing the Kennedy half dollar is the West African nation of Sierra Leone. In 1988,



Figure 4. A Mozambique 2009 souvenir sheet honoring Kennedy.



Figure 5. Although primarily intended to honor space achievements, this 1988 set of four stamps (Scott 2000-2003) pictures the obverse of a Kennedy half-dollar.

Sierra Leone commemorated the 25th anniversary of the death of JFK with a set of four stamps, all featuring the front (JFK portrait) of the Kennedy half dollar (Figure 5). The 3L stamp shows the successful completion of the Project Mercury flight with a U.S. Navy helicopter about to deposit the capsule on an aircraft carrier. The 5L stamp depicts the spacecraft *Liberty Bell 7* with Astronaut Gus Grissom on board.

naut Gus Grissom on board. The 15L stamp features the launch of Alan B. Shepard – America's First Astronaut. The 40L stamp has Astronaut John Glenn inside *Freedom 7* on its first orbit of Earth.

Is it any wonder that with so many different things from the president's life illustrated on stamps and souvenir sheets that so many people – collectors and non-collectors – still are interested some 50-plus years after his tragic death? □

Americana Study Unit

The Americana Study Unit was founded on June 13, 1951, and was originally called the Americana on Foreign Stamps Study Unit. The Americana topic includes subjects such as U.S. presidents, the Statue of Liberty, famous Americans, famous American landmarks, culture or history of the United States. The first issue of the *Americana Bulletin* was published that same year. The study unit remained active until August 1960, and was reactivated in August 1964. The bulletin was once again started in January 1965. The study unit became inactive again in 1968, but in 1970, after merging with the American Presidents Unit and the John F Kennedy Society, the Americana Unit was reactivated for a third and final time. David Kent has served as the study unit's president since 1973. The current editor of the *Americana Philatelic News* is Fred Skvara. The study unit has published 10 different Americana-related handbooks. Members of the study unit receive four issues of the *Americana Philatelic News* per year.



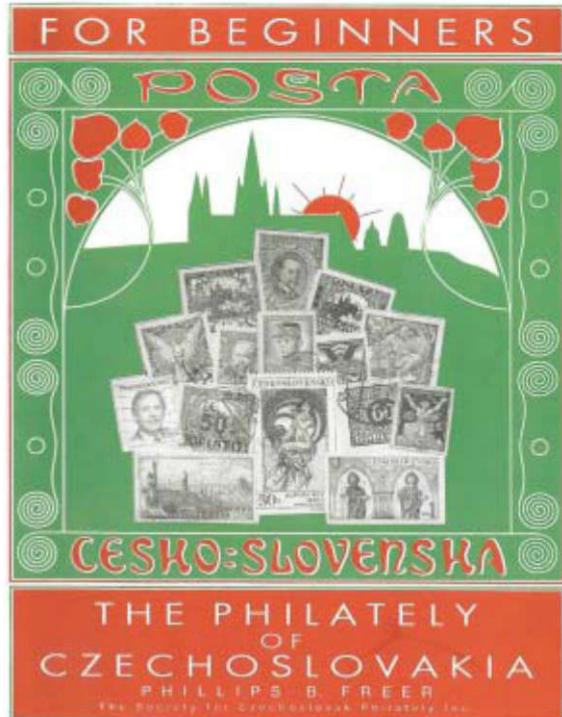
YOUTH IN TOPICS

MaryAnn Bowman

Happy Holiday Season! If gifting is part of your holiday tradition, why not think about ways to incorporate stamps and covers? There are many ways to offer inexpensive philatelic stocking stuffers to the beginner and youth collector. Given the number of free and downloadable album pages, a fast and simple gift might be to print out album pages tailored to the recipient's interests. Add a few topical stamps and covers, a small supply of hinges or mounts and corner mounts, if needed. Both the American Topical Association and the American Philatelic Society offer many album page choices. To further personalize the gift, consider purchasing a three-ring binder with clear-view front cover. Then use the computer and your technology skills to create a personalized album.

"Vera's Views" in this issue offers several holiday gift-giving suggestions. Please see page 11 for further information on these special offers.

Next, consider a gift membership in a philatelic society. ATA has a new Youth Membership category – an electronic membership for just \$10 a year. The Penguin Study Unit recently introduced a free membership to youth. With penguins being the cute adorable birds that they are, and with children having a genuine interest in them, you can put together a nice gift of penguin-related album pages, stamps, membership in the study unit and a copy of the *Topical Tidbit* issue on penguins. You might even add a few other penguin items, such as small stuffed animals or penguin-themed merchandise such as those found at dollar stores and other retail outlets.



Similarly, Disney is a popular topic and can be used to introduce the stamp collecting hobby to kids. Again, there are free downloadable album pages. Membership in the Disneyana on Stamps Society is free. Members receive an online newsletter six times a year through a password-protected website. This could be a fun way for you and your young new collector to enjoy some "us" time together as you explore the wonderful world of Disney.

A special booklet created by the Society for Czechoslovak Philately for beginning collectors that also very effectively promotes the society.



In addition to a special booklet, the Czech Society also hands out an information card with Czech-related U.S. stamps.

make an attractive booklet to give. If you have not recently checked out the APS listing of albums, this might be a good time to do so.

If it is beginning how-to collect information that you want, both the ATA and APS have free downloadable sheets that contain the basic information needed to get started in the hobby.

Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) Gift to Youth Philately

In planning for the youth/beginner area at Milcopex, I always try to have some new activities as well as philatelic material and displays that relate to the visiting society. This year we were hosting the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. From my donation sources, I pulled out stamps from Czechoslovakia as well as first-day covers. A special album page for mounting Czechoslovakian stamps had been created (and can be found on the ATA website). I had also created a tri-fold display of the modern Czech Republic.

Imagine my surprise when the Czech Society showed up with a few additional items to be given away. The group came prepared with a 35-page booklet for beginners that served as an introduction to the study of philately of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Glassine envelopes of used Czech stamps had also been prepared.

A nice added touch was a small black stock card with three mint U.S. postage stamps: the Czech flag stamp from the Overrun Countries issue and both the 4¢ and 8¢ T. G. Masaryk stamps from the Champions of Liberty series. Fastened to the back of the stock card was a large label showing symbols representative of both countries and the following text:

"COURTESY OF THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY. These stamps were issued by the USPS and illustrate historical and philatelic ties between the United States and Czechoslovakia. The top stamp features the flag of Czechoslovakia and was issued in 1943 to publicize the fact that Czechoslovakia had been occupied in 1939

The American Philatelic Society has informative album pages related to various countries, states and topics. These pages not only provide a place for specific stamps but also have text that provides background

information. Even if the stamps are not readily available for you to give, the colored illustrations of the stamps would

and that the United States was fighting to liberate Czechoslovakia. The two lower stamps honor the first President of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk, and were issued as part of the Champions of Liberty series on the 110th anniversary of his birthday. There are currently 2.5 million Americans that can trace their ancestry to Czechs and Slovaks."

Wouldn't it be nice if all visiting societies to shows provided material or did something special to encourage beginners to collect their specialty?

Now a word about the display tri-fold that I created: It was nothing elaborate. I started by thinking that I might find appropriate downloadable material on the internet, but nothing seemed right. So I then headed to the children's section of my local library. There I found several books with pictures and easy-to-read and understand information. Picking and choosing the material I wanted to use did not take long, nor did it take much time to make copies from those pages. I did frame/mount some of the items with colored construction paper to add a little color. All items were fastened to the display board using double-sided tape. I find that using this tape instead of glue prevents the puckering often associated with using paste.

On the left side of the tri-fold I had a political/physical map of the country with a written description of its neighbors and its size relevant to an American state. There was also a poster that gave some quick facts about the country: its capital, population, rivers, holidays, currency and more. The right side of the display board

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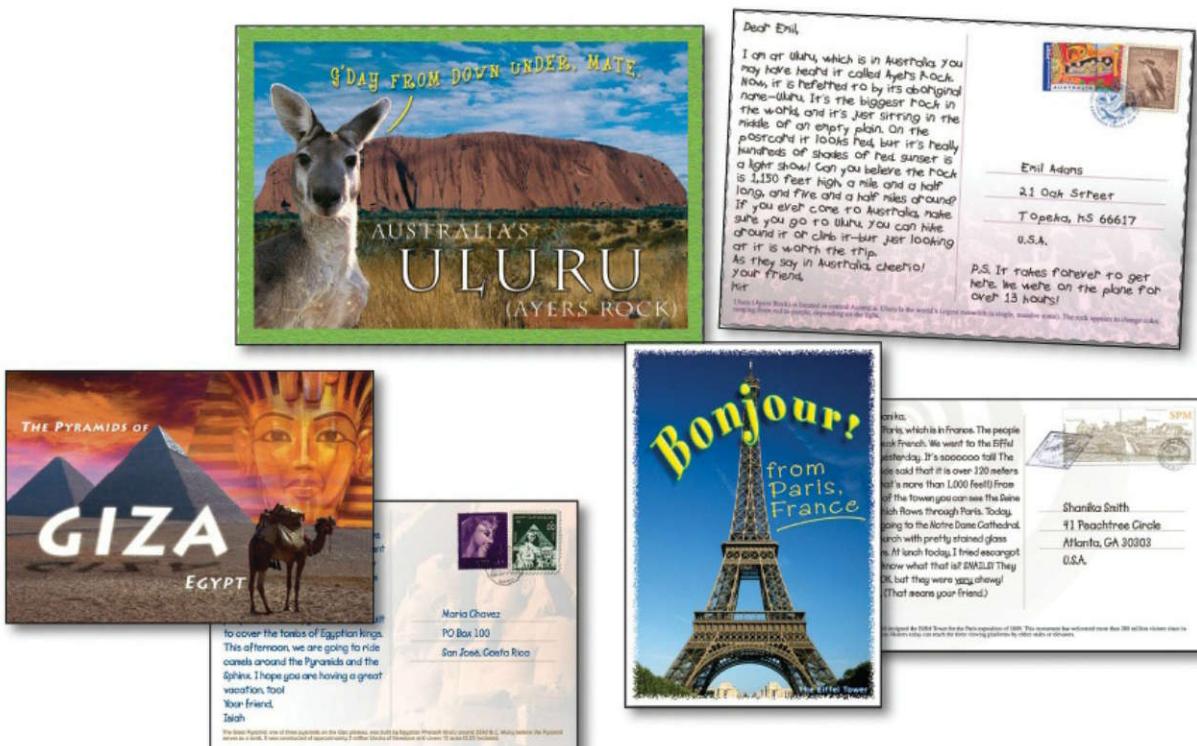
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depicted the flag with a description of its symbolism, the coat of arms, and another map that depicted the economic livelihood of the people. The center, and larger part of the board, had the title "Welcome to the Czech Republic" and a grouping of picture postcards found in a recent donation. The display was colorful, attractive, educational, meaningful and easy to make!

Something New

As for the something "new" this year, I found an attractive bulletin board set titled "Postcards from Around the World" at a local teacher supply store. Produced by Carson-Dellosa, the set contains 12 postcard fronts depicting well-known landmarks from various countries worldwide. There were also 12 postcard backs with messages written in kid style describing the location being visited and depicting faux stamps. The postcards are large, measuring 11½ by 8 inches, making them easy for youth to handle. If used as a display, they take up quite a bit of room. In this case, the cards were used as a matching activity – matching the picture (front) to the message (back). The set also included a resource guide with additional ideas for display, as well as activities supporting language arts and social studies curriculums. Also included were smaller reproducible images of a suitcase, postcard and passport.

