Full listing of NTSS dealers and exhibits in this issue.

$5.00

# TOPICAL TIME

July-August 2015 Vol. 66, No. 4 Whole Number 392

## NTSS 2015 is Almost Here!

Final information in this issue

Trademark Stamps

See Page 46

Early Stamps of Independent Ghana See Page 34

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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Topical Time 15/03

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C.G.

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# Contents

**Boldly to the Future**.....10

NTSS is Almost Here!.....23
*By Dawn Hamman (Florida)*

NTSS Schedule.....24

NTSS Exhibits.....25

NTSS Dealer Bourse.....28

A New Star is Born: The Early Years of Ghana Postage Stamps.....34
*By Agbenyega Adedze (Illinois)*

**Study Unit Spotlight, Chess on Stamps Study Unit:** A Work of Art.....52
*By Joram R. Lubianiker*

Obituary: Lester E. Winick.....71
*By Ray E. Cartier (Texas)*

Obituary: Hugh W. Johnston.....72

Foreign Thematic Exhibits.....73
*By Larry E. Davidson (Canada)*

# Regular Features

About ATA.....07
Adlets.....88
Award Winners.....49
Cinderella Corner.....46
Index to Advertisers.....90
Jack's Journal.....06
Membership.....86
Membership Recruiters 2015.....87
Meters by Topic.....30
My Topic.....16
Publication Reviews.....79
Show Calendar.....90
Topical Postline.....15
Topics on Postmarks.....17
Units in Action.....58
Vera's Views.....11
Wayne's Impressions.....13
Youth in Topics.....76

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# TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Please contribute to the 2015 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...**
**Your name will appear in good company**
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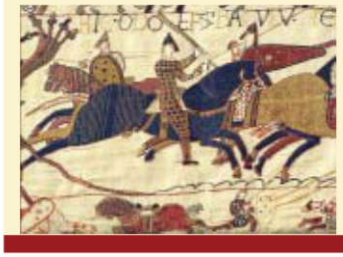

# JACK'S JOURNAL

## ATA Annual Meeting Friday July 31

Our annual metting of the ATA will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, at our National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), Clackamas (near Portland), Ore.

If you're coming to our ATA Annual Meeting, here's a preview of what we'll be doing. If you can't make it, here's an idea of how we will be celebrating where we've been, where we are now, and where we're going:

- Remembering members who died in the past year.
- Receiving brief reports of our activities.
- Recognizing new study units and chapters.
- Acknowledging NTSS leaders.
- Honoring 25th and 50th membership anniversaries.
- Appreciating ATA ambassadors.
- Recognizing special awards received by ATA.
- Looking at five new ATA initiatives.
  - *Topical Time* Archive.
  - TopicalsOnLine.
  - Checklist dATAbase.
  - Course: An Introduction to Topical Stamp Collecting.
  - A Taste of Topicals.
- Introducing our ATA Board.
- Summarizing our Board of Directors' meeting.
- Previewing.
  - ATA at World Stamp Show 2016, NYC.
  - NTSS 2017.

We hope to see you there!

### Follow-up

In the March-April 2014 issue, "Jack's Journal" noted that the reign of Queen Elizabeth II will become the longest of any British ruler, surpassing that of Queen Victoria. Indeed, the website of Buckingham Palace indicates that Queen Victoria reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes, and that Elizabeth will overtake Victoria on Sept. 9, 2015 (my calculations were off by just two days.)

In that column I observed, "It will be interesting to see if this milestone is marked philatelically."

It will be. The Channel Island of Alderney is scheduled to issue a set of stamps for "Her Majesty, The Longest Reigning Monarch" on the day she sets the record. Gibraltar is also planning a stamp. Other nations may well follow.

# About ATA

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

## Updates about NTSS are on our Website

All the information you'll want to know about our National Topical Stamp Show in Portland, Ore., July 31-Aug. 2, is now posted on the ATA web page: ***www.americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2015.shtml***. The show schedule and lists of dealers and exhibits will be updated regularly.

Be sure to preregister for the show if you have not already done so; a form is on the website.

## Also New on our Website

- **Youth Album Pages, Taste of Topicals:** have been added, bringing the number available to 114. A new ATA product for youth (or beginning adult) collectors, Taste of Topicals, is also presented.
- **Press releases:** 2015 Distinguished Topical Philatelist Announced.
- **Checklist dATAbase:** Monthly updates posted.

Dozens of updates and changes have been made during the past several weeks by webmaster Amanda Morgenstern. ATA's website contains hundreds of pages of information; if you notice an item that needs updating or correcting, we hope you will email the ATA Office to call it to our attention.

## Appointment

**Sandra Strzalkowski** of Michigan as Chapter Coordinator. We anticipate that Sandy's first "Chapter Chatter" column will be included in the next issue of *Topical Time*. All ATA-affiliated chapters should now be sending a copy of their newsletters to her: Sandy Strzalkowski, 13986 Sarasota, Redford MI 48239-2837. Or, if your chapter has electronic delivery of its newsletters, please add ***sandystraz@gmail.com*** to your distribution list. Thanks for volunteering, Sandy!

## ATA Membership Directory

The Directory is on schedule to be published in July. A record number of preorders have been received. If you preordered a copy, your Directory will be mailed to you in early August, or will be available to you at the ATA table at NTSS if you preregister for the show. The number of Directory Donors more than doubled from the last Directory. A big "thank you" to the more than 200 members who donated! Check the emailed Because You Belong newsletter or the ATA website for new order information.

## Checklists

Our new Checklist Coordinator, Tom Stillman, has been inputting new listings from *Linn's*. He will also begin making changes/updates/additions that have been sent by members and have been back-logged while Karen Cartier worked on the dATAbase. Forms to use for checklist updates/changes as well as for new checklists are on our website: ***www.americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml***. Send them directly to Tom: ***atachecklists@gmail.com*** or to PO Box 210748, San Francisco CA 94121-0748.

## TopicalsOnLine

Do you buy stamps online? If not, it's easy to get started finding affordable stamps by topic, country or Scott number. Type in ***www.topicalsonline.com*** in your search bar, and you're ready to start shopping. Nothing technical about it – easy-to-follow directions for the basic computer user. Add to your collection and help ATA with TopicalsOnLine!

## Recent Shows and New Members

May 15-17, **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show**, Denver, Colo. Ambassador: **Tonny Van Loij**.

May 15-17, **Ropex**, Rochester, N.Y. Ambassador: **Fred Haynes**.

May 22-24, **Compex**, Arlington Heights, Ill. Ambassador: **Sue Jones**.

May 22-24, **Royal-2015-Royale**, London, Ont., Canada. Ambassadors: **Larry Davidson, Vera Felts**. Nine new members.

May 29-31, **Nojex**, Secaucus, N.J. Ambassadors: **Allan Fisk, Tony Curiale, Marion Rollings, Fred Skvara**.

Additionally, **Aimée Devine** gave a presentation about ATA at Wiscopex on May 17 in Fond du Lac, Wis.

## 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. Members may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items be brought to these shows for them.

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

**July 17-19, Minnesota Stamp Show, Crystal, Minn.**
**July 18-19, Evergreen Stamp Show, Kent, Wash.**
**July 31-Aug. 2, National Topical Stamp Show, Portland, Ore.**
**Aug. 8, Strait Stamp Show, Sequim, Wash.**
**Aug. 20-23, APS StampShow, Grand Rapids, Mich.**
**Sept. 4-6, Balpex, Hunt Valley, Md.**
**Sept. 11-13, Seapex, Tukwila, Wash.**
**Sept. 18-20, Milcopex, Milwaukee, Wis.**

## WANTED:

**Please contact Jack Denys if you can serve:** ***jdenys@verizon.net***.

• Digital Ad Designer/Coordinator – Develop process for displaying ads on ATA website.

• ATA Website Ad Solicitor – resources and support provided.

## BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

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

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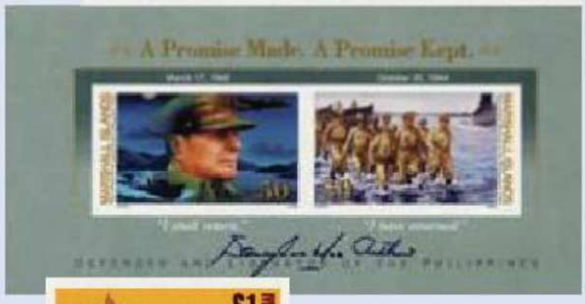
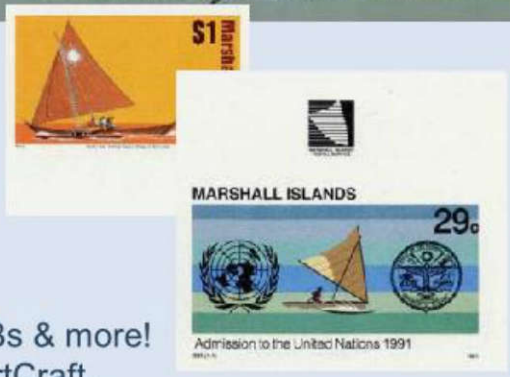



## Specialized Topicals

- Austrian Black Proofs
- Belgian Imperfs & Proofs to date!
- French Imperfs
- German Specimen Overprints
- Guyana
- US Photo Essays, Autographed PBs & more!
- US Cachet Artwork – Artmaster- ArtCraft, Ralph Dyer & Jack Davis
- US and Worldwide Die Proofs
- Enormous stock Butterflies, Bees, Insects & Birds, Mint
- Covers and Postal History



**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!

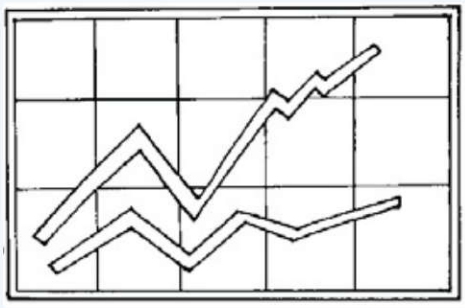
Everything for the Topical Collector!

# Boldly to the Future

This issue of *Topical Time* celebrates the upcoming NTSS – National Topical Stamp Show – being held July 31 to Aug. 2. As a convenience to our members, the show moves around the country. This year it is in Clackamas, Ore., a suburb of Portland.

NTSS is the largest stamp show held anywhere in the world this year, which is devoted to topical stamp collecting and especially for topical collectors. It is a great place to learn about our hobby, to talk to other collectors with the same interests and to see what others have done with their stamps. And, of course, it is a wonderful place to buy stamps and covers for our collections.

It is not surprising that most of our members have never attended an NTSS. Stamp collectors are often successful people who collect stamps as a relaxing break in busy lives. But if you can go this year, don't miss the opportunity. You will see that it is truly a special plus of ATA membership.



Your contributions support the full range of ATA benefits, and have helped us expand our efforts to promote topical collecting. You can support the largest international topical organization by sending your contribution …

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Current and past board members** | **$10,460** |
| **Given to date – other members** | **$3,940** |
| **TOTAL:** | **$14,400** |
| **Still Needed:** | **$20,600** |

**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.*

Together we can advance...

**BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!**

# VERA'S VIEWS

## A Taste of Topicals

If you've been privileged to attend a stamp show with an ATA society table this spring, your Ambassador probably showed you ATA's newest product, Taste of Topicals. The seed idea for a topical starter kit was germinated by one of your board teams (Jean Stout and Fred Skvara), who were brainstorming fund-raising ideas. ATA isn't going to become rich at $3 per kit, but already we've provided a start at topical collecting to a few dozen lucky beginners!

Taste of Topicals consists of a plastic sheet protector holding five identical beginner album pages, a glassine envelope with 30 or more stamps matching the album page topic, a small packet of stamp hinges, instructions for soaking and hinging stamps and brief information about ATA. Packets have been assembled to date for about 25 topics, and sales at stamp shows have been pleasingly brisk.

ATA members who have contributed greatly to the genesis of Taste of Topicals are **Aimée Devine** (album page creator), **Andrea Smith** (stamp sorter extraordinaire), **Allan Fisk** (idea man, kit maker and N.Y./N.J. promoter) and **MaryAnn Bowman**, who, along with Aimée, developed the soaking-and-hinging instructions as part of the Introduction to Stamp Collecting information in the youth area of the ATA website.

We thought we were developing Taste of Topicals for youth – providing something useful for grandparents and parents to help their progeny with topical collecting. Much to our surprise, more than half of the Taste of Topicals kits have been purchased by adults for themselves. Stamp show "significant others," who usually read or knit or crochet when accompanying their partner, are discovering an easy and inexpensive way to start collecting. One such person bought five different kits, all for herself.

Taste of Topicals is also making its way into venues other than stamp shows. Fred Haynes is taking several kits with Dinosaur and Minerals pages to his local rocks-and-minerals show. The Westfield Stamp Club ATA members are planning to introduce them at a street fair. Lisa Janz and Salem Stamp Society members pro-

☛

moted them at the World Beat multicultural festival in Salem, Ore., attended by more than 25,000 people. If your local event would be a good place to bring topical stamp collecting to folks, please contact the ATA Office to explore the possibilities.

How can you help? The biggest need is for glassine envelopes with 30+ stamps in them, all related to the same topic. For a list of ideas, see the ATA website's youth album pages site at ***www.americantopicalassn.org/yalbumpages.shtml***, or contact the ATA Office to receive a list of our available youth album pages. As of now, we have sufficient glassines for Flowers and Animals stamps, but we could certainly use glassines for specific topics such as Roses or Cats or Dinosaurs or Dogs or any other flower or animal. Other needed topics include: Railroads, Watercraft, Birds, Dance, Disney, Abraham Lincoln, Penguins, Scouts and Toys.

I'm challenging ATA Study Unit members to send in glassine envelopes with 30+ stamps related to their topic of interest. Study Unit information will be included in each Taste of Topicals kit. This is a win-win opportunity! Contribute to a project for beginning collectors and simultanouesly promote your Study Unit.

All Taste of Topicals contributions will be acknowledged and gratefully accepted. Send your extra stamps, in groups of 30 in glassine envelopes, to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008 USA.

**All in a season's work.** Gearing up for ATA's National Topical Stamp Show is always an exhilarating time for your ATA Office staff. This year we're also simultaneously putting together our new *Membership Directory*, finalizing the copy for our new handbook on Amphibians, by Victor Eichler, creating the new Because You Belong area of our website, providing more than 100 checklists each month to members and trying to keep up with 75-100 emails each day. We never mind if you remind us we've been remiss in answering your inquiry – so if we seem to have "dropped the ball," please do let us know. Our small staff has been plagued with family illness issues for some time now – and those continue – but we are happy to provide the best member service we can. Thanks for your support of the work that ATA does!

# WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

## *More Agricultural Adventures*

When I related the bit of fowl news last issue, regarding the Chicken stamp (even though the offerings weren't exactly poultry), I didn't realize that I'd once again be thrust into the prolific cornucopia of agriculture for my next bit of highly fertilized prose, but here we go...

As you'll discover in a few pages (Page 17, to be exact), George DeKornfeld describes in this month's column a number of corn-related postmarks – a field I wasn't necessarily planning to enter. Shucks. Nonetheless, I cobbed together a few notes, based on a recent purchase.

A few weeks ago, I found the following listing on the online eBay auction site: *"U.S. #644 Used, Fancy BEETLE cancel,VF, Fairfield."* Nothing more. Anywhere. Intrigued by this (and having a very keen interest in the U.S. fancy cancels of the 1920s and '30s), I placed the winning bid of a princely sum of $2.32 (plus $1.50 shipping) for the cover fragment with cancel, thinking I might be able to extort an even more princely sum from someone who collects – oh, I don't know – cockroaches, or something similar.

***Figure 1. The fancy cancel tying this stamp to a cut piece from a cover was described as a fancy 'beetle' cancel.***

When I received the item shown in Figure 1, featuring a suitably creepy image of what does appear at first glance to be an oversized beetle of some sort, something bugged me about it.

The more I looked at the image, the more I realized it was not just a vaguely familiar rendition of something that creeps in the semi-dark corridors of seedy hotels and not-so-clean apartments. It was, indeed, something more wholesome, and something I very much recognized. However, I do hope you'll allow me to digress for a moment, first.

For those of us who collect the fancy cancels of the 20th century (topically or otherwise), those items created for a few years primarily by fourth-class postmasters looking for extra income from increased mail volume generated by fancy cancels, there is an essential resource: *20th Century United States Fancy Cancellations Revised* (1987, Hamilton R. [Dell] Fishback and William C. Walker), an update of a 1950s-era book by the same title. This book lists all known postmarks, town names, dates and (occasionally) the number of strikes known. In my case, the "Fairfield" part of the description is what caught my attention, and what triggered my memory of a cover I already own.

☛

***Figure 2. This cover, from 1933, bears the very same image as the Figure 1 cancel, only as part of a cachet design for Nira, Iowa, "where the tall corn grows."***

That item, shown in Figure 2, spills the beans. The "beetle" in the Figure 1 cancel is not at all an insect. It is a cob of corn shown in the rubber-stamped cachet of the Figure 2 cover, mailed From Nira, Iowa, to an individual in Fairfield, Iowa. But that's not where the marking originated.

The eBay seller was correct. According to the cancellation book, the Figure 1 marking was, indeed, applied in Fairfield, Iowa, a farming community about 70 miles south-west of Iowa City (and about 50 miles due south of Nira). A bit more research revealed that there were two types of corn postmarks from Fairfield, mine being the so-called "Type II," in use from July 15-Nov 8, 1928, and it is known in black, blue, purple, red and bicolored. The cancel is considered moderately scarce.

I still, however, have not discovered how Nira obtained the device (as it appears to be identical), or why it was using the marking five years later as part of a cachet, rather than a cancel on a cover destined for the town of its origination.

The kernal of news in that disclosure, apparently, is grist for another column.

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# TOPICAL POSTLINE

## Feedback on several issues...

Three cheers to the postal officials of the British Island of Jersey for the 2014 acknowledgment of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the State of New Jersey (*Topical Time*, Nov-Dec 2014). As one born and raised in New Jersey, I was especially pleased that one of the stamps honored the Statue of Liberty, located in the Port of New York, but within the State of New Jersey. There are probably millions of New Jersey and New York residents who are unaware of that fact.

In another issue of *Topical Time* (Sept-Oct 2014), MaryAnn Bowman lamented the problem of getting youngsters into shows and interested in collecting. To reach youngsters, perhaps we have to meet them where they spend their time – the internet. Perhaps someone who knows both stamps and computers could come up with a couple of games: Match the Presidents (different views of Washington, Lincoln and others), guess the year, guess which the correct color is (using the computer to change a stamp's original color), guess the country of origin and more.

The Topical Philatelists in Colorado contemplated disbanding because of a "lack of attendance and participation." That sounds sad. Any group faced with dwindling participation should take advantage of any local news media: television, radio, newspaper, municipal and school newsletters. The media can be used for announcing regular meetings as well as recruiting new members, and don't overlook youngsters, as they are the future of philately.

Did I read that some ATA members have complained that *Topical Time* does not carry enough articles about their particular specialty? That's a problem. How many topics are there, and how many qualified writers are there? I have no solution to that problem. However, I have not been a collector for decades, but I like reading about stamps in *Topical Time* and I enjoy reading all the articles. For me, it is an educational experience.

I also like the column about meters. I am sure that many collectors will protest that meters are not stamps. True, but they are postage and they include many topical slogans, which is what the ATA is all about.

*— Howard R Reeves*
*Ogdensburg NJ, ATA LM 12755*

*Howard, thank you very much for your feedback on aseveral different issues. Among other things, I like your idea for various computer games that feature stamps. Similarly, as you mention, I'm always looking for good features regarding different topics. They don't even have to be long. A good 500-750-word feature with two or three images can go a long way toward promoting a specific topic, as well as not being too difficult to prepare.*

*— Wayne*

# My Topic

## Maureen Knipper

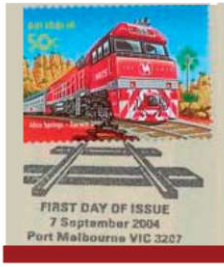
*Dawn Hamman*

*This is the 10th in a series of brief vignettes spotlighting interests of some of our fellow ATA members.*

A love of children and children's literature led Maureen Knipper (pronounced k+nipper) to collect fairy tales on stamps. *"I collect stamps that depict fairy tales that are meaningful to me,"* said Maureen, who has been collecting for 30 years.

As a school librarian for 35 years, Maureen is well versed in the classic children's tales, and has delved into the history of children's literature of the early 1900s. Her topic provides challenges in finding stamps, and she adds to her collection with variety – covers, plate blocks, souvenir sheets and more.

Maureen is active in her local stamp club in Florida, and recently gave a program on another philatelic interest: mourning covers. She also studies and collects flag machine cancels. But, she always comes back to her beloved fairy tales because, *"The hunt is so much fun!"*




# TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

*George DeKornfeld*

## Corny Pictorial Postmarks

Although summer technically starts here on the East Coast with the June 21 solstice, the unofficial kick-off for the season, Memorial Day, is just a few days away as I write this (although the day certainly carries way more importance than this). Lawns have already been mowed at least once, releasing that sweet aroma of freshly cut grass into the heavy atmosphere that contrasts so starkly with the crisp clean air of just a few months ago. Farm fields have been tilled and planted and some seedlings are already starting to appear, changing the rich dark brown color of the earth into the bright green carpeting that promises a future bounty of all sorts of delicious things to eat. Barbeque grills have also been liberated from garages or barns and their grills have been scrubbed, getting them ready to fill the air with a fragrance even more alluring than that of the manicured yards to which they sit adjacent.

*Figure 1.*

*Figure 2.*

Nothing I can think of goes better with barbeque than grilled or boiled sweet corn on the cob, slathered in butter and, of course, salted (and let's keep that just between us since my internist doesn't really need to know this).

*Figure 3 (above).*

*Figure 4 (left).*

☛

***Figure 5.***

Even though this summer delicacy is now just in the form of those seedlings peeking from the soil and a few months away from maturity, I thought in this issue we could whet our collective appetites by looking at some corny postmarks.

Let's start in Argentina with a marking used in 1962 at Pergamino, a city in the province of Buenos Aires, which celebrates The National Corn Festival (Figure 1). Pergamino is largely made up of agricultural land, much of which is used to produce maize (soy being a close second) and our postmark capitalizes on this by showing a farm tractor with a few corn stalks in the background. The 1959 one-peso sunflower stamp (Scott 690) used here, although not concordant in any sense, still manages to provide a summery feel to this piece.

***Figure 6.***

Our Figure 2 postmark, also from Argentina, proved to be a bit of enigma in terms of figuring out (and may not yet be right, so any corrections are appreciated). Used to commemorate the 27th Provincial Corn Festival held in 2000, this marking includes the name "Gigena," which, at first impulse, appeared to be a town name. The problem is – there is no town in the entire country with that name. There is, however, a famous football (soccer) player, Dario Alberto Gigena, who hails from the city of Arroyito who may also have been honored with this marking. Either that or a sports club named after or associated with him sponsored the festival, a common occurrence in

***Figure 7.***

***Figure 8.***

Argentina. Behind the cob of corn pictured in the postmark is an outline of the Province of Córdoba (in which the city of Arroyito happens to lie), so the corn festival must have been held there with the pictorial presumably used throughout the province.

Next up is a pictorial from Belgium, used in the city of Genk in 1976 (Figure 3). The slogan shown, "Genk steunt Byumba," translates into "Genk supports Byumba," which, with the addition of some corn cobs and an African-flavored scene in the background, implies some sort of agricultural cooperative between the two cities. Byumba is a city in northern Rwanda that is primarily agricultural, albeit mostly subsistence farming.

***Figure 9.***

Sticking with our African theme, in Figure 4 we see a marking from Montshima, Bophuthatswana, used in 1979, this one exhibiting a decent concordance with the agricultural union set of four stamps used on their first day of issue. Independent at this time, Bophuthatswana was reintegrated into South Africa in 1994.

Next let's check out a couple of markings used on a different continent, Europe. Our first one (Figure 5) comes from Timișoara, the capital city of Timiș County, located in western Romania. Here I simply had to show the entire cover, issued under the auspices of The Municipal Philatelic Circle of Timișoara, since the envelope cachet fits into our story so splendidly, color and all. This marking, used in 1987, celebrates the 25th anniversary of Romanian Agricultural Cooperatives.

Figure 6 takes us to the United Nations Offices in Austria for a first-day

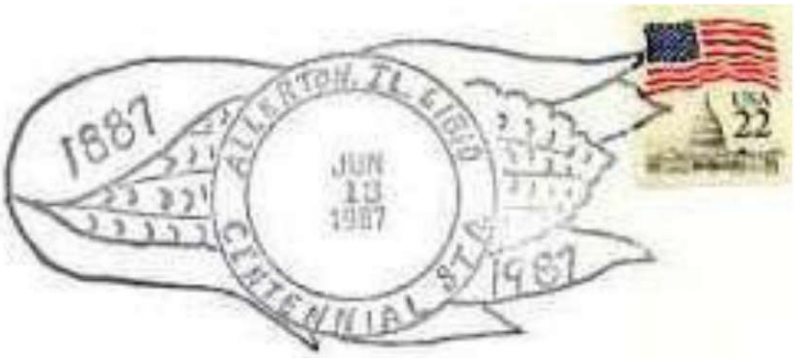



***Figure 10.***

***Figure 11.***

postmark used on the 6-Schilling issue of 1988 (Scott 79) at Vienna. The slogan in the marking that translates into "For One World Without Hunger," matches that of the one used on the postage stamp so, again, we have the concordance many of us, especially exhibitors, look for.

Since, for western civilization, the story of corn started in North America, most corn-related pictorials come from right here in the United States, so next we'll look at a bunch of these:

Figure 7: Morris, Ill., 1977, used to commemorate the 29th Grundy County Corn Festival. This huge five-day affair includes amusements, a parade, crafts and a flea market, with plenty of food vendors and even the crowning of a Corn Festival Queen.

***Figure 12.***

Figure 8: Des Moines, Iowa, 1979. Iowa is well known for its seemingly endless cornfields, corn almost being a way of life in this state, so I found it fairly amusing that the marking shown, which celebrates the visit of Pope John Paul II, includes – yes, you guessed it – an ear of corn!

Figure 9: Lake Station, Ind., 1984. This two-day affair is held at Riverside Park and is put on by the Lake Station Historical Society, the proceeds of which directly benefit the society. Although lots of maize is served during these two days, this festival primarily celebrates the region's history all the way back to pre-colonial

***Figure 13.***

days, and includes performances by Chippewa Indians, as well as several Civil War reenactments. Many of the revelers show up in colonial-style clothes to help set the scene. The deep red color of this pictorial is quite eye-catching as it clearly mimics the color of the Indian corn that many use for decoration when it becomes available late in the season.

*Figure 14.*

Figure 10: Allerton, Ill., 1987. Here our pictorial commemorates the centennial of this village in Vermilion County, founded by Samuel A. Allerton, a wealthy agricultural landowner (which likely explains the use of the cob of corn in the marking), who became one of the principals that formed the First National Bank of Chicago.

Closer to my neck of the woods, the whimsical pictorial found in Figure 11, illustrating a dancing corn couple, was used in Avon, N.Y., in 1988 to celebrate the town's one-day festival put on by the Rotary Club every August. First held in 1986, the festival has grown to more than 175 craft vendors, more than 20 food vendors and includes a corn-eating contest (can you say "roughage?"). Note the splendid concordance between our pictorial and the postal card it is placed upon (Scott UX123), which shows corn harvesting, albeit in Iowa.

And, speaking of Iowa, let's return there for a marking that commemorates the centennial of the NALC, the National Association of Letter Carriers, founded in Milwaukee in 1889. Our postmark was used at Des Moines in 1989 (Figure 12).

Figure 13 presents a very busy pictorial used for the Sullivan County Corn Festival held at the County Seat, Sullivan, Ind. Also put on by the Rotary Club, this fair lasts for four whole days and has similar offerings to the Avon festival, with the addition of a "Free Corn Feed," which includes "free ears of corn with the

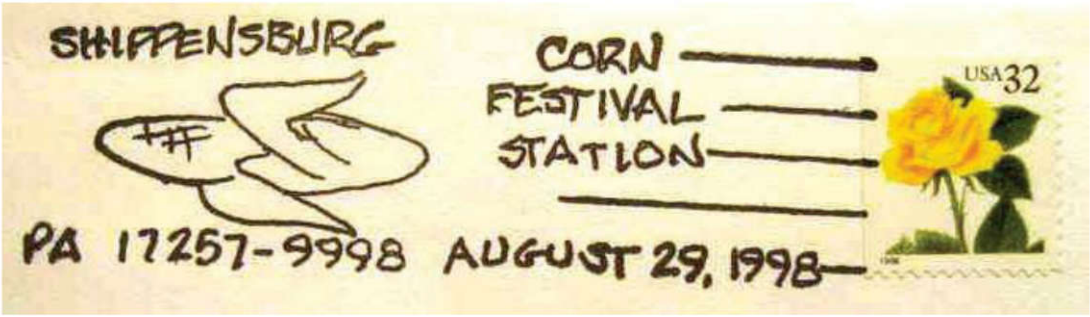



*Figure 15.*

☛

fixings along with free soda" (a sure crowd-pleaser) and a turtle derby. The first Sullivan corn festival was held in 1955 (our marking was used in 1991).

An even older corn festival takes us to Haxtun, Colo., for a marking used in 1995 (Figure 14). Sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, this festival has been held since way back in 1922. These large pictorials showing three ears of corn with the American Flag in the background – all in a bright cobalt blue – make for a stunning visual effect.

Our final pictorial, a rather simplistic one in design, takes us to Shippensburg, Pa., for its 1998 festival. This gala, put on by a citizen-volunteer committee, has existed since 1980 and is typically held each year at the end of August.

So, that's it for our cornucopia of corny markings. Now it's just a matter of waiting for the signs to appear at the sides of the road telling us that the local farms have their sweet corn ready to go. And with that, I wish you an enjoyable and barbeque-filled summer (Figure 16)!

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

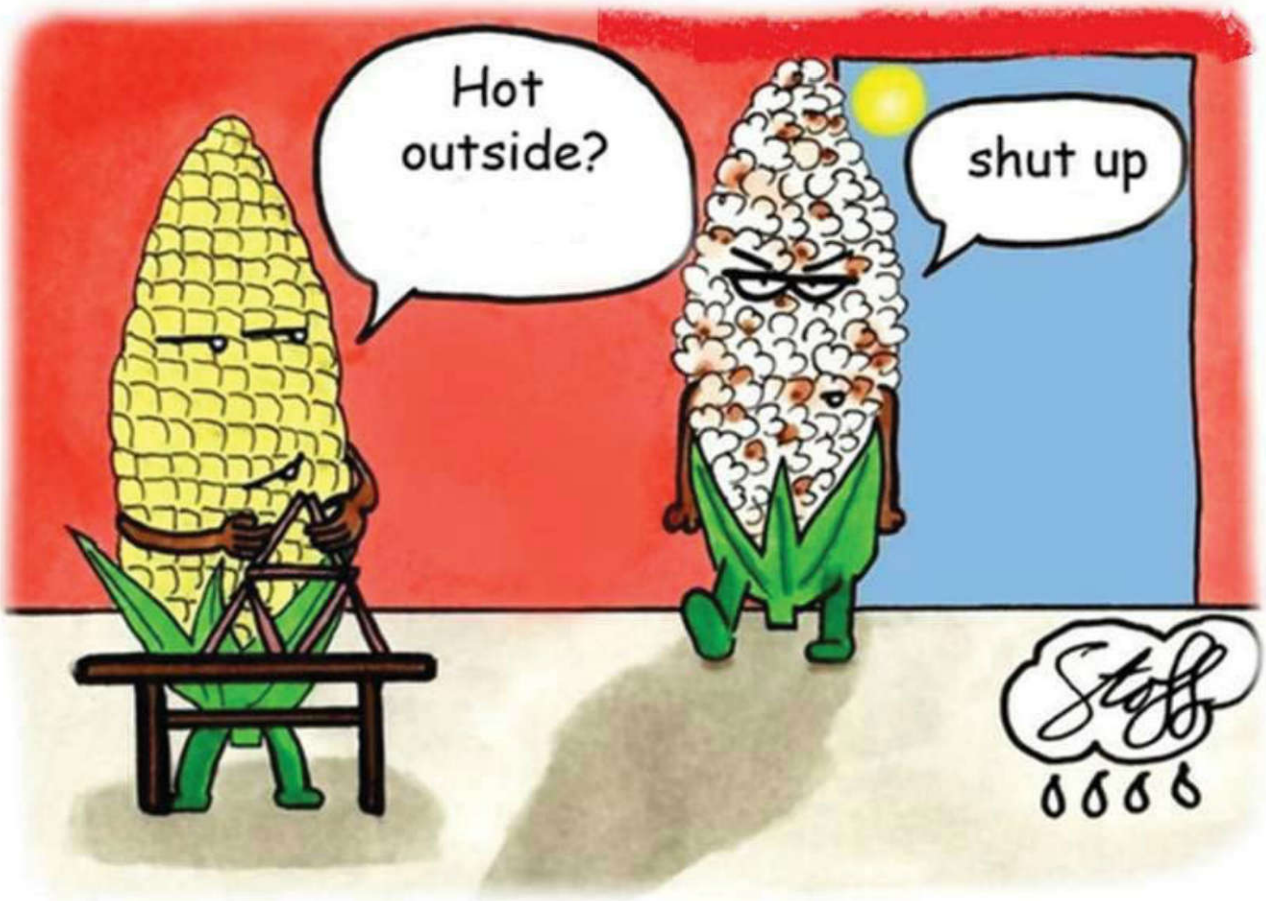



***Figure 16.***

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

# *NTSS is Almost Here!*

*Dawn Hamman*

The ATA's annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) is fast approaching. We'll gather July 31-Aug. 2 at the Monarch Hotel and Conference Center in the Portland, Ore., suburb of Clackamas. We hope you plan to join us.

***Portland's Japanese Garden.***

Details of the show and its many events are on the ATA website. This is the premiere show for topical collectors, with all-thematic exhibits, study unit meetings, the ATA annual meeting and much more. Dealers will offer topical and thematic stamps and covers, as well as stamps, postal history and other philatelic items and ephemera for all collectors.

The three-day schedule is packed with interesting programs and meetings. The basic listing is found in the following pages. There will also be time for topical collectors to compare notes, share ideas and make new friends. You will find a welcoming atmosphere with helpful people eager to share our hobby.

This year's setting – Portland –is known for its beautiful scenery and parks. Enjoy the mountains and gardens, as well as great restaurants and shopping. Come for the show and stay a bit longer to enjoy the area.

We hope NTSS is on your calendar. If not, hurry and make your plans!

## ATA Mission Statement

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

- ☞**E**ncouraging the collection, research, and study of topical stamps and their subjects.
- ☞**P**roviding for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.
- ☞**D**eveloping and publishing books, checklists, and audio-visual programs.
- ☞**H**olding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.
- ☞**A**ssisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.