I'd love to hear from you! Send your thoughts and comments to me at the address listed following this column. Wishing you a fun-filled holiday season! ☺



A set of faux postcards from a teacher supply store serves as a matching activity.

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.

An Interview with Larry Davidson

Dawn Hamman

Larry Davidson won the grand award at the National Topical Stamp Show for his exhibit, *Beavers: Nature's Engineers*. He answered some questions about his exhibit.

Q. How did you decide that the beaver would be your topic?

I intended to create an exhibit and show it in both Canada and the United States, so I wanted a topic that would be of some interest to viewers in both countries. I also wanted an original subject. Since the beaver is the national symbol of Canada, as well as the state animal of Oregon and the state mammal of New York, I thought that it would be an appropriate subject. Historically, the search for beaver pelts was responsible for opening up much of western Canada and western United States by organizations such as the Hudson's Bay Company and John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company.

Q. What was a major challenge with this type of exhibit?

One challenge was in deciding whether the exhibit should be strictly thematic or a display exhibit. Since I intended to illustrate the topic with a piece of beaver fur, several coins, some bank notes and so on, I decided to have a display exhibit. And since a display exhibit can have as much as 50% non-philatelic material, the next challenge was to find enough such items. A long search began, and purchases eventually included items such as trade cards, postcards, photographs, wildlife seals, scout badges, nature cards, etc.

Q. What are some of the interesting philatelic items in the exhibit?

Canada's first stamp of 1851 shows a beaver. Actually, it was the very first stamp to show an animal. While a mint copy was too expensive, I do have a specimen block of four. There is also an 1838 stampless cover sent from Norway House via Hudson's Bay Company canoe to York Factory (on Hudson's Bay) then by HBC supply ship to England, and on to Hudson's Bay House in London. The enclosed letter refers to the flourishing fur trade that year.

Q. As it is a display class exhibit, you are allowed to include non-philatelic items. What are some interesting ones in the exhibit?



The plan page includes an old-time stereoscopic card for use in a stereoscope, giving an image of a beaver with the perception of 3D depth. Also, I show a fossil of part of the incisor tooth of a giant beaver found in fossil deposits in Florida.

Q. What's next for Beavers: Nature's Engineers?

I intend to revise the exhibit for a fourth time. It will be decreased in size from six frames to five frames, to eliminate some of the weaker, less important items and hence highlight the better material. I will also create a mini-study of Canada's first stamp. It first appeared imperforate on laid paper, then imperforate on wove paper and then on wove paper perforated. After that, the denomination changed from pence to cents and another stamp was created.

Q. What advice would you offer to someone thinking of exhibiting?

My advice would be to attend as many stamp shows as possible and look at exhibits to see how exhibitors handle their material. There are many exhibits shown online as well. Talk to exhibitors and have them explain their exhibits and their challenges. Also attend judges' feedback sessions to see what their advice is. If possible, find a mentor who will give you suggestions. Publications such as "The Philatelic Exhibitor," issued by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, are very helpful. You may wish to start with a one-frame (16 pages) exhibit. And do not be discouraged by the feedback on your first exhibit. Listen to the comments and see if you agree that you could make improvements. My first award was at the silver-bronze level. I revised and revised and eventually received higher level medals. Don't give up after your early attempts. ☐

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Please check the ATA website frequently for information and news that you can use!

Units in Action

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

Fred Foldvary is interested in starting a new study unit for the topic of geographic locations on stamps, such as physical features and polar philately, as well as human-made buildings, such as lighthouses and cities.

It is a large topic and Fred envisions members specializing in particular geographic locations.

Those interested should contact Fred at ffoldvary@gmail.com with the subject "geographilately."

Americana Unit

Americana Philatelic News

Melvin Morris reports in the July-



Sept. 2015 issue his discovery of a number of stamps showing U.S. Presidents walking their dogs.

Morris wonders if Presidents walked their dogs to relax

or to think. The author found 10 JFK stamps with dogs at the Kennedy family compound in Cape Cod. President Clinton and President Obama also appear on stamps with their dogs.

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

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net

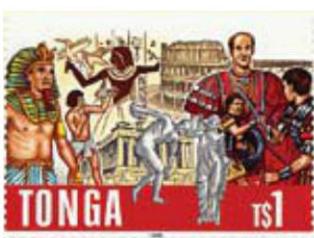
Website: www.americanauunit.org

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

In the July 2015 issue, Caroline

Scannell writes a travelogue through Algeria, illustrating Roman ruins and mosaics still visible there.



Another article covers a set of stamps issued by Egypt depicting the Narmer

Palette believed to belong to the first King of Upper and Lower Egypt. Sixteen archaeology new issues are listed in the New Digs section in this issue.

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

Email: editor@owasu.org

Website: www.owasu.org

Astronomy Study Unit

Astrofax

After a four-year hiatus, the



Astronomy Study Unit is ready to relaunch its bulletin, *Astrofax*. A new editor has been appointed and the December issue will be sent free to interested collectors. Please

contact John W.G. Budd for more information.

Dues are \$10 in the United States and Canada, \$12 elsewhere. John W.G. Budd, 728 Sugar Camp Way, Brooksville FL 34604-1501.

Email: jwg'budd@gmail.com

Bicycle Stamps Club

Bicycle Stamps

Eight illustrated pages of bicycle stamp new issues appear in the September 2015 issue. There are also



pages of material from the late Graham Wade's collection.

Wade was a past president of the

Bicycle Stamp Club and also designed stamps for several countries.

One of the pages from his collection shows a set of stamps issued by Australia to celebrate the "Centenary of South Australia" in 1936. When the stamps are enlarged by 200% one can see a bicycle on the street in 1836, making this possibly the smallest bicycle on a set of stamps.

Dues are \$25 in the United States. Contact Steven W. Andreasen, 2000 Alaskan Way Unit 157, Seattle WA 98121-2199.

Email: steven.w.andreasen@gmail.com

or, £15 in the United Kingdom. Contact Brian Sole, 49 Westcar Lane, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames KT12 5ER, United Kingdom.

Email: brian.sole@btinternet.com
Website: www.bicyclestamps.tripod.com

Biology Unit

Biophilately

Associate Editor for Paleontology



Michael Kogan begins a three-part series about the history of stamp

issues depicting Paleontology subjects in *Biophilately* September 2015.

The first appearance of dinosaurs was on meter frankings used by the Sinclair Oil Company. Dinosaurs were chosen as the company logo and used during a marketing campaign between 1935-38. The company also issued a set of cinderellas depicting dinosaurs.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere and \$15 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Christopher Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr

NE, Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724.

Email: chris-dahle@fastermac.net

Website: www.biophilately.org

Books and Printing (Graphics Philately Association)

Philateli-Graphics

The July 2015 issue features a report



by Larry Rosenblum of a plate on display at Europhilex in May 2015 used to print the 1847 "Post Office" stamps of Mauritius. The plate was owned and exhibited by Maurice Burrus in

1935. After his death, the plate was given to another family member and not discovered again until after that person's death. Stamps were printed one at a time from this plate. Mauritius was the first British colony to issue postage stamps.

Dues are \$15 in North America (Patron \$25) and \$25 elsewhere (Patron \$35). Contact Larry Rosenblum, GPA Secretary/Treasurer, 1030 E El Camino Real, Sunnyvale CA 94087-3759.

Email: lr@gbstamps.com

Website: www.graphics-stamps.org

Cats on Stamps Study Unit

Cat Mews

Marci Jarvis reports "Portugal Reintroduces the Iberian Lynx."

Portugal released a set of stamps to commemorate the reintroduction of the cat. The Spanish or



Iberian Lynx is

the most critically endangered feline species and has not been seen in its native habitat since the 1990s. There are four different stamps showing four different views of the Iberian Lynx in the set, which was issued in April 2015.

Dues are \$14 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Bob Jarvis, 2731 Teton Ln, Fairfield CA 94533-6503.

Email: bobmarci@aol.com

Website: www.catsonstamps.org

Christmas Philatelic Club

Yule Log

Christine Sanders shares more than 20 "Christmas Philatelic Whim-Wham" items from her personal collection in the



April-June 2015 *Yule Log*. Whim-wham are fake or manufactured "philatelic" items made for collectors. Some examples of whim-wham include cinderellas, reproductions and fake postmarks. One of the items Sanders shares is a faux postmark created by a philatelist for the Christmas season on a 1930 airmail cover.

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
Website: web.295.ca/cpc/

Disneyana on Stamps Society

Disnemation

William Silvester writes about the "60th Anniversary of the Mickey Mouse Club" in *Disnemation*. The Mickey Mouse Club was first televised in 1955. It was Disney's second television series. The shows were used by Disney to fund and promote the building of Disneyland.



There are only four stamps issued to commemorate the Mickey Mouse Club,

from Bhutan, Grenada and Sierra Leone. There also were many Mickey Mouse Club meters and cancels used and several examples appear in the article.

Membership is free. Members receive *Disnemation* online six times a year; site access is password controlled.

Email: disnemation@yahoo.ca

Website: www.disnemation.8m.com/HOME.htm

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

Reflections

With the recent USPS U.S. Coast

Guard stamp released, Don Neal provides several biographies of "African Americans in the U.S. Coast Guard" in the July 2015 *Reflections*.



One of those biographies is that of Michael A. Healy.

Healy was the first African American commissioned into the Revenue Service which was the forerunner of the USCG. The USCG Cutter *Healy* is named for Michael A. Healy and it is the newest polar icebreaker in the fleet.

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

Email: esperstamps@esperstamps.org

or, Earnest Shinault, Sr, 3523 Douglass Ave, Memphis TN 38111-5721.

Email: eshinaultsr@yahoo.com

Website: www.esperstamps.org

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Europa Study Unit

Europa News

A report that the European



organization PUMed has been working since 2014 with European nations located on

the Mediterranean to start issuing Mediterranean-themed stamps is featured in the Sept.-Oct. 2015 *Europa News*. There are a total of 20 different countries participating and issuing stamps. In 2014, 12 countries issued stamps with the theme "The Mediterranean" and, in 2015, 12 of the participating countries issued stamps for the theme "Boats of the Mediterranean."

Dues are \$20 in the United States

and Canada, \$30 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Tonny Van Loij, 3002 S Xanthia St, Denver CO 80231-4237. Email: tvanloij@gmail.com Website: www.europastudyunit.org

Fire Service in Philately

Fire Stamp News

Don Alford



writes in the July-Sept. 2015 issue about the Bridgeport Fireman fancy cancels that were used in the Waterbury Conn.,

post office beginning in 1866. There were three different cork cancels carved and used by the postmaster John W. Mills. The three cork cancels were destroyed in the Great Waterbury Fire of 1902.

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

Journalists, Authors, & Poets on Stamps (JAPOS)

JAPOS Bulletin



Jeff Dugdale looks at a different approach stamp designers use when designing stamps commemorating writers. This approach uses places or objects that have inspired or influenced the writers, sometimes incorporating the writer's portrait.

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E-mail: info@stamps.org



One of the examples of this approach was used by Turks & Caicos, which shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle along with a scene from *The Final Problem*, where Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty are seen fighting at Reichenbach Falls. Doyle traveled throughout Europe visiting many waterfalls.

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

Email: cdelvaux@msn.com

or, Mark Winnegrad, 1450

Parkchester Rd, Bronx NY 10462-7622

Judaica Thematic Society

Judaica News

A biography of American Modernist



"Man Ray - the First Jewish Avant-Garde Artist," by Jeff Dugdale, appears in the September

2015 issue. Born Emmanuel Radnitsky, Ray's family changed its name to Ray to avoid anti-Semitic discrimination. Ray was known for using nontraditional painting techniques and invented new photographic media and styles. Man Ray's *Rayograph* appears on a U.S. stamp issued in 2002 commemorating famous photographers.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available free in electronic format only. Contact Gary Goodman at the following email address.

Email: judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

Lighthouse Stamp Society

The Philatelic Beacon

Off Northumberland County, England, are the Farne Islands, which are located in the coastal shipping lanes. There are currently two lighthouses in



operation on the islands; one is the Farne Lighthouse on Farne Island constructed in 1811. Paul Longcrier shows several uses of the "Farne Lighthouse Local Stamp" (of which 240 were printed July 16, 2012), in *The Philatelic Beacon* Sept.-Oct. 2015 issue. The local stamp shows a computerized drawing of the lighthouse above the cliffs of the island.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778. Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org Website: www.lighthousestampsociety.org

operation on the islands; one is the Farne Lighthouse on Farne Island constructed in 1811. Paul Longcrier shows several uses of the "Farne Lighthouse Local Stamp" (of which 240 were printed July 16,

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Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778. Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org Website: www.lighthousestampsociety.org

Malaria Philatelists International

Miasma

In the September 2015 issue,



Larry Fillion shares 20 "Canal Zone Scott C33 Commercial Usages" on cover, used Aug. 1, 1958, through Jan. 6, 1968. None of the covers had auxiliary markings and three overpaid the route by ½¢.

Dues are not required; the publication *Miasma* is available free, in electronic format only. Contact Larry Fillion at the following email address.

Email: mariastamps@yahoo.com

Website: www.mariastamps.com/mpi/

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Masonic Study Unit

Philatelic Freemason

Many stamps have been issued in



memory of the RMS *Titanic*, which sank on its maiden voyage in April 1912. The Sept.-Oct. 2015 *Philatelic Freemason* features a biography of Brother Harold Godfrey Lowe, the

fifth officer and a survivor of the event. At the age of 14 he ran away and began working on Welsh coastal schooners to

obtain his certifications. By 1911 he earned his Master's certificate and began working for the White Star Line. After the *Titanic* began to sink, Lowe was sent to assist survivors in one of the lifeboats. He quickly gathered other lifeboats together and distributed survivors across all of the lifeboats so that he could use one to search for other survivors.

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

Email: radpm67@gmail.com

or, Gene Fricks

Email: genefricks@comcast.net

Mathematical Study Unit

Philamath

While singer Tom Lehrer has



not appeared on a postage stamp, some elements of his songs do. Some of his songs about mathematics

are *Decimal*, *Lobachevsky* and *New Math*. The song *Lobachevsky* refers to Nikolai Lobachevsky and how plagiarism can make one successful in mathematics.

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

Email: montystrauss@gmail.com

Website: www.mathstamps.org

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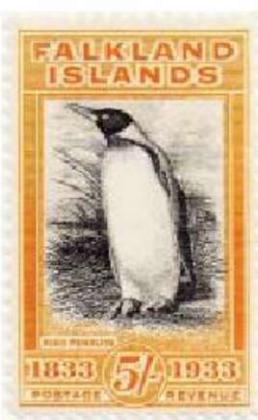
Goffstown NH 03045

contact: RGray43645@aol.com

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

The Rookery Report

Member John Hutchinson recently



shared pictures of the "Big Penguin," which is a 3-meter-tall statue on the beachfront in Penguin, Tasmania. Penguin, Tasmania, is named for the penguins that live around the outskirts of town.

Hutchinson's pictures

show the Big Penguin wearing an army uniform for the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day. Several administrative announcements were also made in *The Rookery Report* Summer 2015 issue.

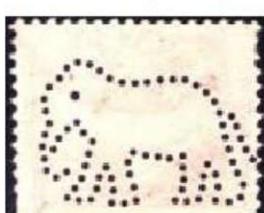
Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 elsewhere and \$10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Sandra Lingler, 239 Whitman Blvd, Elyria OH 44035-1750.

Email: possumember@yahoo.com
Website: www.penguinstamps.org

The Perfins Club

Perfins Bulletin

Rudy Roy asks "Is Somebody Using My Perfin?" in the Sept.-Oct. 2015 issue. In his article, Roy shows several covers that have stamps with perfins from different companies. One of the covers, from the American Exchange Irving Trust Company,



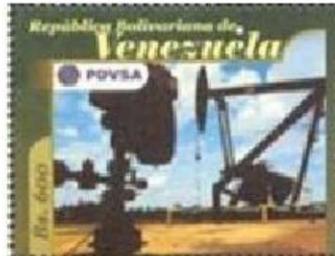
has a perfin from the American Exchange Bank of New York and an Irving Trust and Bank's pattern. The companies merged in 1926 and formed the American Exchange Irving Trust Company.

Dues are \$16 in the United States, \$23 in Canada and \$26 elsewhere. Contact Ken Rehfeld, PO Box 125, Spokane Valley WA 99016-0125. Email: kenrehfeld@comcast.net
Website: www.perfins.org

Petroleum Philatelic Society International

Petro-Philatelist

In the Summer 2015 issue, Dr.



Perry Polss explains how PEMEX was formed in 1938 by past Mexican president Lazaro Cardenas

by reclaiming oil resources from foreign companies operating in Mexico. PEMEX was formed to consolidate the petroleum industry for the people of Mexico. Article 27 of the Mexican constitution states ownership of all natural resources discovered underground belong to the Mexican people. In 1942, the Mexican government compensated foreign oil companies for reclaiming foreign oil assets.

Dues are \$25 in the United States and Canada, \$40 elsewhere and \$20 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Feitze Papa, 922 Meander Dr, Walnut Creek CA 94598-4239.

Email: oildad@astound.net

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

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

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

Sandra L. Lingler
239 Whitman Blvd
Elyria OH 44035-1750

Email: possumember@yahoo.com



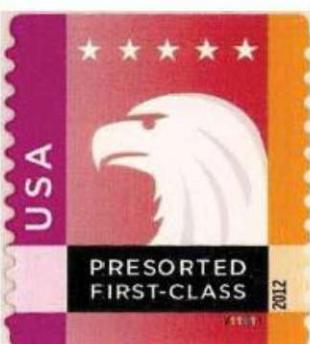
Plate Number Collectors Club (PNC³)

Coil Line

Doug Iams explains "Why Rolls of 100 Have Ties" in the September 2015 issue. Ties allow the rolls of coil stamps to be coiled without causing the stamps on liner paper to buckle or compress.

PNC³ Club members now have PNC album pages available to them as a new club benefit. The album pages include all known numbers, tagged and untagged varieties and die cuts.

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



Email: mjconway@hotmail.com

Website: www.pnc3.org

Polar Philatelists, American Society of

Ice Cap News

Nine expedition covers for the

research ship *TARA*, with postmarks and cachets of the *TARA* Ice Camp, seals, whales and other wildlife appear in *Ice Cap News*, July 2015. The *TARA* is a research ship that sails throughout



the world studying biodiversity, climate change and ocean pollution. Phil Schreiber also has written an article in this issue on "Servicing your own covers" from Polar Stations.



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Dues are \$22 in the United States, \$30 elsewhere. Contact Alan Warren, PO Box 39, Exton PA 19341-0039.
Email: alanwar@comcast.net
Website: www.polarphilatelists.org

Rail Road Unit, Casey Jones *The Dispatcher*

In the July-August 2015 issue,



Florence Wright shares her recent non-competitive exhibit, *All Aboard Stamps* shown at Ropex in New York

state. The three-frame exhibit comes from Norman Wright's collection of the All Aboard Train stamps issued by the USPS in 1999.

In addition to all of the official stamps and products released by the USPS, there are several pages of FDCs created by cachet artists and pictorial cancels used after the stamps were released.

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

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

The ROS Bulletin

Rotary International held its



106th International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Rotary on Stamps had a booth at the convention. Personalized stamps featuring the Sao Paulo Rotary logo, as well as a special cancel, were created for the convention. ROS also had a stamp-picking table to attract people to its booth, resulting in several new members.

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

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

Ships on Stamps Unit

Watercraft Philately

Search and rescue is the theme of the July-Aug. 2015 issue. A minisheet issued by Maldives in 2013 shows the *David and Elizabeth Acland RNLI 1243* lifeboat in the margin. One of the *David and Elizabeth Acland* rescue



missions involved a collie dog that had fallen from the cliffs near the Belle Toute Lighthouse. The dog was recovered

without injury. This was the fifth time the rescue team was called to rescue a dog that had fallen over the cliffs. The collie was the only dog to survive.

Dues are \$15 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$10 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Myron P. Molnau, 1616 E 32nd Ct, Spokane WA 99203-3918.

Email: hobbies@turbonet.com

Website: www.shipsonstamps.org

United Nations Philatelists

Journal of United Nations Philatelists

The August 2015 issue leads with



recent U.N. releases for the 2015 World Heritage South East Asia and also the 2015 End Violence Against Children stamps. Six stamps were released showing South East Asia World Heritage

sites Luang Prabang, Laos; Borobodur Temple, Indonesia; Angkor Wat, Cambodia; Cordillera, Philippines; Ayutthaya, Thailand; and Hué Monuments, Vietnam.

Greg Galletti continues his article "Evolution of an Exhibit," with part 2 in this issue.

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

Email: bclemjr@yahoo.com

or, Larry Fillion, 18 Arlington St, Acton MA 01720-2602.

Email: malaria stamps@yahoo.com

Website: www.unpi.com

Windmill Study Unit

Windmill Whispers

Ten pages of windmill new issues and new discoveries appear in July-Sept. 2015 issue. One set of new issues from Barbados shows the Barbados Tower Windmill, St. Nicholas Abby Windmill



and the Morgan Lewis Windmill. The Morgan Lewis Windmill is one of only two restored sugar mills in the Caribbean and is one of the "Seven Wonders of Barbados."

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

Email: 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

Website: www.wsuweb.eu

Wine on Stamps Study Unit

Enophilatelica

The feature article in the August 2015 issue is "Louis Pasteur and Wine." Bruce L. Johnson explores Louis



Pasteur's research and experiments to find out why some wine would deteriorate and not age well. Pasteur's experiments would find that oxygen plays a large part in

whether wine spoils. This research led Pasteur to further experiment with yeast and fermentation, eventually resulting in Pasteur's "pasteurization process" to prevent spoilage in alcohol and dairy products.

Dues are \$17 in North America, \$22 elsewhere and \$14 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Paul J. Parham, 1768 Aurora Avenue N Apt 303, Seattle WA 98109-2758.

Email: pauljparham@msn.com

Website: www.wine-on-stamps.org

Chapter Chatter

By Sandy Strzalkowski

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Bob Mather.

Newsletter topics: August program “Hear Me Roar” discussed animals on the endangered species list. Members were encouraged to look through their material and bring examples to discuss. Milcopex 2015 will have the letter “M” for the theme of either four-page or eight-page non-competitive exhibits (August 2015).

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

Newsletter: *Perf-Dispatch*, edited by Alan Barasch.

Newsletter topics: Club member Frank Kollinger’s logo design was adopted by the members. The new logo includes images of the St. Louis Arch, two bears and a fleur de lis (August 2015).

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

Newsletter: *Philatelic Chatter*, edited by Don Smith.

Newsletter topics: July 27th meeting included a presentation on “Dead Countries” (Sept.-Oct. 2015).