# NTSS 2015 Show Schedule

## (as of June 15, 2015, subject to change)

| Day/Date | Time | Event *(italicized events by invitation only)* | Room |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Wed July 29** | *6pm-9pm* | ***ATA Board of Directors*** | *Troutdale 218* |
| **Thu Jul 30** | *7:30am* | ***Pre-con Meeting*** | *Troutdale 218* |
| | *8-10:30am* | ***ATA Board of Directors, Part 2*** | *Troutdale 218* |
| | 11am | **Tour Bus Leaves for Portland tour** (ticket required) SPONSOR: ORLIE TRIER | Hotel Lobby |
| | 1pm | **Show Set-up** | Monarch Hall |
| | 6pm | **Tour returns** | Hotel Lobby |
| | 7pm | **Hospitality Room Opens** | Multnomah 248 |
| **Fri July 31** | *8:30am* | ***Judges' Breakfast*** | *Sam's Restaurant* |
| | 9-10am | **USPS First Day Ceremony, Fanciful Flowers Postal Card** | Sandy-Willamette Rooms |
| | 10am | **Show Opens** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-4pm | **ATA Silent Auction #1** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-6pm | **What's in your Attic** (NSDA/Free stamp evaluation) | Monarch Hall |
| | 11am-12noon | **Halloween Unit** (organizational meeting) | Sandy Room |
| | 1-2:30pm | **ATA Annual Meeting**, Includes new initiatives: TT Archive, TopicalsOnLine, Checklist dATAbase, Topical Collecting Course, Taste of Topicals | Sandy Room |
| | 3-4pm | **Themes of Collecting/Themes of Life,** Kim Kellermann, Rasdale Stamp Co. | Sandy Room |
| | 5pm | **Show Closes** | Monarch Hall |
| | 5:20 | **President's Reception** (gather to walk) | Hotel Lobby |
| | 5:30-7:30pm | **President's Reception** (ticket required) SPONSOR: CHAMPION STAMP COMPANY | Olde Spaghetti Factory |
| | 9:30pm | **Hospitality Room Opens** | Multnomah 248 |
| **Sat August 1** | 9am | **ATA Ambassadors-in-Training** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am | **Show Opens** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-4pm | **ATA Silent Auction #2** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-6pm | **Cachetmakers' Bourse** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-6pm | **What's in your Attic** (NSDA/Free stamp evaluation) | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-11am | **Biology Unit** | Sandy Room |
| | 10am-11am | **Ships on Stamps Study Unit** | Clackamas Room |
| | 11am-12noon | **Getting Ready to Exhibit Internationally,** Doug Clark, Nancy Clark and Phil Stager | Clackamas Room |
| | 11am-1pm | **Penguins on Stamps Study Unit** | Sandy Room |
| | 12noon-2pm | **Wine on Stamps Unit** | Multnomah 248 |
| | 12noon-2pm | **Americana Unit Lunch** | Meet in Hotel Lobby |
| | 1:30-3pm | **Cats on Stamps Study Unit** | Sandy Room |
| | 3-4pm | **AAPE Open Forum on Exhibiting** | Sandy Room |
| | 4pm | **Judges' Feedback Forum** | Sandy Room |
| | 6pm | **Show Closes** | Monarch Hall |
| | 6:30pm | **No-host Reception** | Clackamas/Columbia |
| | 7pm | **Awards Banquet** (ticket required) SPONSOR: ATA BIOLOGY UNIT | Clackamas/Columbia |
| | 9pm | **Hospitality Room Opens** | Multnomah 248 |
| **Sun August 2** | *8:30am* | ***Study Unit Officers & Editors Breakfast/Forum*** | *Multnomah 248* |
| | 10am | **Show Opens** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-2pm | **ATA Silent Auction #3** | Monarch Hall |
| | 10am-3pm | **What's in your Attic** (NSDA/Free stamp evaluation) | Monarch Hall |
| | 11am-12noon | **Basic Guide to Looking at Thematic Exhibits,** Jack Denys | Sandy Room |
| | 12pm-1pm | **Meet Topical Time Editor Forum**, Wayne Youngblood | Sandy Room |
| | 3pm | **Show Closes** | Monarch Hall |
| | 7pm | **Hospitality Room Opens** | Multnomah 248 |
| **Mon August 3** | *7:30am* | ***ATA Board--Show Evaluation*** | *Sam's Restaurant* |
| | 9am | **Tour Bus Leaves for Mount St. Helens** (ticket required) SPONSOR: JACK CONGROVE | Hotel Lobby |
| | 5pm | **Bus returns to hotel** | Hotel Lobby |

# NTSS 2015 Exhibits

1 *ATA by Numbers* **ATA** non-competitive, Looking at ATA in a different way.

2 *Biology Unit* **Biology Unit** non-competitive

3 *Introduction to Free-style Exhibiting* non-competitive

4 *Chocolate Dinosaurs and Meaty Mammals,* **Jones, Susan B**, free style. Let me introduce you to paleoadvertising – the use of dinosaurs and other prehistoric images to sell everything from chocolate to motor oil.

5-11 *Alexander Hamilton: Soldier, Financier, Statesman, Founder,* **Congrove, Jack R.**, display. Display exhibit using philatelic items, postcards and historical material to illustrate the events in Hamilton's life and highlight his influence on the United States government.

12-19 *Bayeux Tapestry—Epic Embroidery*, **Denys, Jack André**, thematic. The Bayeux tapestry is a 950-year-old artistic and historical treasure depicting William the Conqueror's invasion of England. It has survived fire, theft, war and revolution and was used by Napoleon and Hitler to inspire their planned invasions of England. Here is its story, mystery, history and celebrity. The exhibitor has requested that this exhibit not be considered for the Reserve Grand or Grand awards. It received them in 2007-08.

20-22 *Spiders*, **Vogel, Beatrice**, display. This display class exhibit presents the lives of spiders, including a great variety of prey capture.

23-24 *Searching for African Coelacanths*, **Jones, Susan B**, display. The remarkable story of a big ugly fish that scientists thought was extinct - until a fisherman caught a living coelacanth in 1938 off the coast of South Africa.

25-34 *The Donkey*, **Mather, Robert**, thematic. Acquaints you with this lovable animal and takes you thru its history from 60 million years ago to the present and briefly looks at its future.

35-36 *Frogs: Their Contributions to Human Cultures*, **Eichler, Victor**, free style. Highlights the many ways humans have benefited from contributions of frogs in arts, sciences, humanities, religion and civic life.

37 *Enter If You Dare*, **Lazaroff, Denise**, free style. Tells the story of Halloween and its many symbols and customs that make Halloween spooky, as well as the holiday fun for both children and adults.

38 *eBay Users' Stamp Club*, **Ruecker, Sheryll**, free style. The story of the eBay Users' Stamp Club, from its beginnings in 1999 on the eBay Stamps Chat Board to the present.

39-46 *"I Have Sampled This Life." Mark Twain: A Philatelic Biography of his Life, Works and Legacy*, **Costa, Carol**, display. Through this chronicle of personal experiences and world events, one will see how the richness of Clemens' life formed the foundation of his underlying philosophy and the basis of his fiction (Great Americans: Mark Twain)

47-48 *Birthstones*, **Swan, Nancy L**, display. Survey of modern birthstones, their alternatives and the gems' mythology and mineralogy.

49-52 *Buicks Through the Ages*, **Nafziger, Ralph**, thematic. Tells the story of the Buick automobile from the birth of its founder to the present.

☛

53-57 *People of the Sun,* **Van Laere, Roger**, display. A timeline along archaeological artifacts, monuments and buildings of Inca and pre-Inca cultures of Peru.

58 noncompetitive

59-62 *The Development of the American Submarine, 1900 to 1924,* **Kent, David A**, postcard. A study of the evolution of American submarines, as depicted on picture postcards.

63-68 *Beavers: Nature's Engineers*, **Davidson, Lawrence E**, display. The story of the beaver, an amazing animal, a trading commodity, an enduring symbol, a subject of the arts and a conservation success story.

69-71 *A Celebration of the Cockroach! They were here before us! They will be here when we are gone!*, **Stout, Jean**, display. Tells the story of the cockroach, the environment in which they live, and how they impact our daily lives.

72-78 *The Sun: Myth, Science, Effects, Culture*, **Wawrukiewicz, Tony**, thematic. The exhibit follows mankind's increasing awareness and understanding of the sun and the sun-earth-humanity relationship.

79-80 *Easter Island: From Mysterious, Little-Known Place to Exotic Tourist Destination*, **Crain, Larry**, display. Easter Island from mysterious little-known place to exotic tourist destination.

81-88 *The magical world of Harry Potter*, **Siegling, Van**, thematic. Do you believe in philatelic magic? See where Rowling got her inspiration for names and plotlines. Wands at the ready!

89-93 *The Butterfly Effect*, **Herbert, Greg**, thematic. Depicts the historic effects of butterflies on man and vice-versa throughout history.

94-101 *Doreana - U.S. Publisher Ad Covers 1862-1904*, **Malan, Dan**, display. Samples of ad covers & ephemera for 600+ U.S. publishers who borrowed Gustave Dore's art royalty-free, with original title pages & engravings.

102-106 *Cinematic Dore Stamps 1995-2014*, **Malan, Dan**, display. Gustave Dore's art borrowed for scenes in major films, as reflected on stamps and covers.

107 *Dore Bible Stamps & Covers 1966-2010*, **Malan, Dan**, display. Gustave Dore's Bible art, reprinted or redrawn, on worldwide stamps & covers.

108 *Spanish Dore Don Quijote Stamps 1947-2005*, **Malan, Dan**, display. Gustave Dore's Don Quijote art, reprinted or redrawn, on Spanish stamps & covers.

109 *Spoiled by War: The Games of the XIIth Olympiad*, **Urushima, Andrew**, thematic. A presentation of the 1940 Olympics, which were never held due to the outbreak of the war in China and Finland.

**ATA members always get a10% discount.**

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**A great ATA Resource!**

110 *Hillcountry Honkytonkin Rita Labrador Retriever*, **Fohn, Jane King**, thematic. Hillcountry Honkytonkin, a Labrador retriever, tells her life story.

111 *A Penguin Christmas*, **Stout, Jean**, display. A fantasy story of how cold weather and tropical penguins celebrate Christmas.

112 *Lawn Bowling: Rulers to Results*, **Reiss, Clemens**, thematic. Lawn bowling was originally a sport of royalty but now is enjoyed by many worldwide. The game is explained and play is shown from recreational to top world events.

113 *The Charter of the United Nations: A Document for World Peace - San Francisco, 1945,* **Adams, Fran**, thematic. This exhibit explores the history of the charter of the United Nations

114 *Early U.S. Malaria Treatments: Making the Remedy-Philately Connection*, **Birrer, Michael**, display. Examples of material that illustrate strategies for making philatelic connections to malaria treatments.

115 *Incense and Its Evolution into Armenian Scented Paper (Papier d'Armenie)*, **Grigorian, Igor**, display. This exhibit reviews origins, manufacture and supply routes of incense and its transformation into producing pleasant aroma paper that burns without flame.

116 *Lost Almost: The Los Alamos, N.M., Post Office and WWII*, **Youngblood, Wayne**, display. Manhattan project and eventual re-establishment as normal post office after WWII.

117 *Horace and Betty get Married: A Narration of What it Took for Me to Pop the Question*, **Harris, Anne**, postcard.

118 *Making Whitetail Venison Sausage*, **DeKornfeld, George**, thematic. A single-frame thematic exhibit in recipe form.

119-123 *Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean*, **Van Laere, Roger**, thematic. Facets of the current, healthy brightness of the Atlantic puffin and its popularity within the philatelic world.

124-125 *The Real Ugly Duckling - Hans Christian Andersen*, **Cartier, Karen J.**, thematic. The life, stories and papercuts of Hans Christian Andersen.

126-133 *How We Got Men to the Moon*, **Cartier, Ray E.**, astrophilately. A post-marked history of events leading to man's landings on the moon and safe returns to Earth. All VIP cards plus fakes included.

134-138 *The Story of Lloyd's: From Coffee to Commerce*, **Nielson, Norma**, display. Relates highlights of the 300+-year history of the world-famous insurance market, interspersing details about the interaction of Lloyd's with postal authorities, along the more conventional historical details.

## ...and the Jury

The following philatelic judges will serve on the jury for NTSS 2015:

**Philip J Stager**, Florida, Chief Judge; **Akthem Al-Manaseer**, California; **Robert R. Henak**, Wisconsin; **Stephen D. Schumann**, California; **Charles C. Wooster**, Florida.

Palmares for the show will be posted on the ATA website on Aug. 2, 2015.

# NTSS 2015 Dealer Bourse

One of the advantages of a World Series of Philately show is that more dealers will be present to sell you their goodies – whether it's an elusive gem or that hard-to-find 50¢ item! All of these dealers have signed a contract to share their wares with you at NTSS in Portland. Many will have their stamps arranged by topic. Since most collectors and dealers use Scott Catalog numbers, you will be able to find items you want at tables of general dealers as well as topical ones. The following dealers plan to be a part of the bourse. Color coding: A dealer's name in blue denotes that dealer is an ATA Dealer Member.

**A to Z Stamps & Coins**
**Michael and Cecilia Ball**
Table 11-12
4950 E Thomas Rd
Phoenix AZ 85018-7807
(248) 709-8939
***michael@azstampcoin.com***
***www.worldwidestamps.com***

**Classic Asia-Pacific Stamps**
**Stephen Inklebarger**
Table 21
PO Box 1171
Chehalis WA 98532-1171
(360) 451-9205
***inkle@comcast.net***

**Ed Dimmick Stamps**
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***stampart@sysmatrix.net***
***www.stampart.us***
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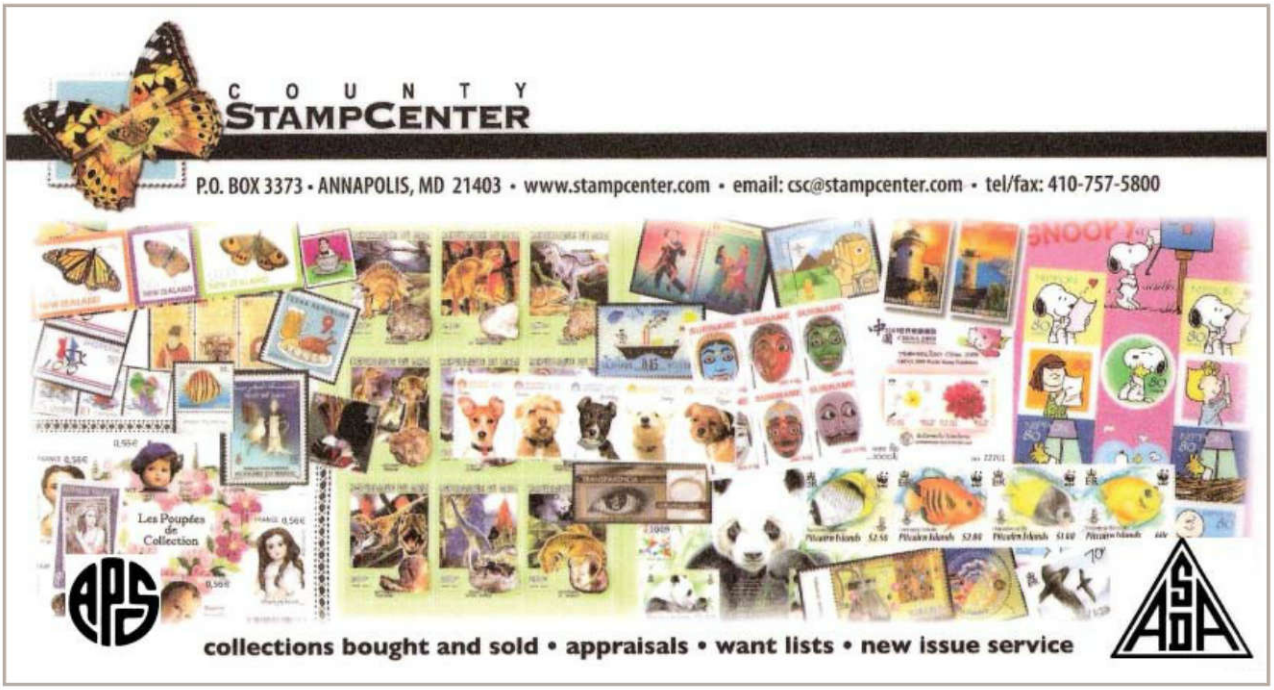

# METERS BY TOPIC

*Wayne L. Youngblood*

## *Automobiles Appear for Different Reasons*

This month let's take a look at a few examples of automobiles depicted on advertising pictorial meters. As on stamps, there are thousands of automobiles depicted on meters, with numerous possibilities spanning several decades. Those shown here are just a very small sampling of what can be found with a little effort.

Figure 1, from 1945, features what may be about the most common use of an automobile (or, for that matter, many other types of objects) as a secondary image to

*Figure 1. The use of the automobile in this meter is secondary to the primary ad.*

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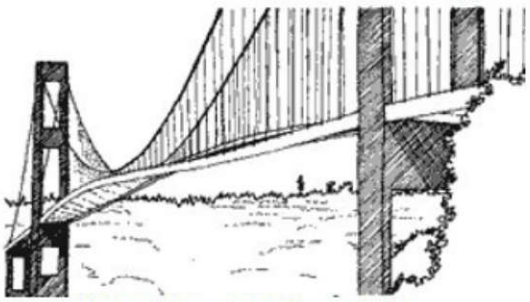

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reinforce the primary message of the advertisement. In this case a speeding vehicle is shown to reinforce the fact that your call to USS (likely United States Steel) will, indeed, result in very "Quick Service."

***Figure 2. Generalized advertising for a specific type of automobile, in this case a 1952 Packard, used without an illustration.***

Figure 2 shows two different meters – with different postage dies and colors – but with the same advertising slug (and both from Detroit), extolling the virtues of the 1952 Packard. In this case, no image of the vehicle was necessary to get the message across. Of course, the new model had already been unveiled in late 1951, anyway.