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Milwaukee Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Milwaukee, Wis.**Newsletter:** *Milwaukee Philatelist*, edited by Jonathan Kumbera.**Newsletter topics:** Discussion of new Paul Newman stamp (September 2015).**Omaha Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 123) in Omaha, Neb.****Newsletter:** *The Spacefiller*, edited by Paul Breakenridge.**Newsletter topics:** August speaker was Bob Ferguson, member of Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau, who presented the program "The Living, on U.S. Stamps" (September 2015).**St. Petersburg Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 119) in St. Petersburg, Fla.****Newsletter:** *St. Petersburg Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by Louise Graves.**Newsletter topics:** Mark Isaacs' article, "On The Cover," discusses Japanese fancy Bota cancels (August 2015). Frank Karwoski's exhibit of *Poland's 10-Mk. Sower Stamp (1921-23)* received a vermeil medal at APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, Mich. (September 2015). The Oct. 7 meeting featured a GPS program "Postwar Berlin" and the Oct. 21 meeting's program was "The City Posts of the 19th Century" (October 2015).**Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122), in Venice, Fla.****Newsletter:** *Venice Stamp Club Newsletter*, edited by Dawn Hamman.**Newsletter topics:** At the July 21 meeting, Terry Raymond presented the topic "Fossils on Stamps." At the Aug. 18 meeting there was a presentation about Italian

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Colonies by Lance Grandone (September 2015). The masthead of the October issue features the U.S. 10¢ Legend of Sleepy Hollow stamp. Caroline Daher presented an interesting article on “Blackjack Bisects.” Civil War buffs might be interested in the article “Three Cent Postmaster Provisional Stamps” (October 2015).

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

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

Newsletter topics: The Sept. 4 meeting program was “Canadian Hidden Dates” by Wally Koster. The Sept. 25 meeting featured an APS slide show “Fancy Cancels.” (September 2015). The Oct. 16 meeting had a presentation by Gray Scrimgoeur “Canada’s Trans-Pacific Steamship Mail” (October 2015). The Nov. 6 meeting featured Chuck Dalaige’s “Canada No. 8” (November 2015).

CANADA

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

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

Newsletter topics: An article about Alberta collectors getting lots of topical issues this past summer (August 2015). Front cover featured revised Dinosaur Park Stamp and Dale Spiers presented an article on the topic. Elizabeth Saunaranta’s article included a checklist of Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Stamp Designs (September 2015).

INTERNATIONAL

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

Newsletter: *Themescene*, edited by Wendy Buckle.

Newsletter topics: Editor Wendy Buckle urged members to contact local non-philatelic groups to give a talk on their topics. Richard Hindle continued with part two in his series on “Amundsen’s Northeast Passage Expedition 1918-23, The Postcards.” Chris Yardley’s article on climate change illustrates the various stamps on the topic. Grace Davies discussed Great Britain’s “Thankful Villages of WWI.” The Just4Kids column by Lise Whittle featured birds (September 2015).

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

Newsletter: *ITS Stamp News*, edited by Suraj Jaitly.

Newsletter topics: Cover story features stamps and an article that commemorate International Yoga Day 2015. Dr. Satyendra Kumar Agrawal’s article features the ancient city of Ayodhya, which is believed to be the birthplace of Rama. Editor Suraj Jaitly’s article discusses omnibus issues, such as the Silver Jubilee Stamps that commemorated King George V (July-Sept. 2015).

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

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

Newsletter topics: Members were sent a copy of Graeme Russell’s exhibit, *Chemistry – Servant of Mankind*, along with the newsletter (August 2015). ☐

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Award Winners

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. A list of available awards and their criteria are available on the ATA webpage. The awards can be obtained by contacting the Awards Chairman Dalene Thomas at dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org, or by mail at 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.

Only those shows that submit a report to the Awards Chairman will be acknowledged here. *Denotes ATA member.

First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

At the Evergreen Summer Exhibition ***Anne Harris** received the ATA first award for her exhibit, *Horace and Betty Get Married*. ***Carol Edholm** received the ATA second award for *The Sacred Peafowl*, while the ATA third award went to **Robert Grosch** for *The Rest of the Story*. The ATA one-frame merit award was presented to ***Keith Edholm**, for his exhibit, *The History and Development of Camelidae*. ***Richard Horner** earned the ATA novice award for *Pictorial Christmas Cachets*.

Janet Klug received the ATA one-frame merit award at Seapex for her exhibit, *Absinthe: The Devil in a Bottle*, and **Bears Repeating**, by **Phil Kumler** was awarded the ATA novice award.

The exhibit, *Coffee: Ambassador of Tropics*, shown by **L.F. Diaz** at Napex, was presented the ATA first award, and **Lorenz Houseman** received the ATA one-frame merit award for *Canada and Stamps on Stamps (1851-1990)*. *The Universe*, by ***Darren Corapcioglu**, received the ATA youth award.

Mia Fillion won the ATA youth award at the AAPE Youth Champion of Champions Competition for her exhibit, *The USDA My Food Plate-Mapping Out the Foods*.

***Fran Adams** received the ATA one-frame merit award for *Roosevelt and Churchill at Palacida*, and **Mia Fillion** was awarded the ATA youth award for *The Chinese Zodiac* at APS StampShow 2015. ☐

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



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“Fin del Mundo” 2015, Singapore 2015

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at “Fin del Mundo” 2015 and Singapore 2015. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed.

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

“Fin del Mundo” 2015

This international philatelic exhibition was held in Río Grande, Argentina, March 23-28, 2015. The exhibition was sponsored by FIAF (Interamerican Federation of Philately).

Multi-frame Exhibits

Raudel Bustó (Cuba)	<i>A Look at Birds from the Human Perspective</i>	
90, G		
Sheila Moraes (Brazil)	<i>At the Wheel, Respect Life</i>	88, LV
Luis Fernando Díaz (Costa Rica)	<i>The Glamor of Ostracism</i>	88, LV
Claudio Daniel Mujica (Arg.)	<i>Seven Precepts of the Samaritan</i>	85, LV
Julio A. Santanelli (Argentina)	<i>The World of Football</i>	85, LV
Adrián Avancini (Argentina)	<i>Scouting, School Life</i>	80, V
Luis Rosario Miceli (Argentina)	<i>The Salesian Congregation</i>	78, LS
Fabián Celin (Colombia)	<i>Antarctica, the White Continent: Science and Peace</i>	71, S
Eduardo Casiriaín (Argentina)	<i>Drawings Speak</i>	70, S

One-frame Exhibits

Carlos Baldasare (Argentina)	<i>Civilization and Barbarism</i>	87, V
Héctor Andreotta (Argentina)	<i>Milan</i>	83, V
Martin Dellacasa (Argentina)	<i>Three Heroes: Archival Material</i>	82, V
Teresa Aguilera (Paraguay)	<i>Centenary of the Merchant Fleet of Paraguay</i>	81, V
Ginaldo Bezerra Da Silva (Brazil)	<i>A Wonderful City: Visit Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountain</i>	80, V
Ricardo Oscar Fernández (Arg.)	<i>Tintin Imaginary Adventures Recreated by a Scout</i>	77, S
Pedro Pablo Rinaudo (Argentina)	<i>Curiosities</i>	74, S
Juan Bosco Oberti (Argentina)	<i>She Sings Better Every Day</i>	73, S
Gladys Noemi Puccino (Arg.)	<i>Francisco</i>	73, S
Armando Villafaña (Argentina)	<i>The Ivory Scepter: Elephants</i>	72, S
Daniel Boromei (Argentina)	<i>The Written Word: Memories of Mankind</i>	72, S
Pedro Domingo Canalda (Arg.)	<i>Belgrano</i>	71, S
Fernando René Lozano (Arg.)	<i>Hero of the Andes</i>	71, S

Topical Time		75
Araceli Funes de Odetti (Arg.)	<i>The Argentinian Falkland Islands</i>	71, S
Jorge Alcañiz (Argentina)	<i>America Bank Note in Europe</i>	70, S
Eduardo Casiriaín (Argentina)	<i>Impressionism Expressionism: Vincent Van Gogh</i>	70, S
Mario Alejandro Tortosa (Arg.)	<i>To Err is Human</i>	70, S

Singapore 2015

This World Stamp Exhibition was held in Singapore, Aug. 14-19, 2015. It was held in conjunction with Singapore's 50th Year of Independence, and with the full support and patronage of FIP (International Federation of Philately), under the auspices of FIAP (Federation of Inter-Asian Philately). Thematic exhibitors could exhibit in one of three categories – Nature, Culture or Technology.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Nature

Lev Safonov (Russia)	<i>Polar History of Russia</i>	95, LG
*Tono Dwi Putranto (Indonesia)	<i>Journey of an Old King from Serengeti</i>	91, G
Janusz Jaskulski (Poland)	<i>Angling – My Hobby</i>	91, G
Runpu Tian (China)	<i>Sunlight</i>	88, LV
Graeme & Gaye Chequer (Aust.)	<i>About Orchids</i>	86, LV
Shuangjie Dai (China)	<i>Feathers</i>	85, LV
Manuel Riera (France)	<i>Turtles</i>	85, LV
Mieczyslaw Rozek (Poland)	<i>Towards Mountain Peaks</i>	82, V
Roger Thill (Luxemburg)	<i>The Mysterious World of Mycology</i>	80, V
Bahrudin Adiutama (Indonesia)	<i>The Primates</i>	75, LS
Binderiya Batbileg (Mongolia)	<i>Horses</i>	75, LS

Culture

Ilho Shong (Korea)	<i>Historical Development of Labor</i>	96, LG
*Yukio Onuma (Japan)	<i>LV Beethoven – His Life in an Historical Context And his Legacy</i>	96, LG
Hallvard Slettebo (Norway)	<i>World Scouting</i>	96, LG
Mark Bottu (Belgium)	<i>If You Want to be My Disciple – Christian Monastic Life: Its Past and Future</i>	95, LG
Francois Krol (France)	<i>Advertzine</i>	95, LG
Feernando Veiga (Brazil)	<i>Linking Borrowers to Lenders</i>	93, G
Bjorn Gunnar Salaas (Norway)	<i>The German Painter Albrecht Dürer – His Trip to The Netherlands</i>	91, G
Luis Fernando Diaz (Costa Rica)	<i>Coffee: Ambassador of the Tropics</i>	90, G
Daniel Herrmann (France)	<i>Olympism, The Perpetual Battle by Renovations</i>	86, LV
Jacques Paquet (Belgium)	<i>The Gothic Cathedral Between God and Men</i>	83, V
Gunn Nibe (Norway)	<i>Care and Nurturing from a Historical Perspective</i>	83, V
Barry Stagg (UK)	<i>Parachuting Through the Ages</i>	83, V



Oswaldo Navas (Ecuador)	<i>Scouting Movement: Education for Peace</i>	81, V
Chang Han Kim (Korea)	<i>Golf Competition for Glory and Pleasure</i>	80, V
Vitaliy Bankov (Ukraine)	<i>Winter Olympic Games 1924-1964 (Highlights and First Time Events)</i>	77, S
Igor Pimenovs (Latvia)	<i>Sailing along the Historical Routes under the Latvian Flag</i>	76, S
Chiang Song Er (Singapore)	<i>Musical Instruments</i>	72, S
 Technology		
Turid Veggeland (Norway)	<i>Bitter Pills and Strong Drops</i>	93, G
Yujin Ke (China)	<i>Oil and Gas – How they have come into Human Life History</i>	88, LV
Bernadette Rouch (France)	<i>Wood: An Inventory</i>	86, LV
Roger Tan (Singapore)	<i>I am a Connector (Bridge)</i>	86, LV
Graeme Russell (New Zealand)	<i>Chemistry: Servant of Mankind</i>	85, LV
Reinaldo Estevan Macedo (Brazil)	<i>River in Harness – Energy in Liberty</i>	83, V
Yohanan Mey-Raz (Israel)	<i>Watch Yourself Very Carefully</i>	83, V
Pregya Jain (India)	<i>I am Bow and This is my Story</i>	83, V
Petter J Teraldsen (Norway)	<i>On Tracks</i>	81, V
Chang Hwan Kim (Korea)	<i>The Story of Chemistry</i>	80, V
Rahmat Asaad Hamid (Indon.)	<i>Bridges: From Nature to Modern Structures</i>	76, LS

One-frame Exhibits

Darko Postrak (Denmark)	<i>Fisheries</i>	95
Michael Rhodes (Australia)	<i>I am Nothing</i>	90
Viacheslav Klochko (Russia)	<i>Astronauts as the Artists of Postage Stamps</i>	86
Bjorn Gunnar Salaas (Norway)	<i>“Paloma” – Pablo Picasso’s Favorite Bird</i>	84
Arup Kumar Saha (Bangladesh)	<i>For the Love of Bengali</i>	70

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for more than 54 years and exhibiting for more than 28 years. His display/thematic exhibit, Beavers: Nature's Engineers, received the Grand Award at NTSS 2015. His mailing address is 30 Front St Apt 307, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada. His email address is lawrencedavidson@gmail.com.



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PUBLICATION REVIEWS

George B. Griffenhagen

Thematic Periodicals

Mulready Postal Stationery

Mulready Envelopes and Letter Sheets, by Kenneth A. Wood, *This is Philately*, Van Dahl Publications, Albany, Ore., Volume 2, pp. 476-78, 1982. II. "The Rise and Fall of the Mulready Stationery," by Edward Klempka, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, pp. 34-37, June 2015.

The Penny Black and the **Two Penny Blue** adhesive postage stamps became valid for prepaying postage in Great Britain on May 6, 1840. Letter sheets and envelopes signed by artist and president **William Mulready** of the Royal Academy of Art also went on sale May

6, 1840, and were described as Mulready postal stationery. This was according to the plans of **Roland Hill** (1795-1879), who was appointed Secretary to the British Postmaster General in December 1846. William Mulready commenced work on the one-penny Mulready stationery on Dec. 12, and three days later had an approved design. At center top is a female Britannia with outstretched arms from which angels are flying, apparently to all parts of the empire. Below Britannia is a shield depicting the Union flag. The British lion lies at her feet. To the left, a man rides an elephant and funny animals join the group while on



Figure 1. The world's first postal stationery, shown here, was issued in Great Britain on May 6, 1840. It was designed by William Mulready of the British Royal Academy of Art. But what had been introduced with such high hopes of success was laughed out of existence.

the far right native Indians greet newly arrived European travelers. Essays on the side panels describe the stamps to pay for the weight of the letter being mailed and remind that major offices are located in Dublin, Edinburgh and London. Mulready postal stationery was produced in two denominations; one was black and included the inscription "POSTAGE ONE PENNY" for letters up to one-half ounce. The other was in blue and included the inscription "POSTAGE TWO PENCE" to cover letters up to one ounce in weight. When placed in the mail they were canceled by the impression of a handstamp upon the figure of Britannia.

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Roland Hill expected the Mulready postal stationery to be more popular with the public than the introduction of the first adhesive postage stamps. Strangely, Victorian tastes seem to have regarded anything that was simple as sinful. The **London Times** editorial of May 2, 1840, asked "whether this piece of nonlexical buffoonery is really genuine." Within days plans were already underway for the postal system to replace the Mulready. Meanwhile, stationers identified the commercial advantages of a cheap penny post. More than 800 different caricatures or advertisements of the Mulready have survived in what we now consider the introduction of junk mail. Southgate produced a caricature of the Pope seated on a donkey replacing Britannica. The iconic Mulready design has been remembered and celebrated by philatelists and postal historians on many occasions. No other postal issue, with the exception of the Penny Black, has had such appeal.



Figure 2. A Japanese photograph taken during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, was used by the Japanese postal authorities in 1942 for a 5 sen plus 2 sen semi-postal (B-7) which they describe as "the first anniversary of the Greater East Asia War."

I. Battleship Row, Pearl Harbor

The Pacific: Volume One, Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal, by Jay Wertz, Weider History Publications, Leesburg, Va., pp. 44-45, 2010.

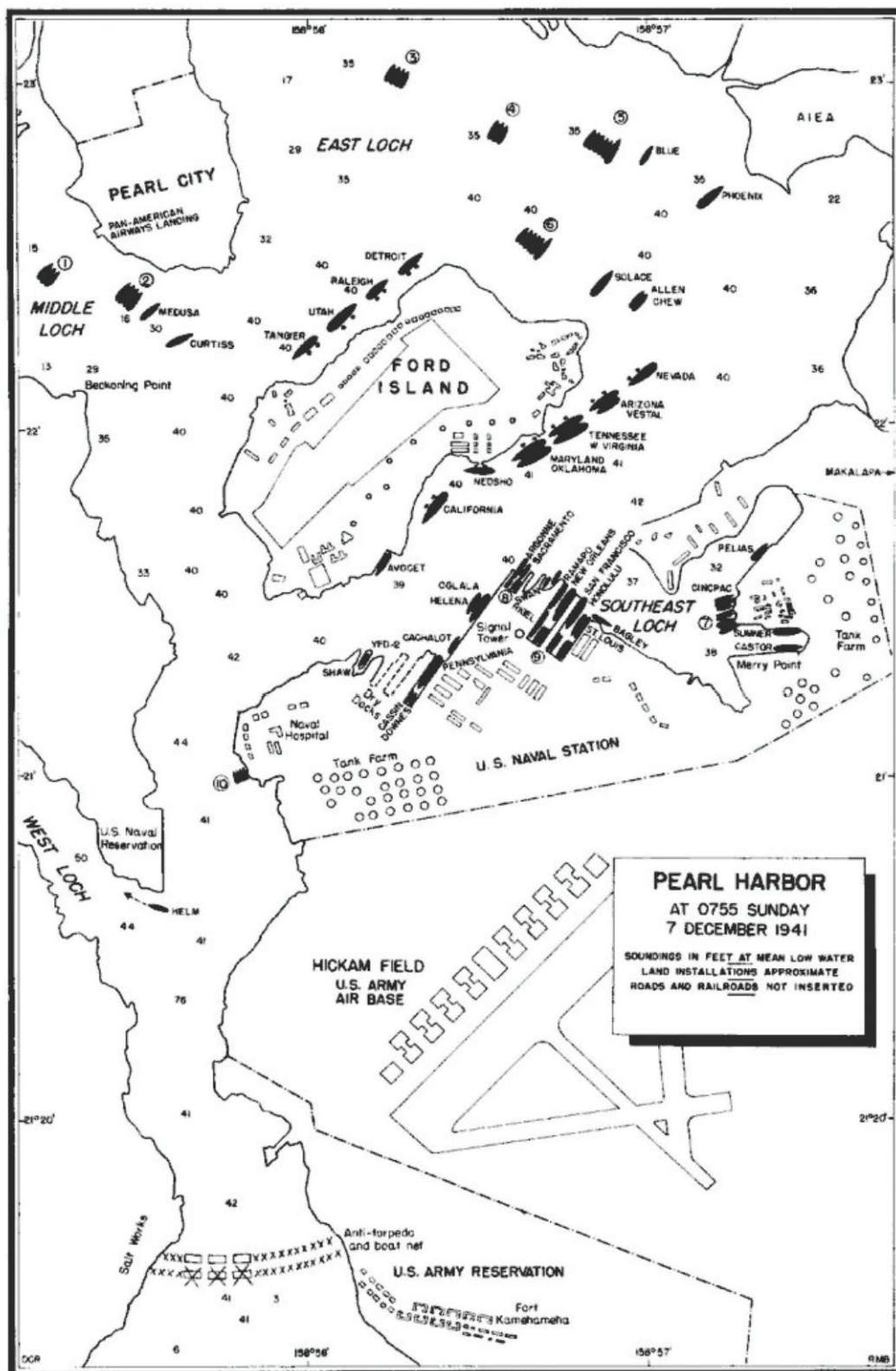


Figure 3. The United States had seven of its eight battleships moored next to Ford Island and this Battleship Row took the brunt of the Japanese attack. The eighth battleship was USS Pennsylvania, which was in dry-dock in Pearl Harbor. The battleships, from top to bottom alongside Ford Island are: Nevada, Arizona, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma and California. The Neosho, between the Oklahoma and California, is not a battleship. Read about how this ferry managed to be moored on Ford Island when the Japanese attack commenced.

"A Moment in Time; A Point of View," by **Tom Broadhead**, *American Philatelist*, pp. 560-562, June 2014.

The Japanese air attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, commenced at 7:55 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. The United States had seven of its eight battleships moored next to Ford Island and thus **Battleship Row** took the brunt of the Japanese attack. The eighth U.S. battleship was the **USS Pennsylvania** that was in dry dock at Pearl Harbor. U.S. Naval history records include thousands of photographs of these

Battleships, but a search of records of the National Archives reveals an entry reading, “Captured Japanese photograph taken during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 1941.” As the search for Japanese photos continues, more and more photos have surfaced indicating that they were taken at different times or by different pilots in different aircraft.

One of these photos was used by the Japanese postal authorities in 1942 to issue a 5 sen plus 2 sen semi-postal which they describe as “the first anniversary of the Greater East Asia War.” Scott lists this stamp as B-7, along with B-6, depicting a “Tank Corps Attack in Bataan.” Tom Broadhead describes the 1942 Japanese semi-postal (Scott B-7) as one of the most dynamic images in philately. Now it is time to learn the fate of the ships on **Battleship Row** in Pearl Harbor.

USS Nevada (BB-36)

On Dec. 6-7, 1941, all the battleships of the Pacific Fleet took port in Pearl Harbor for the weekend for the first time in six months. When the sun rose over the **USS Nevada**, the ship’s band was playing *Morning Colors*. Then planes appeared on the horizon and the attack had started. The **Nevada** was not moored off Ford Island alongside another battleship and therefore was able to maneuver. The **Nevada** got underway at 8 a.m. and the ship gunners shot down four **Kate torpedo bombers**. The **USS Nevada** became the prime target for the Japanese **Valdive bombers** that were trying to sink the **Nevada** to block the channel. At 9:50 a.m. the **Nevada** was struck by five bombs and she was grounded at Hospital Point at 10:30

a.m. Before she hit the shore, she shot down three more **Kate torpedo bombers**. She suffered 60 killed during the morning of Dec. 7.

USS Arizona (BB-39)

The **USS Arizona** was moored on Ford Island with the **USS Nevada** in the north and to the south side-by-side with the **USS Tennessee** and the **USS West Virginia**. As the air raid alarm sounded at 07:55 on Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, not a single crew member of the **USS Arizona** had any idea of the destruction they all faced in the next hour. Shortly after 8 a.m., 10 **Nakajima B5N Kate** torpedo bombers attacked the battleship. Five of these bombers were launched by carrier **Kaga** to hit midship while the other five were launched by carrier **Hiru** toward the bow area. The last bomb hit at 8:06, penetrating the armored deck and hitting the ammunition magazines. In seven seconds the forward magazines detonated in a cataclysmic explosion that killed 1,177 of the 1,512 crewmen on board at the time. In 1962 a bridge was built across the **Arizona's** sunken remains and it was declared a national shrine in 1966.