I find the meter shown in Figure 3 interesting for more reasons than are immediately obvious. The basic pictorial meter area shows what appears to be an Oldsmobile grill, with a rocket at right (another topic!). The ad slogan reads, "The accent's on Oldsmobile," which was the main catch phrase for 1957. The rocket is part of the promotion for the then-brand-new Golden Rocket 88 model, which became so popular that the rocket was incorporated as a permanent part of Oldsmobile's logo from 1960 onward.

But apart from the apparent pivotal design, is the use of this particular advertising meter, from the Massachusetts Indemnity and Life Insurance Co. The obvious question becomes: Why is an insurance company advertising for an automobile company?

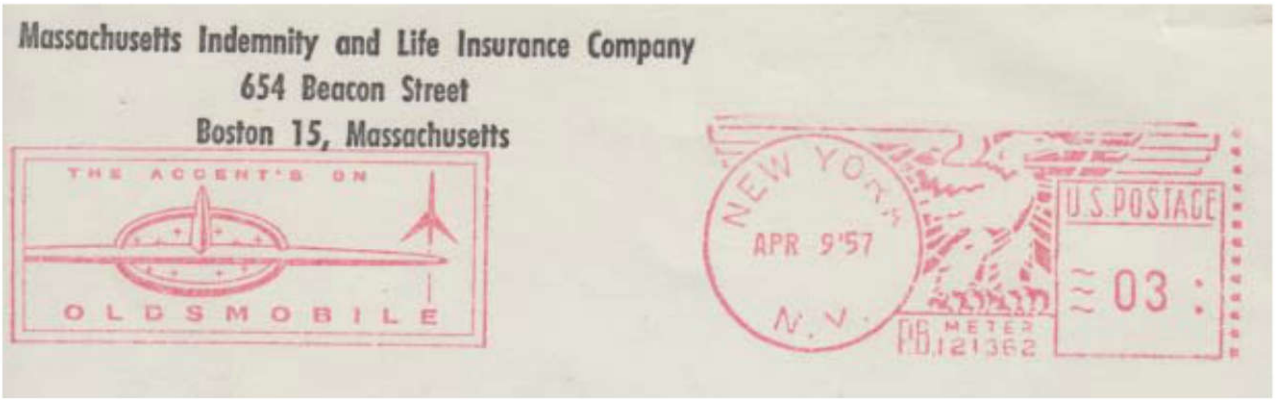


***Figure 3. This meter, for a car, also depicts a rocket in flight, which later became a permanent part of the Oldsmobile logo.***

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***Figure 4. Utilizing indistinct, but attractive automobiles, these financial institutions are advertising automobile loans.***

But, in my limited sampling, by far the most prevalent use of images of automobiles in meter advertising is for the purpose of advertising loans for buying them

Figure 4 shows two, both from financial institutions. The top example, showing the front of a luxurious vehicle, is offering "low cost auto loans." Is this anything like advertising "clean restrooms?" The bottom example in Figure 4, showing a half grill

***Figure 5. Not only are the meters advertising auto loans, they are offering them at "Bank Rates."***

view, takes the auto loans portion for granted. Of course you will obtain financing, but this company is offering "prompt service."

The three meters depicted in Figure 5 show another aspect of auto financing. So-called "Bank Rates." The message implies that the luxurious vehicles shown are all available, financing will be provided and at bank rates. Bank rates, typically, are used to describe the interest rate at which banks obtain money (i.e. the federal funds rate). The tactic of using bank rates is usually reserved for times of high employment, when central banks want to help stimulate the economy.

In the late 1950s, when these meters were created, we were on the upside of one of the greatest financial booms in history. When products were flying off shelves, houses were being built at unprecendented rates and people were beginning to think a second family car might be a good idea, it seems like offering bank rates would have been an unnecessary strategy for luring consumers, but there are pleny of examples of these meters to be found. It's difficult, from this perspective, to devine the purpose behind this particular drive. However, I'm fascinated by the social aspect of this topic.

Still related to banking, but with a different message is the pictorial meter shown in Figure 6, the product of a local bank.

***Figure 6. A pictorial meter from a local bank, promoting its new motor banking service. The image shows a humorous take on things.***

Although the first drive-up banks were created in the 1930s, they didn't become popularized until the 1950s. This example uses a small, zippy sportscar, contrasting the ponderous cheuferred luxury-mobile to communicate the convenience of auto banking for the modern "man on the go."

Speaking of going, during the 1950s the Chicago Transit Authority was busy promoting its public transit services to a city that was already clogged with automobile traffic. So, smack in the middle of a culture that was promoting car ownership as a means to being carefree, CTA's Bill Saver was busy promoting the idea that to be carefree, you should go "carfree." But I'm sure you could still buy one with easy terms!.

***Figure 7. No automobile is found in this meter, created by the Chicago Transit Authority. The message – for a city that was already clogged by 1955 – was to go "carfee."***

# A New Star is Born: The Early Years of Ghana Postage Stamps

*Agbenyega Adedze*

On March 6, 2007, Ghana, formerly known as the Gold Coast, celebrated her 50th anniversary of independence from British colonial rule. Just as it was 50 years ago, the celebrations were not limited to Ghana; it was a landmark commemoration of Pan-African identity and a reiteration of African and African diaspora aspirations. The international dimensions of memorializing Ghana's independence has a lot to do with the fact that Ghana was the first colony south of the Sahara to gain independence, thereby providing hope to other colonized peoples. Above all, the electric and charismatic personality of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the leader of Ghana's liberation struggle, had enormous impact on students and other leaders of the African liberation struggles. The government in 1957 budgeted £600,000 for the celebrations. A great deal of memorabilia was created to commemorate the event, but the cluster of tiny – yet potent – commemorative postage stamps generated social and political commentary in Ghana and beyond. Thus, through the dynamics of postage stamps, one is able to uncover a very fascinating period in Ghana's modern history.

The British set up their first post office in the modern sense in the Gold Coast in 1853 at Cape Coast. Compulsory payment between the United Kingdom and the Gold Coast was introduced in March 1860 and, by 1873, service was established in towns such as Elmina and Keta. The headquarters of the postal service was moved to Accra in 1877, following the transfer of the seat of the colonial administration to Accra; and the Gold Coast joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1879. The first stamps issued by the British for the colony (in 1875) depicted Queen Victoria in blue (1p), red violet (4p), and orange (6p) (Gold Coast, Scott 1-3, Figure 1). However, the last British-issued stamps appeared from1952-56 (Ghana overprint; Scott 5-13). These were; ½d, Position Of Gold Coast, which was from a sketch by the post office draughtsman of the map of West Africa showing Ghana; 1d, photograph of Christianborg Castle, the seat of government, taken by the West African Photographic Service; 1½d, Emblem of the Joint Provincial Council, drawn by B. A. Johnston of Axim representing a stool (traditional symbol of chief's office) and three state swords symbolic of the three provinces of Eastern, Western and Central of the Gold Coast; 2d, Talking Drums, which was a sketch by B. A. Abban of the post office from a photograph by Moses M. A. Ziorkley of Accra; 2½d, Northern Territory Mounted Constabulary, a product of West Africa Photographic Service; 3d, Manganese Mine was a reproduction of the photograph of Nsuta mines by R. Gee; 4d, the sacred Lake Bosomtwe from a photograph of the West African Photographic Service. The rest were; 6d, Cocoa Farmer, came from the photograph by P. B. Redmayne, advertising manager of Messrs. Cadbury Bros. of Bournville, which he took of a farmer in Koforidua; 1sh, Breaking Cocoa Pods, was the reproduction of the sketch of C. K. L. Gomez of Tamale; the West African Frontier Force taking part in the annual

***Figure 1. Queen Victoria.***

***Figure 2. The last British stamps at independence, with overprint "Ghana Independence 1957." The designs are explained in the accompaying text.***

ceremony of the Queen's birthday was represented in Trooping The Colour, 2sh, from a photograph by the West Africa Photographic Service; 5sh, Surfboats was also based on the photograph of P. B. Redmayne; and 10sh, Forest, was also from another photograph of Moses A. Ziorkley. In sum, these stamps, all shown in Figure 2. represented geography, political and economic realities of the Gold Coast.

Modern Ghana issued its first stamp as an independent nation in 1957. The decision to commemorate Ghana's independence with postage stamps was beset with controversy. Critics of the Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, were vehemently opposed when it was announced in the Feb. 16, 1957, *Daily Graphic* that:

> *"All current issues of Gold Coast stamps will be withdrawn from circulation after the close of business on March 5, reliable sources disclosed. Special stamps of different denominations, commemorating the achievement of independence, will be issued on March 6. The commemorative issue will comprise stamps in 2d, 2½d, 4d and 1s 3d denominations. There will be all together 22 millions of all four denominations. That is about four stamps for each member of Ghana's populations. Each will bear the head of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana. A commemorative folder, containing a set of those four denominations will be on sale as from March 6*

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*at 2s 6d each. The 2d stamp is red in colour, the 2½d green, the 4d brown, and the 1s 3d blue. They are intended to be in circulation for at least one year. Then, it is likely that new stamps will be issued. With the commemorative stamps will be issued six millions of what is termed "overprinted stamps" of various denominations. The word "Gold Coast" will remain on stamps in this issue. Over each of them will be printed the words "Ghana Independence March 6, 1957." And the denominations in this batch are ½d, 1d, 1½d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, and 10/-. The purpose is to let "Gold Coast", the present name of the country, linger in people's minds for a while. Thousands of airletter forms have also been "overprinted" in a similar manner. "*

The first person to react against the independence commemorative issue was Dr. K. A. Busia, the leader of the main opposition party, the National Liberation Movement (NLM). In a protest cablegram to the Colonial Secretary, copied to the Prime Minister, Dr. Busia argued that his party and other opposition parties in parliament were opposed to the stamps because it was the "first of its kind in the British Commonwealth and the first step towards dictatorship." Besides, they also thought it was disrespectful to the Queen, who was still the head of state of independent Ghana. It was a "breach of faith," he insisted, for Dr. Nkrumah, who had acknowledged Her Majesty as Head of Independent Ghana in the United Kingdom White Paper. It is ironic that the opposition party of a newly independent country preferred the image of its colonial oppressors. The opposition's disdain for Dr. Nkrumah's party, the Convention People's Party (CPP), and its achievements at independence was further illustrated by how the NLM displayed the new tricolor (red, gold and green) Ghana flag. In NLM strongholds, the flag was flown upside down; green on top; and in CPP regions, it was flown the right way, with red on top.

The opposition parties' fears were further exacerbated when it was rumored that the new currency for Ghana would have the image and superscription of Dr. Nkrumah. The NLM authored a bill in parliament that declared that Queen Elizabeth was the Queen of Ghana. Dr. Nkrumah's government initially denied the allegations; however, he responded to his critics on the removal of the Queen's head from Ghana's currency in an article in the London newspaper, the *Daily Sketch*. While acknowledging that the opposition was calling him a pocket dictator for the plans to remove the Queen's head from the currency, place his image on postage stamps, erect his statue in Accra and to move into the castle, the seat of government for the Queen's representative, he wanted the Queen and the British people to know that his cabinet had made all these decisions because many Ghanaians were illiterate. They had to be shown through visual signs that they were really independent. When the ordinary Ghanaians bought stamps, they would see his picture – an African like themselves – and they would say: "Look here is our leader on the stamps. We are truly a free people!" He was sure the Queen would understand that many of his people still did not believe that they were truly independent. Some of them even expected the Queen to come and crown him.

The NLM accused Dr. Nkrumah of insulting the intelligence of the people of Ghana as if they were animals to be spoken to through signs by claiming that they would not understand independence unless his portrait was put on stamps and coins. Likewise, the Northern People's Party (NPP) described the government's moves as dictatorial and would resist them to the bitter end. The Ga People's Association (Ga Shifimo Kpee) in their protest statement pointed out that, besides

***Figure 3. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's image, as it appeared on coin stamps of Ghana.***

the insult to Ghanaians, Dr. Nkrumah had conducted his seven-year political campaign for independence not by signs but in English. An opposition motion in parliament demanding that the decision about placing Nkrumah's image on the coins not be implemented until the people were consulted in a referendum was defeated. Nonetheless, the relentless antagonism to placing Nkrumah on the currency had prevented the government from issuing the new currency until 1965. Naturally, the new currency with Nkrumah's image was commemorated in postage stamps (Ghana, Scott 212-226, Figure 3).

Ghana's independence stamps (Ghana, Scott 1-4, Figure 4) were designed by Kofi Antubam. He was one of the most prolific and politically conscious artists of his time. A precocious artist, he painted and sculpted as a child and gained formal training when his work was observed by missionaries and government officials. Governor Gordon Guggisberg (1919-27) of the Gold Coast discovered his work when he visited Kofi Antubam's school and was introduced by the principal. To test his skills, the governor requested that Kofi Antubam sculpt his bust in clay, a project he duly executed to the admiration of everyone. This achievement secured a scholarship for Kofi Antubam to attend Achimota College,

***Figure 4. Ghana Independence Stamps.***

the premier higher education institution in the Gold Coast. He later obtained another merit-based scholarship to be trained at Goldsmiths College in the United Kingdom, where he was exposed to international art circles through his contacts and exhibitions in Europe. Upon return to the Gold Coast, Kofi Antubam taught at various institutions, but finally ended up at his alma mater, Achimota College.

Kofi Antubam claimed that he was contacted as early as 1955 to design stamps for Ghana's independence, but his ideas were not accepted until independence. The stamps (Ghana, Scott 1-4) depicted a map of Africa, the bust of Kwame Nkrumah, an African map with Ghana inset, and an eagle (referred to in Scott catalog as a palm-nut vulture). Kofi Antubam claimed that the symbol of the eagle was from the inspirational words of his African teacher, Dr. Kweggir Aggrey of Achimota College, who inspired a generation of Africa leaders with the words; "African Eagle, lift thy wings and fly." His explanation of the symbolism of the eagle is best captured in this anti-colonial diatribe from his book, Ghana's Heritage of Culture:

> *"An irreparable blow is being struck on the very core of the unfounded established conceptions of the African having no right to own and exist in his own country as a free being, worthy of the title lord of his own land, where and when necessary. Yes; the eagle that was mistaken for a chicken, stolen into captivity, banged into a morbid pit of the fate of darkness, has woken up. Yes, accepting its lot in pious humility, it decided to fall asleep. And, it slept and slept. But as it happens, even in the pitch-darkness of the process of a deep sleep, natural growth does go on. So, the eagle's chicken-like beak, claws, and feathers grew bigger and stronger in its sleep. And, so woken up by the pinch of the shackles of captivity, and finding itself still in a pit of darkness even in the broad daylight of the twentieth century, it summoned courage to itself. And, snatching a torch of freedom from its master, it took its wings and flew, perhaps never to be caught again. And now the slogan everywhere in Africa is either, "freedom," "independent" or "self-government now."*

The last sentence reflects the pan-Africanist ideas of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, ideals Kofi Antubam would propagate in his works. Postage stamps are probably his least-known works. His diverse creations for Ghana include: the state chair (Ghana, Scott 300, Figure 5); interior carvings of the Parliament house; Ghana Mace (Ghana, Scott 288, Figure 6), murals, cover designs of several books and more. Other stamps that he designed include: U.N. Trusteeship (Ghana, Scott 70, Figure 7) and the Fertility stamp, Akuababere (Ghana, Scott 44, Figure 8), the latter happened to be his favorite stamp. Others he recommended or had been part of developing are Ghana, Scott 48 and 53.

***Figure 5. State Chair.***

It is worth noting that Kofi Antubam did not have a catholic view of stamp design as most collectors and artists. Recognizing the fact that stamps are a "marvelous means of transmitting ideas to vast numbers of people, educating them," he insisted that ideas should be expressed through "symbolisms." For him, art that is merely representative

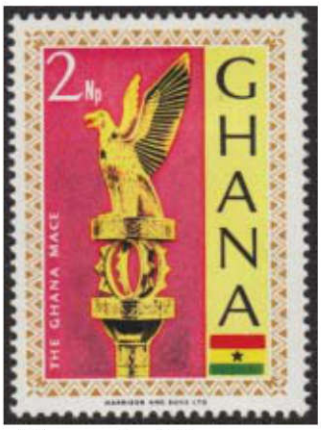

***Figure 6. Ghana Mace.***

***Figure 7. U.N. Trusteeship.***

is vulgar because photographs would have been more appropriate. He also abhorred the depiction of animals and birds on stamps because such reproductions were not art and that stamps should remain "art."

Ghana's independence from Britain provided business opportunities for many international companies, both genuine and unscrupulous. One of the business companies that dealt with Ghana was owned by Manfred R. Lehmann (1922-97). He was born in Sweden and migrated to the United States in 1940, where he earned degrees from Harvard University, the University of Chicago and John Hopkins. A passionate Zionist, he was noted for his interest in biblical archaeology, and was a founding member of the American Academic Alliance for Israel. He is credited with several scholarly publications and newspaper articles. He was also the director of the family's international business, Lehman Trading Company, which was involved in fishing, telecommunications, aviation and philately, which had been founded in 1904 by his parents. According to his widow, Sara Anne Lehmann, her husband had an acute understanding of international issues and had predicted the independence of the Gold Coast and the business opportunities that it would provide for their company. It was not surprising, therefore, that Manfred Lehmann founded in 1957 the Ghana Philatelic Agency (GPA) in New York, despite the fact that he had no prior experience in philately.