USS Tennessee (BB-43)

The **USS Tennessee** was moored starboard side to a pair of mooring quays on Ford Island with the **USS West Virginia** on the outboard side. As the Japanese attacked, the **Tennessee** crewmen manned her anti-aircraft guns. The **Tennessee** only received two hits by armor-piercing bombs, but they both destroyed key guns on the **Tennessee** wedged between the sunken **West Virginia** and her mooring quays. The **Tennessee** was trapped at her berth for 10 days before being freed. Four days

later she set sail for the West Coast to be repaired.

USS West Virginia (BB-48)

The **USS West Virginia** was moored outboard side of Ford Island with the **USS Tennessee**. Shortly before 8 a.m., seven aerial torpedoes struck the port side of the **West Virginia**. The Japanese also employed the **Vought Kingfisher** floatplane, which was filled with gasoline and launched from a high turret. The **West Virginia** was soon engulfed in an oil-fed conflagration, started by the burning **Arizona** and sustained with fuel leaking from both ships. Fire hoses from the **Tennessee** were passed on to the **West Virginia**, which the crew could use to fight the fires in a sinking ship. At 4 p.m. the final command was issued to abandon ship. The task confronting the remaining crew and shipyard workers was a monumental one. Nevertheless, the **West Virginia** sailed from Pearl Harbor on May, 7, 1943, bound for Bremerton, Wash., and a complete rebuilding at the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

USS Maryland (BB-46)

The **USS Maryland** was moored starboard side on Ford Island with the **USS Oklahoma**. Many of **Maryland's** crew were preparing for shore leave at 9 a.m., but the Japanese struck at 8. The **Maryland** was struck by two armor-piercing bombs. However, Seaman Leslie Short of the **Maryland** managed to shoot down one of the torpedo bombs that had been released for the **Oklahoma**. The **Maryland** continued to muster the AA defense, and she was receiving many of the surviving men of the **Oklahoma**. In spite of the two torpedoes, the **Maryland** lost only two enlisted men and two officers. The Japanese announced

that the **Maryland** had been sunk, but on Dec. 30, the damaged ship entered Puget Sound Navy Yard in Washington State for repairs.

USS Oklahoma (BB-37)

The **USS Oklahoma** was moored outboard on Ford Island alongside the **USS Maryland**. The **Oklahoma** took three torpedo hits almost immediately after the first Japanese bombs started falling. As she began to capsize, two more torpedoes struck home and her men were strafed by Japanese planes as the **Oklahoma** crew was abandoning the ship. Within 12 minutes after the attack began, she rolled over, until halted by her mast hitting the muddy bottom of the sea. However, the **Oklahoma** crew remained in the fight by clamoring aboard the **Maryland** so that the men could help staff the anti-aircraft batteries to destroy more Japanese attack bombers. On Dec. 7, 2007, the 66th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. Navy installed a memorial on Ford Island to honor the 429 members of the **Oklahoma** crew who died in the Japanese attack.

USS California (BB-44)

The **USS California** was moored at the southernmost berth of **Battleship Row**. Watertight integrity had been impaired by preparation for a material inspection and the ship suffered extensive flooding when hit by the first Japanese torpedo at 8:45. A second bomb ruptured more pipes and ended efforts to keep the **California** afloat. After three days of progressive flooding, it settled in the mud with only the superstructure remaining above the surface of the water. When the action ended, 100 of her crew had lost their lives.

USS *Neosho* (AO-23)

This was not a battleship so why is it officially shown on the nearby chart of Battleship Row moored between the **USS *Oklahoma*** and the **USS *California***? The **USS *Neosho* (AO-23)** was designed to ferry aviation fuel. She was built by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company of Kearny, N.J., and launched April 29, 1939. The conversion of the ship was completed on July 7, 1941, to immediately begin the vital task of ferrying aviation fuel from the West Coast to Pearl Harbor. On her very first mission, arriving in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 6, 1941, she discharged her cargo at the Naval Air Station on Ford Island, planning to return to the West Coast the next day. But the Japanese commenced their attack of Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. while the **USS *Neosho*** was still moored on Ford Island. Happily, she survived. Apparently the Japanese had no interest in wasting their aerial torpedoes on what appeared to be a tanker.

Chemical Revolution

II. Techno-Theme

Technology and Science Motive Group, No. 75, 2015/1, Manfred Sander, editor, 67/2 Waldstraus, D-79585, Steinin, Germany, email: msander-stinen@tonline.de, 8½ by 11½ inches, 48 pages.

Originally, chemistry was mired in the legacy of the Greek philosophers. The four elements of **Aristotle** (earth, air, fire and water) had been slowly modified by the medieval alchemists who added their own arcane language and symbolism. **Robert Boyle** (1627-91) was the son of **Richard Boyle**, Earl of Cork, who moved from England to Ireland in 1588 at the age of 22, when he was appointed by **Queen Elizabeth I** as

clerk of the council of Minster. **Richard Boyle** was in his 60s and **Catherine Boyle** in her 40s when Robert was born. At the age of 12, Robert and a brother were sent to study at Eton College in England, and the two brothers lived in the home of the headmaster. But Robert Boyle seemed unable to fit in with the educational discipline, so the Earl of Cork took his sons out of Eton and assigned them private tutors. Then, in 1640, the Earl of Cork sent Robert on a European tour with his tutor and he began to study mathematics. In 1642 Robert visited the Florence home of Italian astronomer **Galileo Galilei** (1564-1642), who died that same year. Robert was greatly influenced by this event, and he carefully studied Galileo's works. If any one event shaped Robert's life and directed him toward the science of chemistry, this was it. His Protestant background contributed to his sympathy for Galileo and his treatment by the Roman Catholic Church. Boyle became a strong supporter of Galileo's philosophy and believed that a new approach was needed to study the world of chemistry and mathematics.

Robert Boyle described his hypothesis on the science of chemistry in a book called the **Sceptical Chymist** published in London in 1661. Boyle first argued that fire is not a universal and sufficient analyzer of dividing all bodies into their elements. He rejected the **Aristotelean** theory of the four elements (earth, air, fire and water) and also the three principles (salt, sulfur and mercury) proposed by **Paracelsus**. In the first five parts of the book, Boyle established the classical definition of elements.

The elements that had been proven as

such prior to Boyle's life time include **Antimony** (Sb No. 51 introduced by Paracelsus); **Arsenic** (As No. 33 introduced by Albertus Magnus); **Copper** (Cu No. 29); **Gold** (Au No. 79); **Iron** (Fe No. 26); **Lead** (Pb No. 82); **Mercury** (Hg No. 80); **Phosphorus** (P No. 15); **Silver** (Ag No. 47); **Sulphur** (referred to as Brimstone in the Bible, S No. 16); **Tin** (Sn No. 50); and **Zinc** (Zn No. 30). **Robert Boyle** also discovered phosphorus in 1680 without knowing that **Henning Brand** discovered it in 1669.

James Dalton (1766-1844) proceeded to calculate atomic weights. If there are two elements that can combine, it will occur in a set sequence. Dalton consolidated his theories in his *New System of Chemical Philosophy*, from 1808-27. The publication also pictures the symbols and formulae shown nearby.

One of the most pressing issues in chemistry and physics was to determine what exactly happens when something burns. The prevailing theory was that flammable materials contained a substance which they called "phlogiston" (from the Greek word for burn) that was released during the combustion.

Parisian **Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier** (1743-94) charged there is no such thing as phlogiston and announced that he was creating a new textbook titled **Elements in Chemistry**, which was published in Paris in 1789. The most striking feature of the new textbook was the comprehensive listing of then-known elements. One day in August 1774, English chemist **Joseph Priestley** met with Lavoisier in Paris to show him how he heated mercury calx (a red powder) and collected a gas in which a candle burned vigorously. Priestley believed that his "pure air" was free of phlogiston so he called the gas "dephlogisticated air." Lavoisier was intrigued and repeated Priestley's experiment with other gases. He concluded that common air was not a simple substance. It included a gas he named **oxygen** from two Greek words for acid generator. Lavoisier credited Priestley as having discovered oxygen in 1774, but Swedish pharmacist **Carl Willhelm Scheele** had discovered oxygen prior to 1773. (**Oxygen**, O No. 8)

More Elements

Hydrogen was discovered in 1766 by Englishman **Henry Cavendish** when he isolated a gas he called "inflammable

Dalton's 1808AD symbols and formulae.

	Hydrogen		Soda		Ammonia
	Nitrogen		Pot Ash		Olefiant
	Carbon		Oxygen		Carbonic Oxide
	Sulphur		Copper		Carbonic Acid
	Phosphorus		Lead		Sulphuric Acid
	Alumina		Water		

Figure 4. Dalton's Elements.

air" because it readily burned. Cavendish noted that when his inflammable air and common air were ignited in a closed vessel, a small amount of "dew" formed on the glass walls and it was found to be pure water. Thus Cavendish had discovered Hydrogen. (**Hydrogen** H No. 1) The identification of the next gas was the most plentiful element in the Earth's atmosphere, and is a constituent of all living matter. This element was discovered in 1772 by Scottish chemist **Daniel Rutherford**. He used the following procedure: He trapped a mouse in a confined area and when the oxygen ran out, the mouse died. Rutherford then burned a candle in the rest of the air. When the flame died out, he burned a piece of phosphorous in the container until it stopped burning. This air was then passed via a solution that absorbed the rest of the carbon dioxide. Rutherford then removed oxygen from this air mixture and named it noxious air. Today we call the same gas Nitrogen. (**Nitrogen** N No. 7)

Since **Chlorine** combines directly with nearly every element, it is very seldom found free in nature. Swedish **Carl Wilhelm Scheele** in 1774 discovered chlorine, but he thought the gas included oxygen. **Humphrey Davy** proved in 1810 that it was a distinct element. Chlorine is a very dangerous material but one of its most familiar compounds is table salt (NaCl).

The second-most abundant element in the universe is a gas that was discovered in the sun before it was found on earth. In 1868 it was observed by French astronomer **Pierre-Julius Jansen** as a yellow line in the sun's spectrum. English astronomer **Norman Lockyer** realized

that the emission could not be made by any element known at the time, and so he named the gas as **Helium**. The hunt to find helium on earth ended in 1895, when Scottish chemist **William Ramsay** conducted an experiment with a mineral containing uranium and collected the resulting helium. Today, commercially recovered natural deposits of helium from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas are used to inflate blimps and other scientific balloons. (**Helium** He No. 4).

In the first decade of the 19th century no fewer than 14 new elements were discovered. By 1830, 55 different elements were recognized. This was becoming too large for the chemists to record. In 1829, **Johann Dohereiner** found similarities between elements **Bromine**, **Chlorine** and **Iodide**. **William Odling** proposed using groups of seven different elements with increasing atomic weights. Then, in 1863, **John Newlands** organized the 56 then-known elements into 11 separate groups, based on their atomic structure. In 1869 Russian chemist **Dmitri Mendeleev** used Newland's grouping called the Law of Octaves for his first chart named the Periodic Table of Elements. For each element, **Mendeleev** includes an atomic number, the atomic weight, name of element and abbreviation. In 1870, **Lothar Meyer** independently developed another periodic table. However, the Periodic Table was not recognized by the Russian Society of Chemists until 1887.

This article concludes with a modern Periodic Table of Elements with an explanation of the various segments. Each element includes the chemical name of the element, the atomic number, the atomic weight and a key to the type of substance.

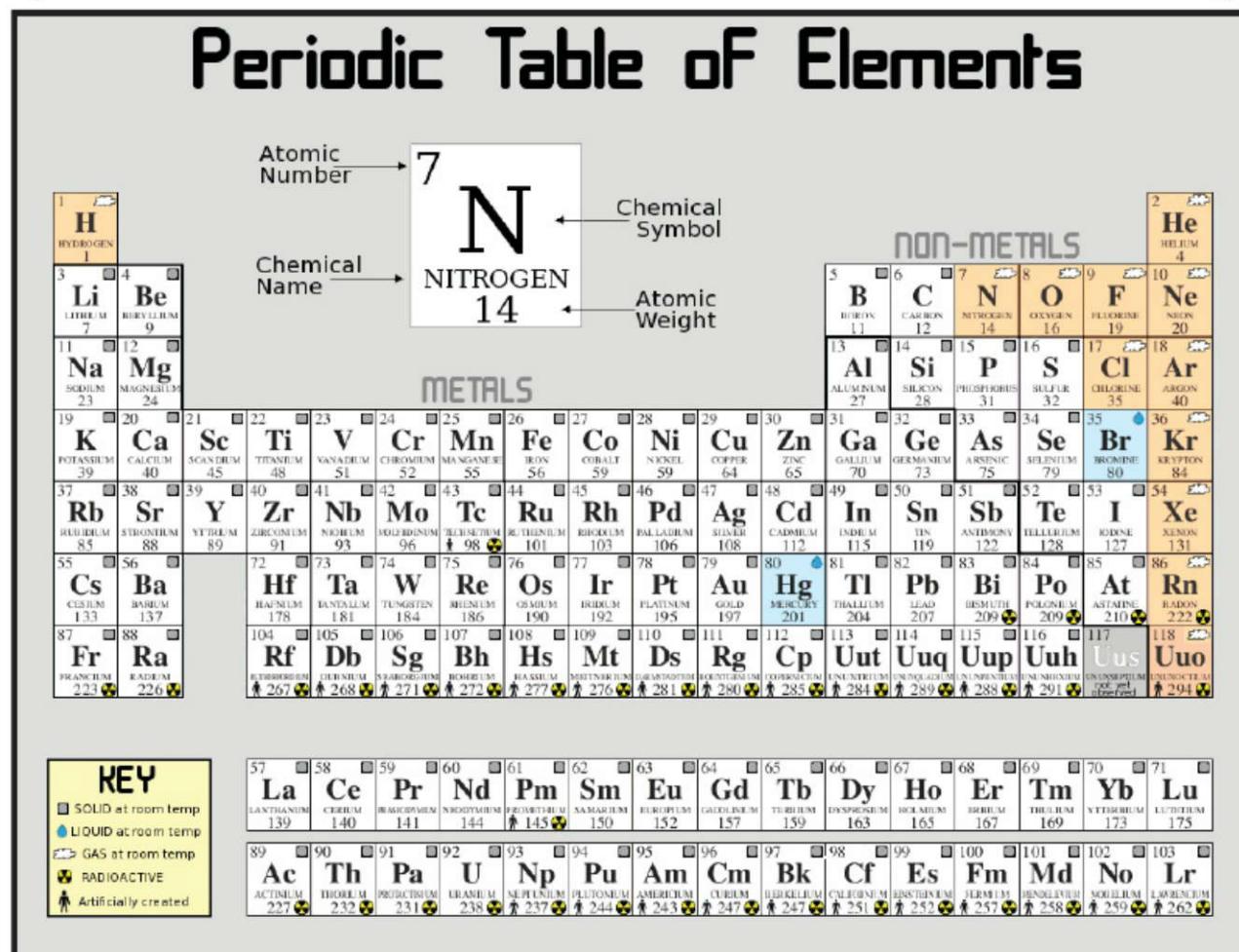


Figure 5. The modern Periodical Table of Elements.

As of Oct. 16, 2006, there are 117 different elements. The most recent elements discovered are: **Metnerium, Armstadtium and Ununquadium.**

Readers of **Topical Time** who know of topical articles published in less well-

known periodicals are urged to send photocopies or tear sheets of the article to George Griffenhagen, 12226 Cathedral Dr, Woodbridge VA 22192-2232, or by email to: gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com for mention in future "Publication Reviews" columns. ☺

George Griffenhagen was a longtime ATA board member and former editor of Topical Time. You may reach him at the previously given address.

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- ☒ Holding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.
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Congrove, Jack	2	Jones, Susan B	1
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Letters to the editor, features and short pieces are always welcomed, as long as they are strongly related to topical and thematic stamp collecting and add to the knowledge base of the hobby.

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bret@trajan.ca; www.canadianstampnews.ca

Filacap: José Maurício do Prado, editor,
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Gibbons Stamp Monthly: Hugh Jeffries,
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Israel Philatelist: Donald A. Chafetz, editor,
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sipeditor@gmail.com; www.israelstamps.com

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www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps/lover.lover.htm

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

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

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Email: show@florexstampshow.com
Website: www.florexstampshow.com

Jan 24-26, 2016, California. Sandical, San Diego County Philatelic Council, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, Calif. Contact: Linda Mabin (407) 493-0956
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Feb. 27-28, 2016, Ohio. Toledo Stamp Expo 2016, sponsored by Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo (ATA 66), Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Rd., Holland Ohio. Show hours Sat. 10-5, Sun 10-4. 20 dealers, youth table, free parking, admission.
Contact: Clifford Campbell, (419) 874-6241.
Website: www.toledostampclub.org

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Email: starstamps@thegrid.net

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Contact Dave Pool (330) 832-5992.

Email: lincolnway@sssnet.com
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Contact: Ed Dykstra (780) 420-7243

Email: eddykstra@shaw.ca
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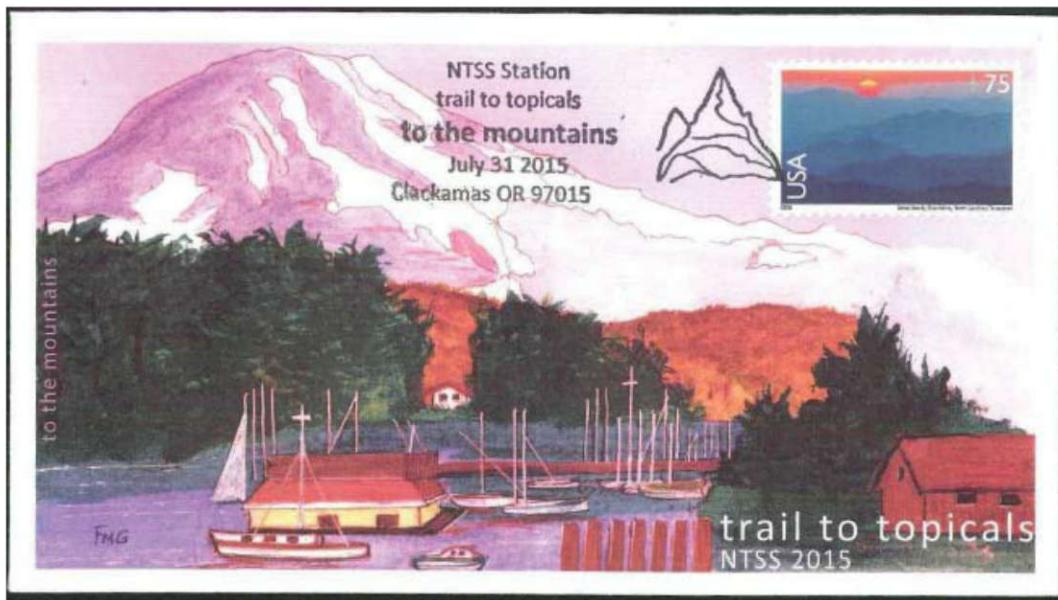


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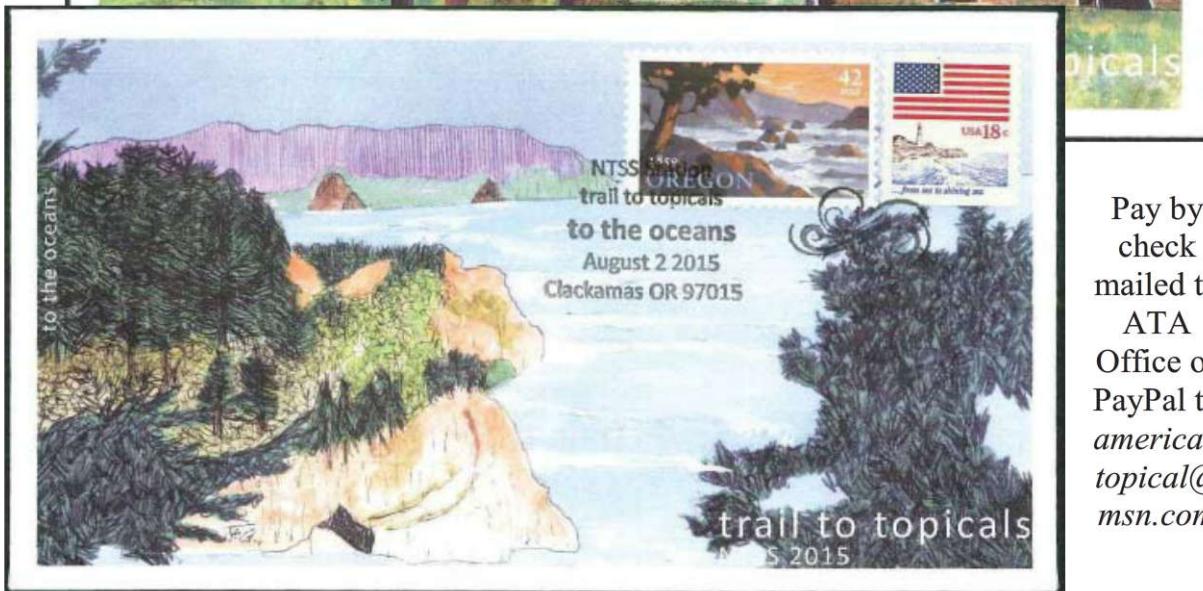
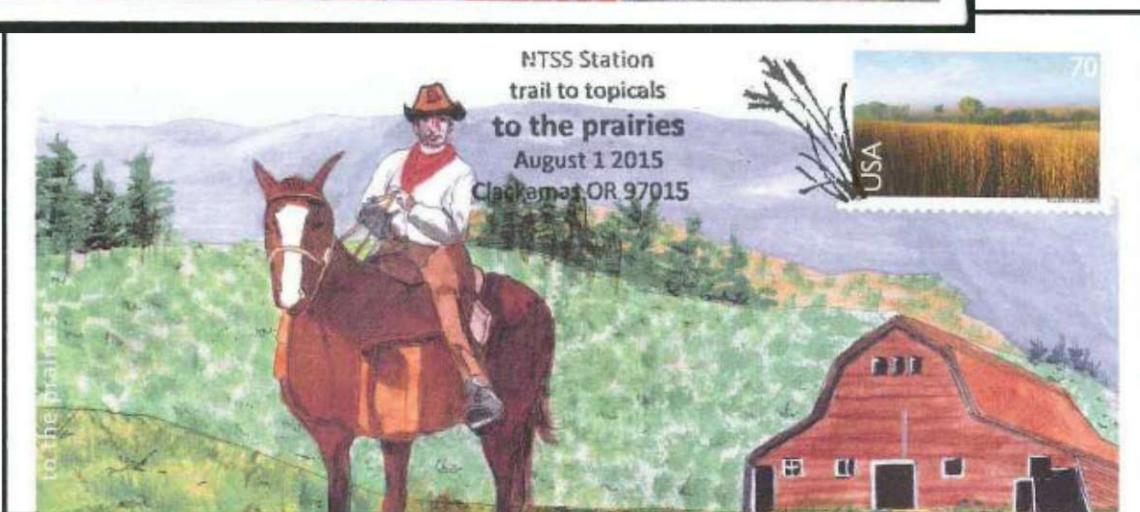
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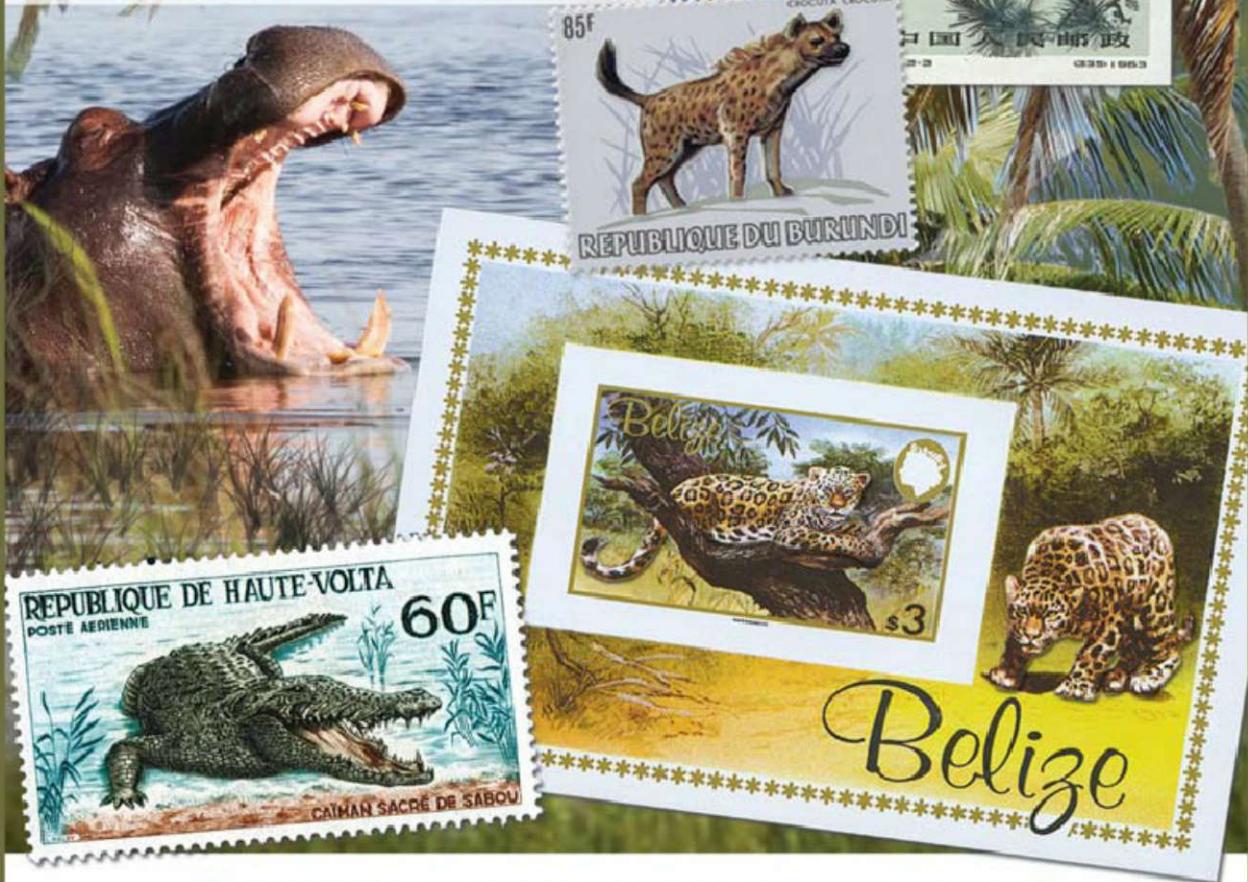