***Figure 8. Fertility Stamp, Akuababere.***

Competition for Ghana's philately business was fierce. It was fought between dealers as well as the media, both in Ghana at the highest level of government, and in the United States and United Kingdom. Before independence, Ghana (Gold Coast) stamps were distributed by Crown Agents in London and Washington, D.C. To the surprise and chagrin of stamp dealers and collectors, the distribution of Ghana's stamps was entrusted to a new agency – Ghana Philatelic Agency (GPA) headed by Manfred Lehmann. It was predicted that Ghana stamps would rival in demand and profitability those of the new state of Israel and the United Nations. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's papers in the Ghana National Archives show that the main rival of Lehman for Ghana philatelic business was Jacques Minkus (APS Hall of Fame, the merchant prince of stamp collecting), who was represented by Marguerite Cartwright, a journalist and anthropologist, and an acquaintance of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. She wrote to Nkrumah complaining bitterly that she could not understand how Lehmann had obtained the contract for the sole distribution of Ghana's stamps. In her stern letter to Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, she stated that:

> *"I am writing this because I have never known you to betray my confidence, and I want you to get this information before it falls into the hands of your political enemies. The stamp matter, in my opinion, is serious. We explained to Gbedemah before independence how stamps could make good will and profit for the country. I had hoped he would place it in the hands of this guy Minkus, who had made millions for Israel (a harder job), and who was widely respected in stamp circles and*

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*in the U. S. Gov't. and I know that, because of his reputation, he would not dare to do anything too shady. I don't know how this guy Lehman managed the unfortunate stamp deal, who he made it with in Ghana, how much kick-back was made or promised to whom, but I have been to the experts, and the advice is that you get out of it as fast as you can."*

To support her argument she included a copy of a *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* editorial of Jan. 13, 1958: "You Are Not Ghana Believe This!!!" Cartwright underlined sections of this publication and commented on them in such terms as "SHAMEFUL" and "IMPORTANT TO GHANA." Cartwright alleged further that Lehman had contacted Minkus to give him Ghana's philatelic business for a large sum of money because he could get the exclusive world agency rights, to which Minkus had responded, "Who are you?" She admitted that she got most of the information from Minkus; however, her own investigations supported Minkus' allegations that Lehmann was "unknown and distrusted."

This affair provides an insight into the business dealings of the newly independent country, because Cartwright had other business proposals for Nkrumah. She wanted to recommend a public relations firm to handle Ghana's affairs in the United States, but she was equally aware that it was a job other people were "battling to get." To show that she had connections in high places, she included a letter she had received from Vice President Richard M. Nixon regarding the Sudan.

In another editorial in *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* from Jan 3, 1958, George W. Linn condemned the agreement between Lehmann and the Ghana government in the strongest possible terms: *"It is an unethical arrangement that should be condemned. The hobby of stamp collecting should be kept clean. When it becomes a racket it is time to protest and no dealer can afford to become part of such a racket."* Linn attacked the arrangement whereby GPA bought stamps from the Ghana government at 25% discount below face value in addition to being credited with 25% of the face value of stamps sold overseas by the government. Linn was equally concerned about the advisory role of GPA on the design and quantity of Ghana stamps that were issued. A case in point was the Black Star Line issue (Ghana, Scott 14-16, Figure 9), which Linn alleged was highly influenced by Lehmann and was printed by E. A. Wright Bank Note Co. of Philadelphia, a company stamp collectors wished had never printed stamps. Besides, it was the first time that a Commonwealth country printed

stamps in the United States. Finally, the editorial surmised that if the issues were limited and the plates and remainders were destroyed when an issue was withdrawn then Ghana stamps could turn out to be a good investment.

***Figure 9. The Black Star Line issue.***

Ghana Philatelic Agency responded to the allegations. Manfred Lehmann had been shown the editorial by one of the editors of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* before it was published, but he was not allowed to write his response until the Jan. 27, 1958, issue of the newspaper. He enumerated some of the difficulties faced by a young nation like Ghana in satisfying the demands of the philatelic community, and it was in response to the initial chaos and confusion that the government of Ghana *"decided that its philatelic matters should be handled by an organization run in a businesslike, alert manner, placed in the center of the philatelic trade."* He admitted that he was not a stamp dealer and had no "axe to grind" with anyone. While denying most of the allegations, he stated categorically that *"Our job is to collect philatelic suggestions and recommendations and pass them on to the Ministry, as well as to serve the stamp dealers around the world with efficient, economical and fast service."* While stating his business and academic credentials, Lehmann reassured the stamp community that the number of stamps announced would not be exceeded, the plates would be destroyed and official destruction certificates issued, and that the announced withdrawal dates would be kept.

Article 2 of the agreement between Ghana and GPA stipulated that *"The AGENT (GPA) shall have the right to publicize his agency, the right to advertise the sale of Ghanaian stamps, and the right to organize exhibitions and similar expositions of stamps in any manner subject to the prior approval of the PRINCIPAL."* Subsequently, the peculiar position of the Ghana Philatelic Agency in the stamp community made news about Ghana stamps one of the hottest items in some of the major philatelic newspapers: *Linn's Weekly Stamp News, Mekeel's Weekly, Western Stamp Collector, The American Philatelist* and others. New issues, such as the Black Star Shipping Line and All Africa Peoples's Conferences, were copiously advertised in the philatelic newspapers. These stamps were described in detail, the date and quantity and the date of withdrawal was given. The extent of the advertisements and of the promotion of Ghana stamps led some philatelic experts to warn collectors and dealers to be leery of the hype. David Torres, writing in *The American Philatelist* (August 1959, Vol. 72, No. 11), reminded philatelists on the earlier cautionary words of reputable British philatelists on Ghana stamps because the extreme publicity was *"just another speculative maneuver designed to empty their billfolds with its 'gaudy stickers' for which there was no legitimate postal need."* Apparently, the name of Ghana appeared at least 15 times in the June 6, 1959, issue of a leading American philatelic paper. Lehmann had connections with many of the editors and writers for philatelic papers. A case

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in point occurred during the first anniversary celebration of Ghana independence in New York on March 6, 1958. Lehmann invited Henry Goodkind, the editor of the Collectors Club publications (who chaired of the function), Ernest A. Kehr, philatelic editor of the *New York Herald-Tribune*, *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* feature contributors Frank and Walter A. Warner and editor Carl P. Rueth, among others.

In spite of this network of philatelic reporters, the GPA was embarrassed when stamps were not withdrawn as scheduled and spurious explanations had to be provided. A case in point was the non-withdrawal of the remainder of the independence issues. The opposition party (NLM) in Ghana was the first to protest. It claimed that parliament had agreed that the stamps were to be withdrawn three months after independence. However, as of June, they were still in circulation. Mr. Krobo Edusei, the Minister of Communication responded that £167,620 worth of stamps were originally printed with the intention that they would be in circulation for 12 months, but at the end of the three months; £105,000 worth of stamps were left and he was not going to withdraw them from circulation because he did not wish to "burn £105,000 of public funds." The non-reproduction of stamps after withdrawal had been another key issue raised by *Linn's* editorial. To meet this requirement, the GPA made public the destruction of Ghana plates in the newspapers. Thus, of all the countries in the world, only Ghana was featured in the philatelic papers with reports and photographs of the destruction of plates and the signing of the certificates of destruction. The names of witnesses and representatives were duly listed to erase any lingering doubts. Despite the assurances, *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* continued to receive complaints, and the editor was obliged to issue a blunt statement in his editorial of Feb. 16, 1958: "If You Don't Like It, Leave It." He castigated dealers and collectors for the predicament because they knew that the agencies were "boosting" the new countries, and collectors and dealers should "quit bellyaching" and collect something else.

In fulfilling its mission, the GPA, in addition to the newspaper announcements, produced the *Information Bulletin on Ghana*, which was distributed all over the United States. The bulletin contained general information on the country, as well as philatelic news. It discussed the history of Ghana, its peoples, resources, art and culture, development projects undertaken by the new government and more. Obviously, philately dominated the news. It was also evident that Ghana Philatelic Agency (GPA) was a family business. Photographs of Manfred, his wife Anne and son James performing various philatelic duties were displayed in

*Please use stamps on mail whenever possible...*

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the bulletins. Any visits to Ghana Philatelic Agency by Ministers from Ghana or the Ghana mission in New York or Washington, D.C., were eagerly documented, either in the bulletin or the philatelic newspapers. To demonstrate his connections in high places and legitimize his position, Manfred or Anne presented Ghana new issues and first-day covers to Vice President Nixon, General James H. Doolittle, the United Nations and other well-placed connections.

***Figure 10. Overprint on Independence Issue: Prime Minister's Visit to the United States and Canada.***

Perhaps, Ghana Philatelic Agency's crowning public relations coup was achieved during Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's official visit in 1958 to the United States (Ghana, Scott 28-31, Figure 10) at the invitation of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Nkrumah presented President Eisenhower with a special album containing blocks of four of the recent Ghana Airways series and the set of four stamps overprinted to commemorate his visit to the United States and Canada. Manfred Lehmann also arranged for Dr. Nkrumah to visit on July 26, 1958, the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia, where he mounted a Ghana exhibit of Gold Coast and Ghana stamps, covers, photographs and handicrafts (*Western Stamp Collector*, Aug. 30, 1958; and *Linn's Weekly Stamp News,* Aug. 11, 1958). *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* reporter Ernest A. Kehr referred to the event as "fifteen minutes of bedlam, pandemonium and turmoil." Originally, the plan was to have a reception for 150 people in the museum at 4 p.m., but by 3 p.m., the police had to block the streets for several blocks, as the crowd was estimated to be between 15,000-20,000 people. Kehr reported the presence of *"local Masonic lodge members in silk toppers, church groups, Negroes in West African costumes, bands and even 'Philadelphia Negro Muslims.'" The Philadelphia Enquirer* reported that as *"the party [then] moved to the National Philatelic Museum at 2043 N. Broad St., where Dr. Nkrumah opened an exhibit on Ghana postage stamps. It was here that he was given an ear-splitting reception from more than 6,000 well-wishers who blocked traffic on Broad St. and Diamond St. where they clamored to get close to the Prime Minister."*

It was a befitting recognition for Dr. Nkrumah, whose visit was viewed as the homecoming of a "favorite son." Dr. Nkrumah obtained his higher degrees from Lincoln University and the University of Philadelphia. *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* reported that several stamp dealers did brisk business, even though no facilities had been provided, selling Ghana stamps and covers from satchels. In a record 23 minutes, one dealer completely sold all his stamps and covers. Dr. Nkrumah's personal interest in postage stamps never waned; however, it is amazing that the Ghana Post Office never seemed to meet the stamp requirements of the Prime Minister, and he continuously requested commemoratives and covers directly from

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GPA. Letters demonstrate that at times Lehmann had to purchase past issues on the open market to send to Dr. Nkrumah, who regularly wrote back to express his appreciation.

Based on its success with Ghana stamps, GPA subsequently represented other independent African countries, starting with Togo. As GPA did business with more African countries, Ghana noticed a reduction in its philatelic sales and concluded that GPA had spread itself too thin and did not concentrate anymore on Ghana's stamps and covers. There were several unsuccessful attempts to abrogate the contract with the GPA. The GPA is now called Inter-Governmental Philatelic Cooperation, which represents many different countries. Mr. Lehmann sold the company to Mr. Sam Malamud in 1969. In spite of minor revisions, from time to time, to the agreement between Ghana and GPA/IGPC, the latter continues to represent Ghana's philatelic interests and many African countries, with Malamud at the helm.

Edward B. Proud, "The Postal History of the Gold Coast," Heathfield, Postal History Publication Co. 1995.

"An Issue is Born," *Gibbon's Stamp Monthly*, October 1956, pages 15-18 and November 1956, pages 27-29.

Kofi Antubam, *Ghana's Heritage of Culture* (Koehler & Amelang, Leipzig, 1963), page 219.

Unclassified document, Ghana Post, Accra, Ghana (Apparently interview report written by Manfred Lehmann during Kofi Antubam's visit to the United States in 1962.

Personal Communication with Mrs. Sara Anne Lehmann, Feb 27, 2006.

Letter from Marguerite Cartwright to Dr. Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana National Archives, SC/BAA/162).

David Torres, "Ghana," *The American Philatelist* (August 1959), pages 815-819.

"Ghana First Anniversary Observed In New York," *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*, (March 24, 1958), page 8.

Personal communications with Mr. Sam Malamud, Oct. 3, 2008. Mr. Malamud said he started collecting stamps when he was five years old and started his stamp business at age 12.

***Agbenyega Adedze Is a professor of African History at Illinois State University. Originally from Ghana, his childhood home was close to the post office. He always liked stamps and was an eclectic collector as a kid, even though he did not belong to a stamp club. At UCLA, his professor and mentor, Dr. Merrick Posnansky, happened to be a stamp collector. Upon retirement, he decided to organize his lifelong collection and as the author observed him undertake this meticulous task he began to see patterns and ideas. Adedze recognized then that he was not a serious collector and that he needed to specialize. Prof. Posnanky and the author decided to do research on his African stamp collection, which resulted in a special issue in African Arts magazine. Adedze has since intensified his collection in the areas of his academic interest of cultural history; art, music, archaeology, soccer and other areas. Adedze has published articles on stamps in academic journals and, in 2010, organized a soccer philatelic exhibition at McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, Ill., to coincide with the World Cup in South Africa. He has also thought of conducting senior seminars, where students use postage stamps as their primary sources.***

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# CINDERELLA CORNER

*Arthur H. Groten*

## Trademark Stamps

There is a group of Cinderellas that relates to various aspects of manufactured products, including trademark stamps, guarantee stamps and royalty stamps, for the most part. Each is avidly sought by collectors, but none is common. Most are from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

***Figure 1.***

Let's look at a few trademark stamps. They usually have those words somewhere on the stamp in the appropriate language. Further, all are topical and some are also thematic, so they fit nicely into many collections.

The American one most often seen is that of The

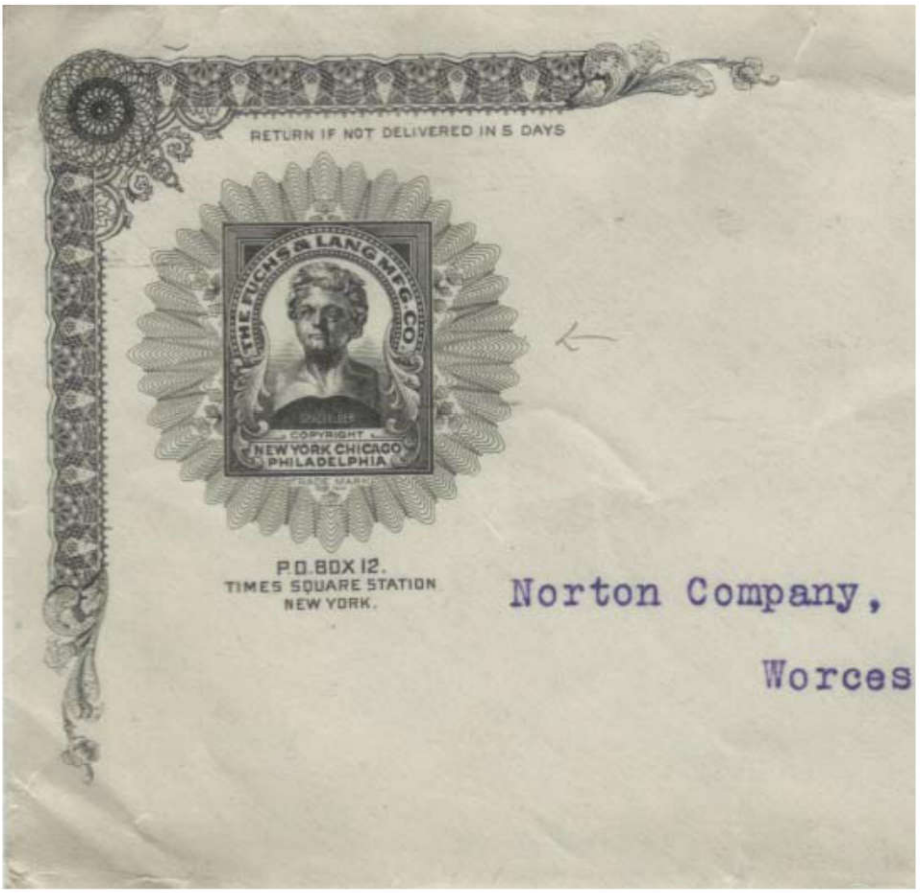



***Figure 2. This 1914 commercial cover makes effective use of***

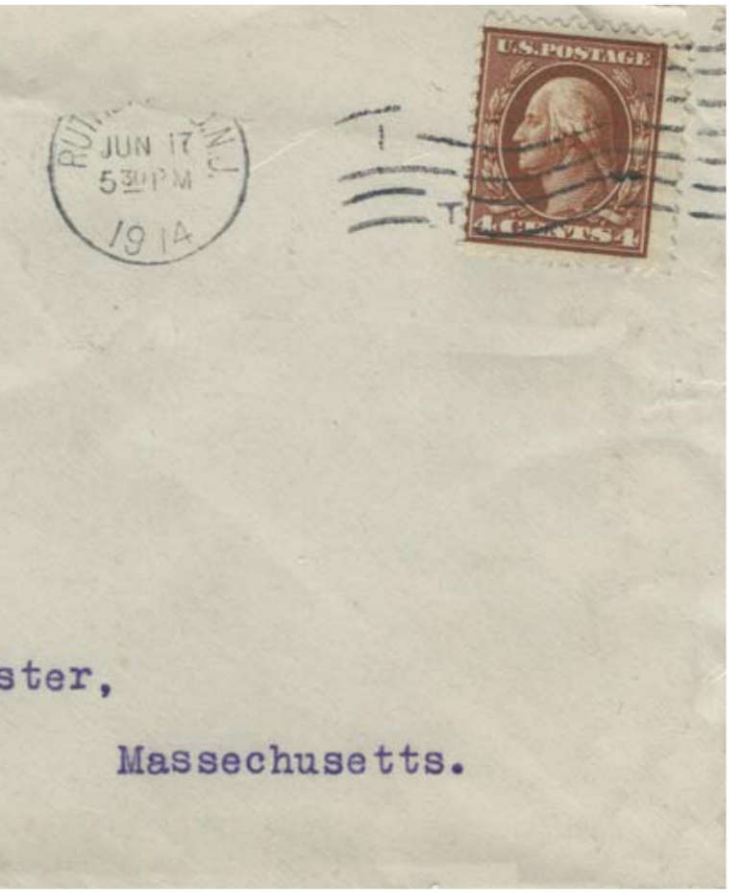
***Figure 3 (above), Figure 4 (center), Figure 5 (right).***

Fuchs and Lang Mfg. Co. of New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. They were manufacturers of lithographic equipment and, appropriately, picture Alois Senefelder, the inventor of the lithographic process. The stamp is known in several colors and varieties. The image was also used on the firm's advertising envelope (Figures 1 and 2).