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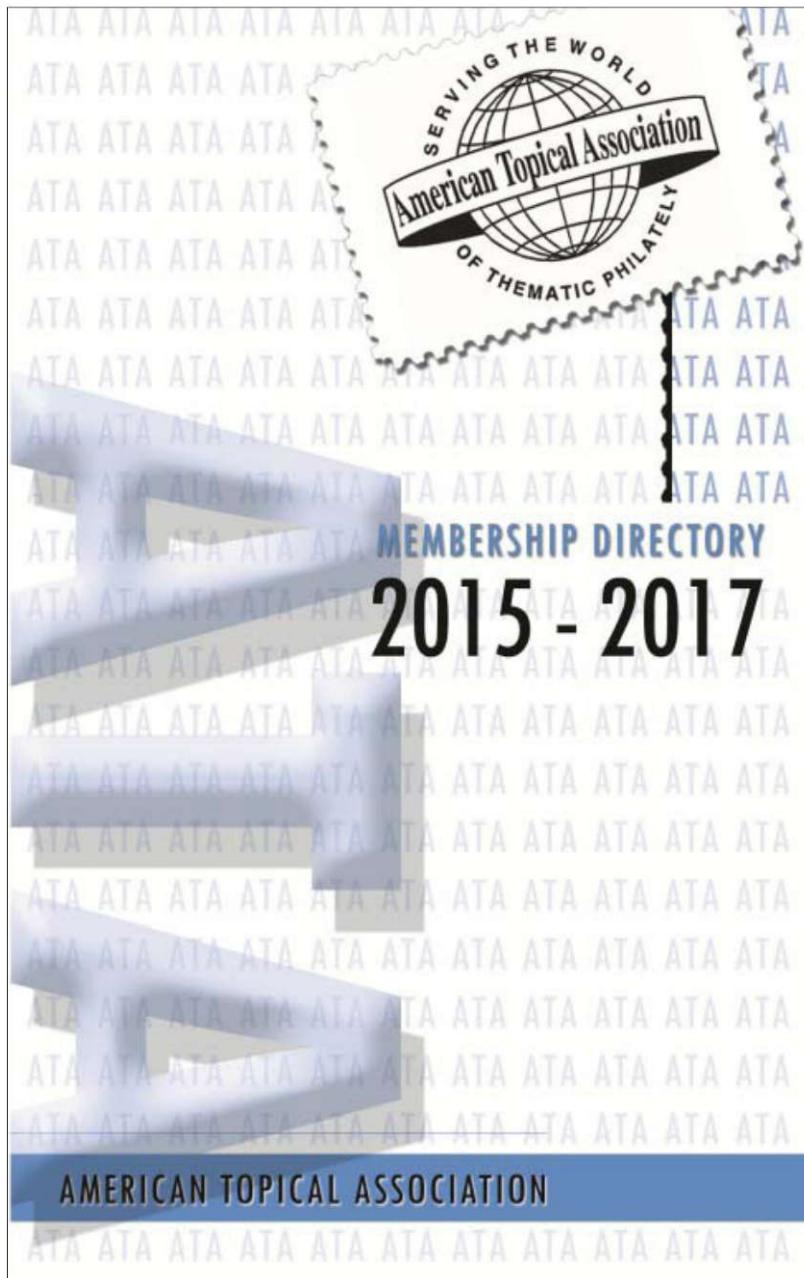
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**\$ See attached order for
Checklists, Handbooks,
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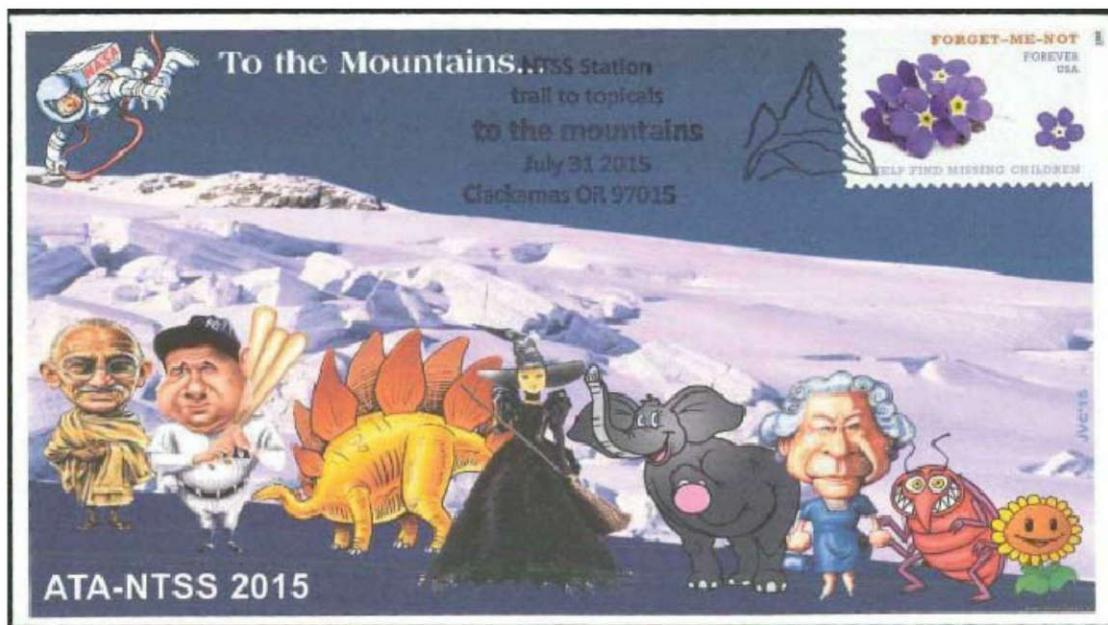
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NTSS 2015

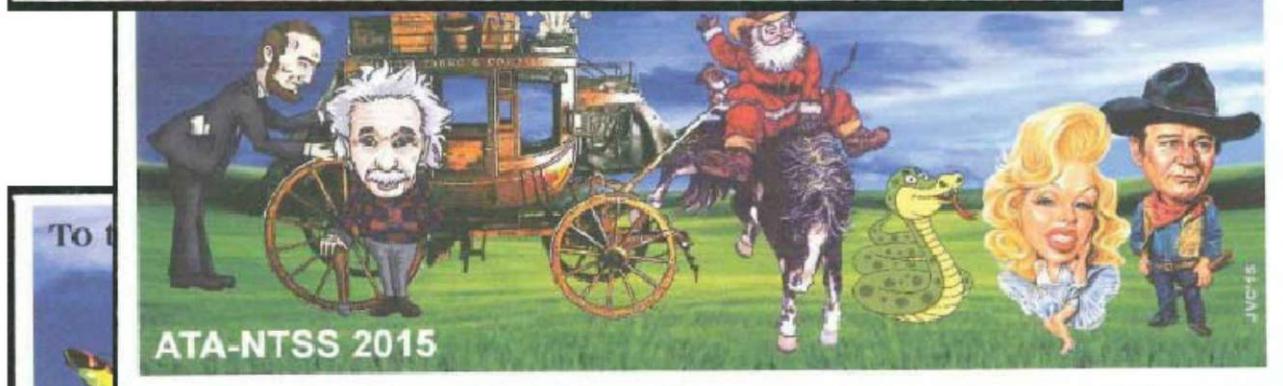
LIMITED EDITION CACHETS

John Colasanti produced and donated 25 numbered Limited Edition Cachets for NTSS. John's work is much in demand among first day cover collectors. He won ATA's 2011 cachet contest and is current President of the Cachet Makers Association. A few complete sets are still available (three cachets, all with same number). If you want a matched set, order soon! Earliest orders receive lowest numbers—or your choice of the remaining sets. John's cachets are rich in humor; you'll probably find your topic represented here!



\$12.50
each

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