*Figure 6.*

These stamps were produced in many countries. Five are shown here:

1) Argentina: Dr. Koch's Meat Peptone, a tenderizer. Thematic elements: hat, the sun, letter, posthorn (Figure3).




*f the design of the trademark stamp in Figure 1.*

2) France: J. T. Piver, The Queen of Flowers. Thematic element: rose (Figure 4).

3) Germany: Kannenbier. Thematic element: beer stein. Note that it is die-cut, a not-infrequent occurrence among these stamps (Figure 5).

4) Netherlands: A. Bastiaanse of Utrecht, maker of corsets. Thematic element: lion (Figure 6).

5) Spain and France: A. Gomez of Sevilla and C. Parnier of Paris. I am not sure what they made. Thematic element: lion passant, crown. The use of the lion, symbol of strength and power, was frequent on these stamps (Figure 7).

*Figure 7.*

There are, of course, many others. They are unusual and make a wonderful addition to any collection. Look for them in the miscellaneous section of dealers' stocks. Good hunting!

*Arthur H. Groten, cinderella enthusiast, welcomes correspondence at PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-3366 USA.*

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# Award Winners

The ATA provides awards for exhibitions of any size as a way to recognize exhibitors for their efforts and to encourage the creation of thematic exhibits to help spread the joy of topical collecting. Congratulations to the following recent winners of ATA awards. *Denotes ATA member.

## First, Second and Third Awards

The following exhibitors were recent recipients of ATA Awards:

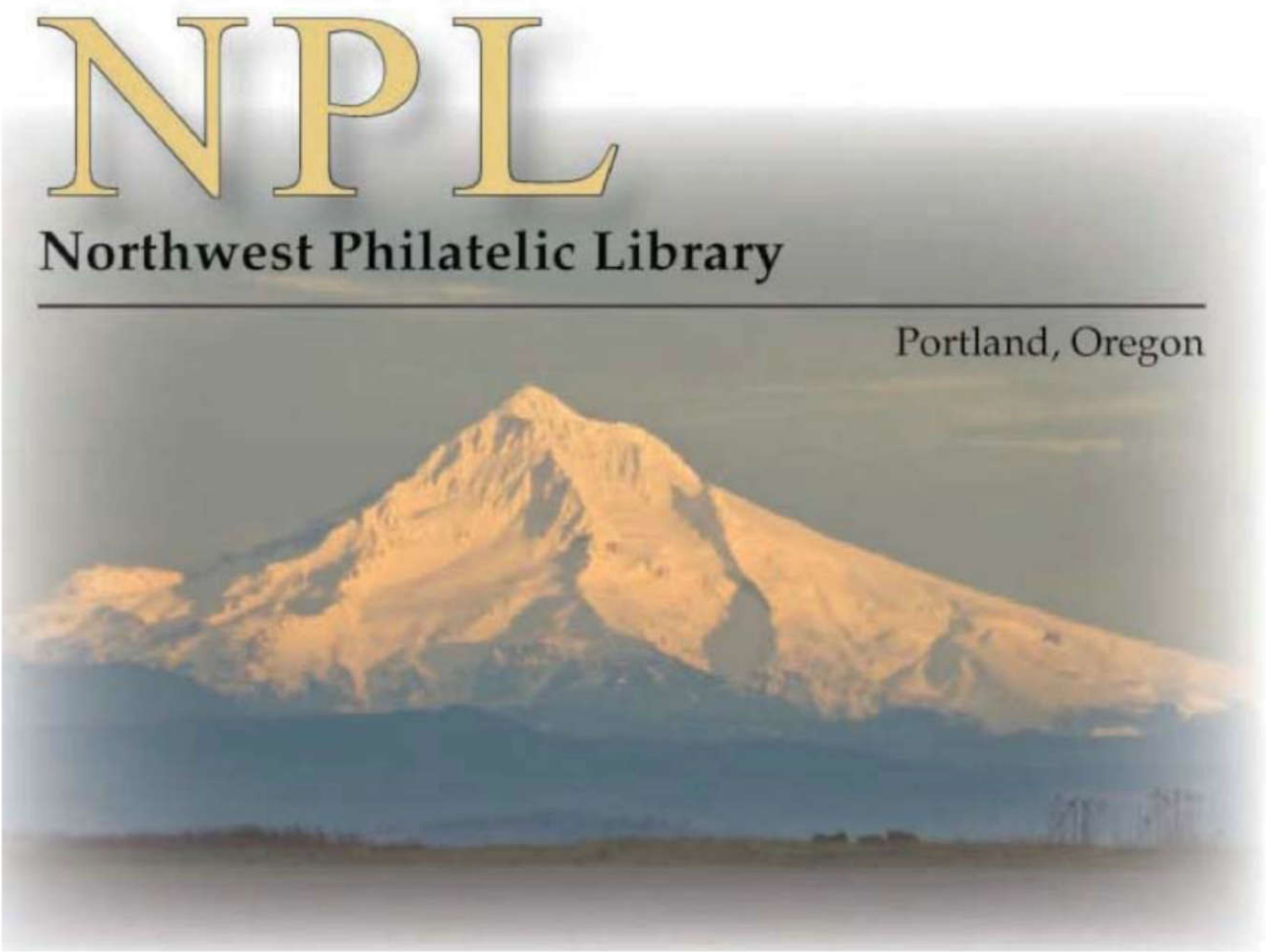
***Edwin Andrews** received the ATA 1st award at both Milcopex and Aripex for his exhibit, *Hitler Youth – The Generations of Lost Innocence*.

**Joe R. Cody** received the ATA Novice award at Aripex for *Arizona Postal Territorial Routes 1866 to 1912*.

**Ryszard Prange** received the ATA 1st award at Chicagopex for *Basket Ball – I Love This Game*.

***Janice Erbach** received the ATA 1st award at Southeast Stamp Show for her exhibit, *Coccinellidae-Ladybird Beetles and Their Interaction with Man*.

***Denise Stotts** received the ATA 1st award at Texpex for her exhibit, *Japanese Art*.



**Lester C. Lanphear III** received the ATA one-frame award at Ameristamp Expo for the exhibit, *Go: The World's Oldest Board Game*.

***Adam Mangold** received the ATA Youth award at Ameristamp Expo for *Building a Nation…One State at a Time*.

***Janice Erbach** received the ATA 1st award at the Nashville Philatelic Show for *A Life of Changes, Insect Metamorphosis*.

**Dave Bodkin** received the ATA Novice award at the Nashville Philatelic Show for *Love Stamps of the World*.

**Madeline Seibert** received the ATA Youth award at the Nashville Philatelic Show for *Madeline Loves Animals*.

**Jules MacKallor** received the ATA 1st award at Springpex for *"V" is for Victory*.

***Paul Schumacher** received the ATA one-frame award at Springpex for *Next in Line*.

Winners at Pipex include ***Jack Congrove**, who won the ATA 1st for his exhibit, *Alexander Hamilton, Financier, Statesman, Founder*. **Conrad Klinkner** received the ATA 2nd for *Games of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles 1932*, while the ATA 3rd went to ***Beatrice Vogel** for her exhibit, *Spiders*.

The ATA one-frame medal went to **Lester Lanphear III** for *Go, the World's Oldest Board Game*. **Joan Carroll** received the ATA Novice award for *Running for the Gold*.

***Andrew Urushima** received the ATA one-frame award for *Spoiled By War: The Games of the XII the Olympiad* at Sandical.

At Oxpex **Jim Watson** received the ATA 1st award for *Numismatics on Stamps From Various Countries Around the World*. **George Alexander** earned the ATA 2nd for *Extinct and Endangered Birds* and ***Betty Thomas** received the ATA 3rd award for *Famous Left-handers.*

**Nancy Swan** was awarded the ATA 1st award for *Birthstones* and ***Barbara Herbert** received the ATA one-frame award for her *California Quail: Beyond Native Territory* at the South Oregon Philatelic Society Show.

At Westpex, ***Jean Stout** received the ATA 1st award for *A Celebration of the Cockroach*.

***Dalene Thomas** received the ATA 1st award at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show for *Circus Wagons*.

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. The awards can be obtained by contacting the Awards Chair, Dalene Thomas by email at ***dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org*** or 1805 S. Balsam St., Lakewood CO 80232-6778.

*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., Lakewood CO 80232-6778.*

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

- ☞**E**ncouraging the collection, research, and study of topical stamps and their subjects.
- ☞**P**roviding for the exchange of ideas among members worldwide.
- ☞**D**eveloping and publishing books, checklists, and audio-visual programs.
- ☞**H**olding or participating in philatelic exhibitions.
- ☞**A**ssisting members to acquire and dispose of collections.

# Study Unit Spotlight

## This month: Chess on Stamps Study Unit

*[Editor's Note: This is the 29th 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 "A Work of Art," from* Chesstamp Review, *January-March 2015, No. 157. 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!****]*

# A Work of Art

*Joram R. Lubianiker*

Stamp collectors, and probably only stamp collectors, appreciate that a stamp is a work of art. Sure, some stamps are of poor quality, while others lack inspiration. But, generally speaking, the design of a stamp is carried out by a designer who labors hard to create a work of art, full of content and beautifully executed.

The first stage in the creation of a new stamp is performed by the artist. Typically, once a country decides to devote a stamp to a certain theme, several artists submit artwork, from which only one is accepted, while the others are rejected. Occasionally, one can find in the philatelic market original artworks that were


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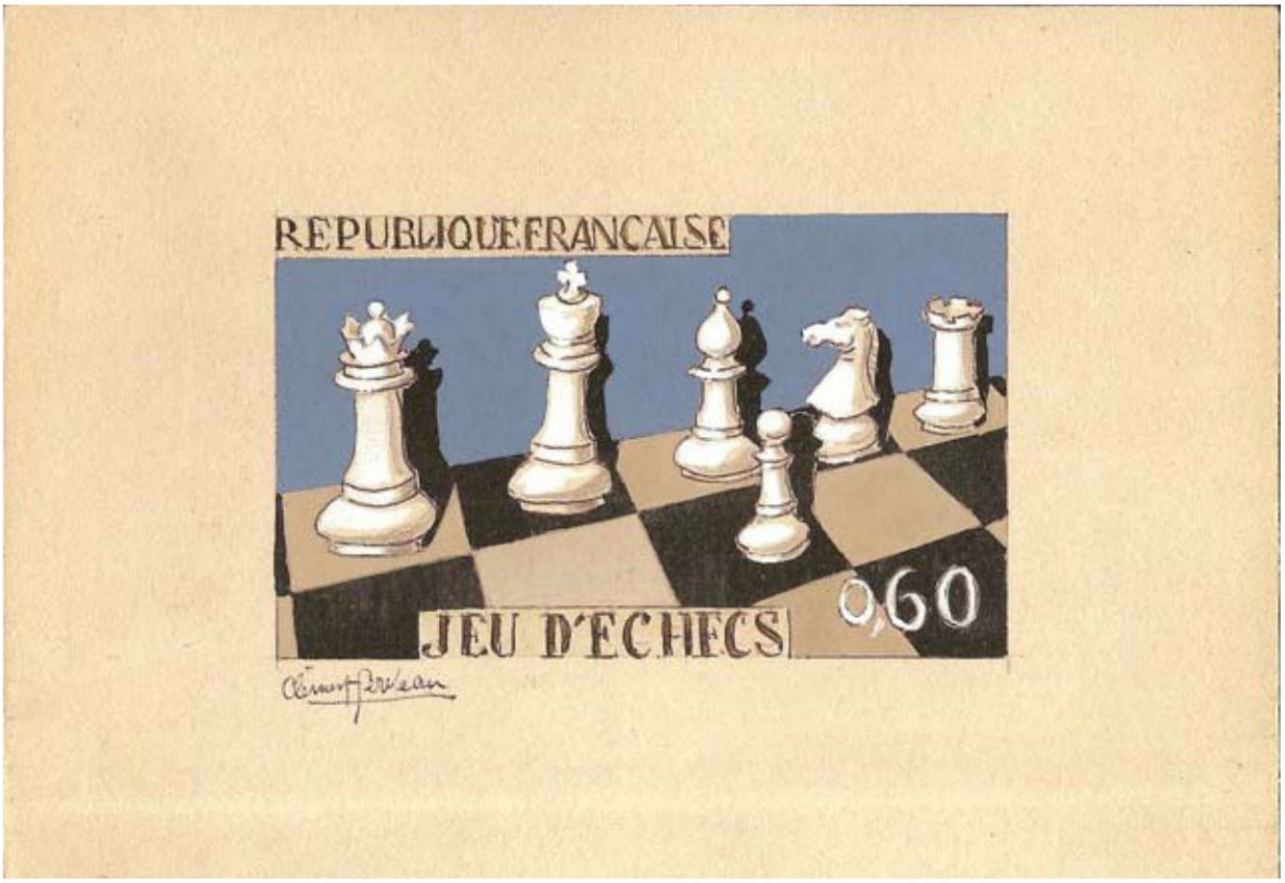


***Figure 1 is shown above; Figure 2, below. Both are preliminary artwork for a French stamp released in 1974.***

rejected. Figure 1 shows a rejected design for the 1974 French chess stamp. As is appropriate for a work of art, it is signed by the artist. Figure 2 shows original

***Figure 3 is shown above. Figure 4 is pictured at right, and Figure 5 is shown below right.***

artwork for the stamp, more or less the way it was produced.

Figure 3 shows another, allegedly, rejected design for the same issue. I use the word "allegedly" because this work of art does not contain the name of the country or a face value. To me, it seems just a work of art inspired by the 1974 chess Olympiad that has nothing to do with stamps. It was, however, advertised by a dealer as a "proposed stamp design," which, I guess, illustrates my first point.

Things are considerably different when the artwork is of the accepted design, however. Here the link between the artwork and philately is self

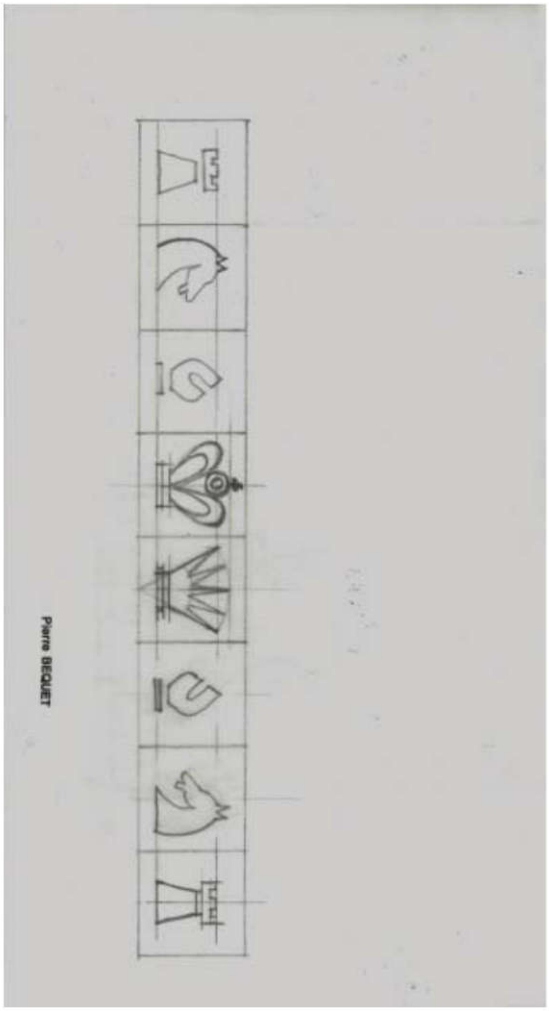


***Figure 7, left.***
***Figure 8, below left.***

evident. Furthermore, for each stamp there could be only one original artwork, and so the rarity is guaranteed.

Here a small correction is required: Sometimes there are stages in the work of the artist, and so few, progressive, sketches may exist for each stamp. Figures 4-7 show the preliminary artwork for the two stamps issued by Mali on Feb. 19, 1973 (Scott C172 and C173), to commemorate the 1972 World Championship match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky.

The first drawing (Figure 4), shows a 14th-century European bishop. The sketch is drawn with pencil only on a transparent paper (no doubt used to copy the image from a photograph). Figure 5 shows the second part of the design, with the name of the country, face value (still undetermined at that point), text and a set of pieces on the left. The transparent paper allows the designer to align the two parts comfortably.

Figures 6 and 7 show a corresponding pair for the second stamp that features an 18th-century Indian knight. For a reason unknown to me, the first part is almost complete, and the second part contains only the pieces at the side of the stamp.

Every work of art must contain the name of the artist. The transparent pages used for the preliminary artwork (Figures 4-7) all bear the name Pierre Bequet.

Bequet (1932-2007) was a French designer and engraver of postage stamps for France and many of its former colonies. His first philatelic ☛

work was in 1961 for Congo Brazzaville and, in 1965, he designed a stamp for France for the first time. His last stamp was issued in 2005. Overall, he designed a staggering number – more than 700 different stamps. As I mentioned before, Bequet's work did not finish with these preliminary designs.

Certainly, no stamp advisory committee can truly appreciate the design and approve it based on such crude sketches. The next stage is to create the final original design. This is shown in Figures 8 and 9, which are also


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***Figure 8 (top) and Figure 9 (above) show hand-tinted design essays for the Mali stamps shown in Figures 10 and 11 (top right on facing page).***

***Figure 12 (above).***

made on transparent pages, which are then attached to a white A4-format paper. These are hand colored by the artist and signed by him. Underneath the signature, Bequet wrote "pre-maquette d'atelier," which roughly means an artist's workshop sketch.

Figures 10 and 11 show the final stamps. The most significant difference between the two proposed designs and the final product is the choice of colors, particularly for the 100F value. But there is another change that was inserted later. As can be seen in Figure 12, the name of the designer was added to the stamp, a justified tribute to the man who was responsible for this work of art.

## Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Founded in 1974 by Benjamin Landley, the Chess on Stamps Study Unit was organized for collectors of chess and other board games on stamps. The quarterly journal, *The ChessStamp Review*, has been continuously published since 1979 and is one of the many benefits of membership of the CSSU. Members may also participate in auctions, receive checklists and purchase stamps, covers and postmarks available through the study unit's sales service. The unit also maintains an informative website, providing the latest information on chess stamps and study unit news. If you are interested in becoming a member of CSSU, please contact Barry Keith, 555 Rolling Valley Ct, Charlottesville VA 22902-8257. Email: ***keithfam@embarqmail.com***.

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# Units in Action

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

Nick Blackburn is looking to form a study unit for collectors of nudes on stamps. Nick admits the topic may be a bit risqué for some. He also points out that the topic is affordable as the number of stamp issues for this topic is in the low thousands. Please contact Nick Blackburn if you are interested in this topic at ***nick_blackburn@yahoo.com*** or ***www.nudestamps.org***.

Several ATA members are also in the process of forming a study unit for automobile stamps. If you are interested in joining an automobile study unit, please contact Jeff Hayward at ***stamps@jeffhayward.com***.

**Americana Unit**

*Americana Philatelic News*

The Americana Unit is no longer seeking an editor, as Fred Skvara has agreed to continue in this position.

Dues are $6 in the United States, $12 elsewhere. Contact Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.

Email: ***dennisdengel@verizon.net***
Website: ***www.americanaunit.org***

**Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit**

*Old World Archaeologist*

Caroline Scannell follows Paleolithic man's journey through Africa, Europe and Asia in the main article, "Early Man," in the *Old World Archaeologist* April 2015.

Also in this issue is an article about the "Battle of Marathon 2500 Anniversary," which took place in 490 BC, during the first Persian invasion of Greece. Greece released a set of stamps to commemorate this battle in July 2010. There are also seven pages of new-issue information with short articles.

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

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

**Armenian Philatelic Association (ArPA)**

*Quarterly Journal*

Mark Albert Momjian shares "A Near East Relief Cover in Honor of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide," in *ARPA* March 2015.

The cover was sent by stamp dealer Souren Avasenov Yohannessiantz, in care of Near East Relief, to Leon Dominian. Dominian was a stamp collector and possibly the first Armenian-American diplomat. French Republic stamps were used to pay the postal fees for this registered cover sent July 5, 1920.

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

Email: ***igorgrig@pacbell.net***
Website: ***www.armenianphilatelic.org***

## Biology Unit

*Biophilately*

In *Biophilately* March 2015, Jack R. Congrove describes the different "New Zealand Color Missing Errors" for the set of six butterfly and moth stamps issued by New Zealand in September 1970. There are six different color errors for this issue. The most common error is dark green missing from the veins of the moth.

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 lead article, "Ivan Fedorov:

Russia's First Printer," highlights a printer commemorated on stamps almost as often as Johannes Gutenberg. Tsar Ivan the Terrible arranged to have a printer from Denmark teach the art of printing to Ivan Fedorov in 1552. Russia's first printing house was opened in 1563 and work began on the New Testament, Acts and Epistles of the Apostles.

Dues are $15 in North America (Patron $25) and $25 elsewhere (Patron $35). Contact Larry Rosenblum, GPA Secretary/Treasurer; 1030 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale CA 94087-3759.
Email: ***lr@gbstamps.com***
Website: ***www.graphics-stamps.org***

## Carto-Philatelic Society

*The New Carto-Philatelist*

Part II of "Maps of St. Pierre and Miquelon" appears in *The New Carto-Philatelist* April 2015 issue. The stamps shown in the article depict maps and some of the different economic activities of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Fishing had been the most important economic activity for St. Pierre and Miquelon. Stamps were issued showing geological features and a map of the islands by St. Pierre and Miquelon after exploring for gas and oil as a possible new economic opportunity.

Dues are $20 in North America, $25 elsewhere. Electronic membership is $15 worldwide. Contact Marybeth Sulkowski, 1117 Douglas Ave Unit 209, North Providence RI 02904-5374.
Email: ***mb37zx@aol.com***
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## Cats on Stamps Study Unit

*Cat Mews*

Marci Jarvis explains the differences among three coil varieties in "The Bobcat Varieties: In for a penny, in for a pound." The three different varieties were issued by the USPS in 2012 as pressure-sensitive adhesives, in 2013 as water-activated gum and in 2015 as pressure-sensitive adhesive stamps.

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***
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## Chess on Stamps Study Unit

*Chesstamp Review*

Joram Lubianiker describes the process and different stages using various chess-related philatelic items that make postage stamps "A Work of Art." One of the issues shown was designed by French designer and engineer Bequet. The author shows Bequet's work, from preliminary sketches to the final design that was used.

Dues are $17 in North America and $24 elsewhere. Contact Barry Keith, 555 Rolling Valley Ct, Charlottesville, VA 22902-8257.
Email: ***keithfam@embarqmail.com***
Website: ***www.chessonstamps.org***

## Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society

*Discovery*

In "Curious, Amusing and Unusual Stamp Designs - San Marino," Overton Harris explains the significance of an egg-shaped earth and broken egg that appear on two stamps issued by San Marino commemorating Columbus' voyage to the New World. Once, while dining with Spanish nobles, Columbus' accomplishment of having discovered the new world was challenged. The Spanish nobles felt any other resourceful Spaniard could have just as easily discovered the New World. Columbus gave the nobles an egg and asked them to stand the egg on one end. They could

not do it. Columbus then took the egg and stood it up on one end by slightly cracking the shell. This is not actually a true story, but it was first published in 1565.

Dues are $15 in the United States and $20 elsewhere. Contact Greg Ciesielski, 333 Miller Blvd, Havelock, NC 28532-2645.
Email: ***lilski@ec.rr.com***

**Disneyana on Stamps Society**
*Disnemation*

Virginia Sylvester describes the processes used by Disney employees to make Disney characters in film and Disney theme parks appear real in "The Authenticity of Disney." Animators would spend months researching various animal and human behaviors by viewing them in person, in photos and in literature. This would take place prior to any preliminary sketching that would need to be done. Walt Disney once said, "We cannot do fantastic things based on the real unless we first know the real."

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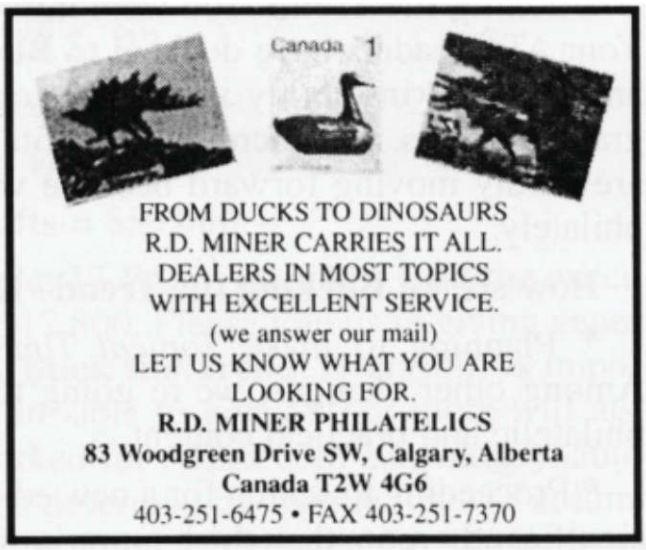


**Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, Inc. (ESPER)**
*Reflections*

Alan Cecilio shares his passion for his collection of "Liberia" in *Reflections* April 2015 and illustrates some of the country's history with stamps. The West African nation was colonized in 1820 by Black Americans and it is Africa's oldest republic. Liberia had begun issuing its own stamps in 1860. These first three stamps, of three different denominations, were all issued with the same allegorical design of Liberty: a woman with a shield sitting on a rock protecting a ship with freed slaves.

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

**Europa Study Unit**
*Europa News*

Several pages of new issues for this year's theme of old toys issued by 17 different countries appear in the May-June 2015 issue of *Europa News*. One old toy that might be recognized by many is a plastic telephone on wheels that could be pulled

☛

by a string. It appears on a stamp issued by Serbia on April 16, 2015.

Dues are $20 in the United States and Canada, $25 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*

Beginning with the French Invasion of Algeria in 1830, and following decades of civil wars, Algeria became independent in 1962. On June 7, 1962, a group against Algeria's independence set fire to the University of Algeria's library, destroying more than 60,000 books.

With the exception of stamps issued for the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks, "Algeria Library Fire" has had the most nations issue stamps. Nine different Arabic countries issued stamps to commemorate the fire.

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

**Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Study Unit**

*Philagems International*

In the April-June 2015 *Philagems International*, Harry Levy gives readers "An Introduction into the Diamond Industry." The author uses stamps, covers and postmarks to show how they are formed and collected and

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the various types and qualities of diamonds found in the diamond market.

Dues are $15 in North America and $20 elsewhere. Contact Gilberte Proteau, 138 Rue Lafontaine, Beloeil, Quebec, J3G 2G7, Canada.
Email: ***gilberte.ferland@sympatico.ca***
**or,** Alan Dean, Pres., 108 Newton Sq, Pointe-Claire, Dorval, Quebec H9R 1H8, Canada.
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## Judaica Thematic Society

*Judaica News*

"Batman: A Super Hero for the Ages" is the lead article in the May 2015 *Judaica News*. Gene Eisen explains how Bob Kane and Bill Finger collaborated to create the superhero Batman. Both of Jewish descent, Bob Kane was a comic book illustrator and Bill Finger a writer. The USPS released Batman stamps in October 2014.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available freee, in electronic format only. Contact Gary Goodman.
Email: ***judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net***

## Lighthouse Stamp Society

*The Philatelic Beacon*

A set of stamps issued by Alderney on May 1, 2015, appeared in *The Philatelic Beacon* May-June 2015.

Alderney Lighthouse appears in the background of the thistle stamp. The lighthouse sits on Quénard Point on the northeast side of the island and was built in 1912 to warn passing ships of treacherous waters.

Dues are $12 in the United States, $15 in Canada and Mexico and $20 elsewhere. An electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for $10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778.
Email: ***dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org***
Website: ***www.lighthousestampsociety.org***

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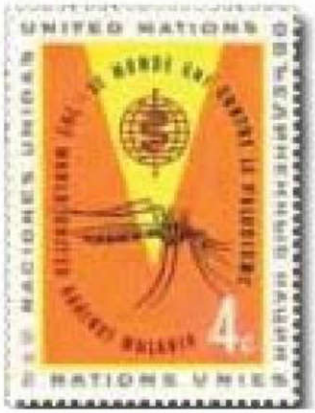
## Malaria Philatelists International

*Miasma*

Larry Fillion reports that he began to find Lundy stamps from 1982 overprinted with red and black mosquitos for sale on auction websites in early 2015. After checking various sources, Fillion has since learned that these are fake overprints. No other examples have been found for sale since earlier this year.




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

Email: ***malariastamps@yahoo.com***

Website: ***www.malariastamps.com/mpi/***

## Masonic Study Unit

*The Philatelic Freemason*

The biography of Fiorello Henry LaGuardia appears in the May-June 2015 issue of *The Philatelic Freemason.* Born in New York City, LaGuardia became the 99th Mayor of New York City, serving three terms, from 1934-45. He was also elected to Congress and served two terms, 1916-18 and 1922-30. Brother LaGuardia received his life membership in Garabaldi Lodge on Oct. 17, 1933.

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

Email: ***radpm67@gmail.com***

**or,** Gene Fricks

Email: ***genefricks@comcast.net***

## Medical Subjects Unit

*Scalpel & Tongs*

Jayant Pai-Dhungat explains the cause and crippling effects of the parasitic disease "Dracunculiasis, Guinea Worm Infestation" in the latest *Scalpel & Tongs.* Dracunculiasis is caused by the nematode Dracunculus medinensis, also known as the Guinea-worm. The Guinea-worm larvae are eaten by Cyclops, or water fleas. Humans become infected when drinking water is contaminated with water fleas that have ingested Guinea-worm larvae.

This disease has almost been eradicated by improving water supplies.

Dues are $15 in the United States and $18 elsewhere. Contact Marion Rollings, 101 New Amwell Rd, Hillsborough NJ 08844-5516.

Email: ***drmarionrollings@yahoo.com***

**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***

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## Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group)

*Der Musikus*

A biography of Condoleezza Rice is one of several in the March 2015 *Der Musikus*. Condoleezza Rice's mother was a high school music teacher. As a result, Condoleezza studied three different instruments: the flute, piano and violin. She decided not to become a concert pianist after her second year of college and changed her major to political science. Condoleezza once performed a Brahms recital along with the London Symphony Orchestra for Queen Elizabeth II. She appears on a stamp issued by Guinea in 2001.

Dues are €25 (€12.50 for collectors 25 years old or younger.) Young collectors receive one year of *Der Musikus* free. Contact Peter Lang, Rotkamp 14, 13053 Berlin, Germany. Email: ***motivgruppe.musik@gmx.de*** Website: ***www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html***

## Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

*The Rookery Report*

Ray Cartier reports on his recent trip to the Falkland Islands in the March 2015 issue. Cartier provides a short history of the islands and his excursion to see some of the five species of penguins that reside there. At the time of his visit, the penguins were all molting and not moving around or able to swim.

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***

## Pitcairn Islands Study Group

*The Pitcairn Log*

Steve Pendelton uses two parcels to show that "High Value Stamps DO Get Used on Pitcairn Island!" in the latest issue of *The Pitcairn Log*, April 2015. With only 100 sets of every commemorative issued being sent to the Pitcairn Post Office, it is difficult to get stamps that are postally used from the island. Even first-day covers are not sent from Pitcairn Island and are, instead, serviced and sent from New

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Zealand. The author received two parcels from islanders that used several high value stamps to pay the international postal rate.

Dues are $20 in the United States and Canada, and $25 elsewhere for regular members, $30 or more for contributing members, $18 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Ed Morgan, 25 Saint Julians Ct, Pawleys Island SC 29585-6309.
Email: ***eanddfof@gmail.com***
Website: ***www.pisg.net***

**Plate Number Collectors Club (PNC³)**
*Coil Line*

A "New PNC Number Reported for Black Ink Field of 20¢ Flag" has been reported by PNC³ member Dan Forgues in the May 2015 *Coil Line*. Forgues recently found two examples of the new plate number for sale on the Internet with the "black field of stars" error. Plate number 9 was the only previously known plate number for this error. The new plate number is 6.

Dues are $32-40 in the United States and Canada, $45 elsewhere, $18 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Michael J Conway, 239 Judd Rd, Easton CT 06612-1025.
Email: ***mjcconway@hotmail.com***
Website: ***www.pnc3.org***

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

Steve Pendelton writes about "Poland in the Antarctic – The Beginning" in *Ice Cap News* April 2015. Poland's explorers to the Antarctic were the first to conduct hydrological and meteorological studies in the Southern Seas and were part of the *Belgica* expedition. Poland would later explore the Antarctic waters for krill, launching several expeditions in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Poland built its own base in Antarctica in 1977.

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

## Rail Road Unit, Casey Jones

*The Dispatcher*

Micronesia has issued a set of two souvenir sheets to commemorate what will be the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The souvenir sheet shows the construction workers and the various stages of construction of the railway. The railway consists of several different tracks and trains and spans seven different time zones.

Dues are $15 in the United States, $17 in Canada and Mexico and $20 elsewhere. Junior (21 years old or less, United States only) memberships are $10. Contact Roy W Menninger, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, CJRRU-ATA, PO Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511.

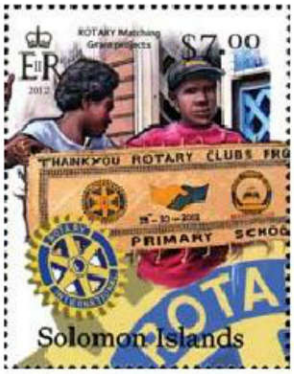
Email: ***roymenn@sbcglobal.net***

Website: ***www.uqp.de/cjr***

## Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

*The ROS Bulletin*

Two new issues have been reported in *The ROS Bulletin*. The two countries issuing stamps with Rotary themes are Croatia and Macao.




The stamp issued by Croatia shows the Rotary Wheel and also the "End Polio Now" campaign. The Macao issue honors Paul Harris and commemorates the 110th anniversary of

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Dues are $20. Contact Gerald FitzSimmons, 105 Calle Ricardo, Victoria TX 77904-1203.
Email: ***glfitz@suddenlink.net***
Website: ***www.rotaryonstamps.org***

**Ships on Stamps Unit**
*Watercraft Philately*

The events and "Aftermath of Deepwater Horizon," the largest accidental marine oil spill in history, are told in *Watercraft Philately* March-April 2015.

After the explosion and fire on April 20, 2010, oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days until its flow could be capped on July 5, 2010. Many vessels responded to assist, find missing workers, put out the fire and also assist with containing the oil. The study unit is currently working on identifying vessels that assisted and will provide the names in a future issue.

Dues are $15 in North America, $22 elsewhere and $9 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***

**Stamps on Stamps Collectors Club**
*SOS Signal*

The *SOS Signal* is available as a PDF delivered by email. Once a year, a printed edition will be sent out by mail. Dues are $15, or $16.50 via PayPal. Contact Michael Merritt, 73 Mountainside Rd, Mendham NJ 07945-2014.
Email: ***mischu@research.att.com***
Website: ***www.stampsonstamps.org***

**Wine on Stamps Study Unit**
*Enophilatelica*

"The Vineyard and Wine Production in Uruguay" is the feature article in the February–May 2015 *Enophilatelica.* The Tannat grape is the

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predominant variety grown in Uruguay that is used in wine production and this variety originated from France. Uruguay issued a stamp in 2002 to celebrate Tannat grapes and the wines of Uruguay.

Dues are $17 in North America, $22 elsewhere and $14 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Paul J Parham, 1768 Aurora Ave N Apt 303, Seattle WA 98109-2758.
Email: ***pauljparham@msn.com***
Website: ***www.wine-on-stamps.org***

**Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of**

*The Circuit*

The ISWSC's series on "dead" countries continues with Alsace-Lorraine in *The Circuit,* May-June 2015. Alsace-Lorraine became an occupied territory when it was annexed by the German Empire in 1872. Germany issued seven different stamps in French currency that were valid for use until the end of WWI.

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

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# Obituary: Lester E. Winick

*By Ray E. Cartier*

Les Winick, a pioneer in Astrophilately – the philatelic history of space exploration – died March 5, 2015, in Galesburg, Ill. He was 87. He was the Executive Director of Ameripex 1986, the hugely successful International Stamp Exhibition held in Chicago. Les was a Life member of the ATA, joining in1962. He received the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist award in 1978.

Les wrote stamp columns for the Sunday *Chicago Tribune*, syndicated in more than 200 newspapers around the country, and was a contributing editor to *Linn's Stamp News*, with his "Insider" column. But Les' first love was Astrophilately and the Space Unit, a unit of the ATA and the APS.

In 1978 he wrote, *"My interest in space philately started with the launch of the first* Sputnik. *I was fascinated with the prospect of man venturing into space and coming back. United States and Russian space stamps and covers vividly told the story of space travel. I had the opportunity in 1957 to get in on the 'ground floor' at the birth of the Space Age and became an enthusiastic philatelist."*

A few months after *Sputnik 1*, Les became Life Member No. 164 of the Space Unit. He was eventually elected its president. During his 12 years in office, he led it to become the most active and the largest space collectors' organization in the world, with a membership exceeding 700. Les was elected a fellow of the British Interplanetary Society and his 343-page illustrated *Soviet Space Catalog* was published in its journal. In it, he wrote:

*"A catalog has always been a place to find information on a stamp when issued, how many printed, name of designer and most important to many people, the dollar value. I feel that the topical or thematic collector needs more than that. He wants information on who appeared on the stamp, and why. Does the cancellation and cachet tie in with the stamp? Is the event on the cover commemorated by the stamp, official postmark or cachet?"*

Together with fellow past Space Unit President, Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon, Les campaigned to publicize and weed out dealers who knowingly sold or created fraudulent items. Together they created the *Study of Suspect Space Covers*.

Chairman of the Astrophilatelic Commission of the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies, Les was also an accredited judge and an astrophilatelic exhibitor, garnering gold medals at both the national and international levels. He was a driving force in a wide area of philately for six decades but especially in Astrophilately.

The Lester Winick Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Astrophilately was created by the Space Unit in his honor. This author is proud to have received the first of these awards in 1998.

Les Winick was married to his wife, Barbara, for 60 years, until she died in 2009. He is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

# Obituary: Hugh W. Johnston

Hugh W. Johnston, named ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 1987, died in early March in Spokane, Wash. He was 95. Hugh had taught chemistry at Whitworth University.

An ATA member since 1971, Hugh listed his topics as American Civil War, Archaeology and Aztecs. He was president of the Old World Archeology Unit and authored several articles for *Topical Time*, including "Cartouces of the Pharaohs" (July-August 1979) and "Revenue for the Pharaohs" (March-April 1996).

At the 1973 Boy Scout National Jamboree in Idaho, Hugh served as a stamp collecting merit badge counselor. He chaired the ATA Topex show in Spokane in 1979 and then co-edited the ATA's show manual. Hugh was ATA Second Vice President 1988-91 and First Vice President 1992-98. An exhibitor since 1966, he won 18 Golds, including a Reserve Grand and a Grand. He was an accredited ATA judge, serving on the Topex panel in 1989. Hugh's wife, Mary Ruth Boppel, died in 2007.

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*ECTP 2015*

# Foreign Thematic Exhibits

*Larry E. Davidson*

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

# ECTP 2015

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) was the thematic arm of London 2015 Europhilex and was held in Essen, Germany, May 7-9, 2015. The exhibition was intended to bring together the best thematic exhibits of the member countries of the European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) in one single show. ECTP had the support of FEPA, which gave patronage to both London 2015 and ECTP. Europhilex also had FIP recognition. The exhibition was comprised of eight different classes (indicated below). In each class, one European Champion was selected from the exhibits shown (the one with the highest score). The second and third places were awarded to the runners-up. The eight champions and the best exhibit in the Champions' comprised the pool of candidates from which the jury voted for the winner of the ECTP Grand Prix. The eight exhibits winning the ECTP theme groups and the best exhibit from the ECTP Champions' class were invited to be displayed at the London branch of Europhilex (May 13-16, Business Design Centre, London). Exhibits having a score of 96 points or higher were eligible for the Grand Prix of the London show.

## ECTP Grand Prix

**Damian Läge** (Germany) *Fascinated in Feathers – How Birds Inspire People*

## Champions' Class

### (open to all champions of ECTP from 2006 to 2013)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Lesley Marley** (Gr. Br.) | *A Whale's Tale* | 1st place - 94, G |
| ***Paolo Guglielminetti** (Italy) | *The Unfinished Network – History of the African Railways* | 2nd - 93, G |
| **Torsten Eckel** (Germany) | *Albrecht Dürer – Entrepreneur of the Renaissance* | 3rd - 90, G |

## Multi-frame Exhibits

### Arts and Culture

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Renaat Nuyts** (Belgium) | *The Silver Screen* | 1st place - 91, G |
| ***Richard Wheeler** (Gr. Br.) | *The Evolution of Puppetry* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Phillipe Ieko** (Belgium) | *Impressionism: A Major Step in Painting* | 3rd - 88, LV |
| **Marcel Sanchez** (France)) | *The Cathedral: Masterpiece of a City* | 84, V |
| **Maurizio Bulegato** (Italy) | *Gothic* | 83, V |
| **Claudio Grande** (Italy) | *The University of Pisa and its History* | 83, V |
| **Alan Watson** (Gr. Br.) | *Heraldry: A Basic Course* | 80, V |

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## History and Organizations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Lawrence Fisher** (Ireland) | *The Jewish Homeland* | 1st place - 92, G |
| **John Dehé** (Netherlands) | *A City Wall of Water* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Jeffrey Groeneveld** (Neth.) | *The Four Dutch Queens, their Duty and Servitude to the Netherlands* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Francisco Piniella** (Spain) | *The Conquest of the Horizon* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Jim Etherington** (Gr. Br.) | *1940: A Desperate Year for Britain* | 89, LV |
| **Thomas Radzuweit** (Germany) | *The Weimar Republic* | 89, LV |
| **Carlo Doria** (Italy) | *The Victory will be Ours* | 87, LV |
| **Josè Antonio Herràiz** (Sp.) | *Monarchy: A Form of State* | 86, LV |
| **Gottfried Steinmann** (Ger.) | *The Warsaw Uprising in 1944 and its Scouts* | 86, LV |
| **Hai Webers** (Netherlands) | *Divided Europe in the Twentieth Century* | 86, LV |
| **Tereza Miralles** (Spain) | *Nursing: To Care, to Teach and to Comfort* | 85, LV |
| **Dr. Balram Maitin** (Ger.) | *U.N.R.R.A. in War and Peace* | 82, V |
| **Jo Toussaint** (Netherlands) | *Here we want to stand still and look at the Brandenburg Gate and the (chariot driver) Victoria upon it (Heinrich Heine)* | 82, V |
| ***Roger Van Laere** (Belgium) | *People of the Sun* | 78, LS |

## Man and Everyday Life

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Raino Heino** (Finland) | *Weather: From Observations to Forecasts* | 1st place - 93, G |
| **Felix Albe** (France) | *Sunday: Ordinary or Great – A Social Phenomenon* | 2nd - 91, G |
| **Krzysztof Trawinski** (Pol.) | *In the Shadow of Trees* | 3rd - 90, G |
| **Wilfried Fuchs** (Germany) | *The Fox and its Varied Relationship to Man* | 88, LV |
| **Jan Cees van Duin** (Neth.) | *Dutch Everyday Life* | 88, LV |
| **Xaver Menze** (Germany) | *Flags and Banners: A Universal Language* | 87, GV |
| **Wolfgang Müller** (Germany) | *Money has an Address – Sparkasse* | 87, LV |
| **Sofia Gronquist** (Sweden) | *Toys and Games* | 85, LV |
| **Petr Fencl** (Czech Rep.) | *Biography of the First Woman in Space* | 83, V |
| **Gabriella De Zanchi** (Italy) | *"Puer Natus Est Nobis" (A Son is Born to Us)* | 80, V |
| **Hanns M. Kennerknecht** (Germ.) | *The Fire Department – Without Them, it's Precarious* | 77, LS |
| **Marco Markac** (Slovenia) | *From Grain to Bread* | 76, LS |

## Sports and Leisure

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Peter Suhadoic** (Slovenia) | *The Conquest of the Unprofitable World* | 1st place - 91, G |
| **Ernst Huhnen** (Germany) | *Running, Jumping, Throwing – 3000 Years of Athletics* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Massimiliano Bruno** (Italy) | *Footballers of the World Play for a Cup* | 3rd - 88, LV |
| **Pasquale Polo** (Italy) | *The Game of Rugby Town* | 87, LV |
| ***Yoram Lubianiker** (Israel) | *Chess: The Game of War* | 85, LV |
| **Knud Rask Overgaard** (Denmark) | *Chess – War on 64 Squares* | 85, LV |
| **Rüdiger Fritz** (Germany) | *The Olympic Comeback* | 84, V |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Daniel Herrmann** (France) | *The Olympic Ideal, the Perpetual Battle of Renewal* | 81, V |
| **Olli Viljanen** (Finland) | *The Worlds Meet* | 81, V |
| **Artur Banas** (Hungary) | *The Most Popular Winter Sport – Alpine Skiing* | 76, LS |
| **Igor Cep** (Slovenia) | *The Olympic Cycle* | 75, LS |

## Transport and Technology

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **John Hayward** (Gr. Br.) | *The Iron Steed (about motorcycles)* | 1st place - 90, G |
| **Dr. Marcel Tschumi** (Swit.) | *Bridges: Marvels of Technology from Four Perspectives* | 2nd - 89, LV |
| **N.F. Helling** (Netherlands) | *The Motorcycle: Nostalgia and Use* | 3rd - 88, LV |
| **Izhak Barak** (Israel) | *The Development of Aviation and Transportation of Mail by Air until 1914* | 87, LV |
| **Paulo Jorge Sousa** (Port.) | *A Look into a Sustainable Future* | 87, LV |
| **E.M.A. Limmen-Stegemeyer** (Neth.) | *Illuminated Guards on the Coast* | 86, LV |
| **Paolo Bettarini** (Italy) | *History of Civil Aircraft until 1940* | 81, V |

## Medicine and Science

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Bengt-Göran Österdahl** (Sweden) | *The Silver Screen* | 1st place - 92, G |
| **Turid Veggeland** (Norway) | *Bitter Pills and Strong Doses* | 2nd - 91, G |
| **Peter Weir** (UK) | *Liquid of Life – Blood from an Ancient Myth to a Modern Medicine* | 3rd - 90, G |
| **Eberhard Schmidt** (Ger.) | *Comets – Asteroids – Meteoroids: Hikers in our Solar System* | 88, LV |
| **Dr. Laszio Boros** (Germany) | *Wonders of the Rays* | 76, LS |

## Animals and Plants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Damian Läge** (Denmark) | *Fascinated by Feathers – How Birds Inspire people* | 1st place - 98, LG |
| ***Linda Lee** (Gr. Br.) | *Flower Magic* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Alain Audejean** (France) | *Natural Silk* | 3rd - 86, LV |
| **Sijtze Douwstra** (Neth.) | *Millions of Years of Nature Encapsulated in Stone* | 81, V |
| **Mark Humfrey** (Gr. Br.) | *The Globalization of Vanilla* | 76, LS |
| ***Roger van Laere** (Belgium) | *Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean* | 75, LS |

## Agriculture and Pets

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Ryszard Prange** (Poland) | *Vine and Wine – The Gifts of Gods, Sun and Soil* | 1st place - 92, G |
| **Pierre Schwertz** (France) | *Fascination of the Bee* | 2nd - 90, G |
| **Wilfried Fuchs** (Germany) | *The Success Story of Wine – From the Vine to the Enjoyment* | 3rd - 85, LV |
| **Sylvia Kälin** (Switzerland) | *I Love Chickens* | 85, LV |
| **Geraldine Forestier** (France) | *The Relationship between Bees and Men* | 83, V |

I would like to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for providing translations into English of several of the exhibit titles of the exhibits shown at ECTP 2015.

*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 28 years. His display/thematic exhibit,* Beavers: Nature's Engineers, *has won several vermeil, gold and "most popular exhibit" awards, including at NTSS 2007 and 2008. His mailing address is 30 Front St., Apt. 307, Stratford, Ontario N5A 7S3, Canada. His email address is* ***lawrencedavidson@gmail.com****.*

# YOUTH IN TOPICS

*MaryAnn Bowman*

## What's your hook?

If you have ever worked in a youth area or at a table, you most likely have encountered a situation where a reluctant child has been "dragged" to a stamp show by a well-meaning parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt or another collector. Your table is heaped high with a pile of stamps of all shapes, sizes, colors, on paper and off, United States and foreign – something for everyone, right? The child shows not even a passing interest in the area. Perhaps you or the other adult try to engage the child in a conversation regarding his or her likes and interests, hoping to find and channel an existing interest into a collecting interest. Still no luck!

That's when you need to bring out your bag of tricks. There are two that I like to use that seem to get a positive response. The first trick is to pull out a small collection of stamps that representing some of the more unusual shapes and materials that serve as real postage. Kids are amazed that there are actually "smelly" stamps - stamps with the scent of flowers, chocolate and even burning wood.

***An early set of novelty stamps is a set of stamps from Bhutan that consists of actual playable phonograph records. Other, similar stamps have been released since.***

Who can resist looking at stamps that are created in a unique shape? Die-cut stamps are plentiful and easy to find through dealers at stamp shows and internet sites. Stamps are not just square, rectangular or triangular in shape. Many topical subjects have lent themselves to being created as a die-cut shaped stamp.

Kids, as well as adults, are always amazed to find out that some stamps "glow-in-the-dark" due to luminescence. Either fluorescent or phosphorescent ink creates that "glow" when exposed to longwave or shortwave black light. Although most show venues are not conducive to easily demonstrating these phenomena, it is not too difficult to create a small box into which a black light can be placed to show the effects of luminescence.

Similarly, there are stamps that are best viewed through 3-D glasses. Easier to obtain are hologram stamps, which were first introduced during the 1980s.

Other stamps intrigue the new collector with add-ons such as the 2004 stamp from Austria with Swarovski crystals and the Singapore purse stamp that is hand-beaded.

Stamps have been printed on different types of material. Think silk, embroidered stamps, wood, cork and different types of foil are among the many types of unusual substrates used.

Also unusual are stamps that are phonograph records. There are also many different motion 3-D lenticular stamps that provoke slightly moving images when viewed from different angles.

To learn more about this fascinating aspect of our hobby, check out this online exhibit by Tom Fortunato, "That's a Postage Stamp?" View it at ***www.frontiernet.net/~stamptmf/exhibits/thatsapostagestamp/.***

Another "hook" that also surprises the uninitiated includes "hidden Images" and secret marks that can be found on some stamps produced in the United States from 1997-2004. Some of these issues contain a hidden image visible only when viewed through a special device called the "Stamp Decoder" (sold by the United States Postal Service).

A website will lead you to explore U.S. stamps that have these hidden images, revealing the image on each. Although the post office no longer creates stamps with hidden images and no longer sells the Stamp Decoder, they can be found through dealers or through an internet search. Once you have your hands on one, use this website to learn which stamps have hidden images and then "wow" the kids as they explore, using the decoder to find the hidden images for themselves. ***www.hiddenimagestamps.info/Home/stamp-images/stamp-images-decoded.***

***This "ghost badger in the sky" is on this Wisconsin stamp is one of the many hidden images that appear on various U.S. stamps.***

The magnifying glass, a true friend to the philatelist, is also a useful "hook" when challenging kids to find microprinting on later U.S. stamps. Looking for secret words and dates offers an interactive philatelic experience. Sometimes young eyes can find the secret words and dates without the aid of a magnifying glass, but there is something about the use of this tool that will cause youth to linger a little longer as they search for the hidden. Now, I know that most collectors have a magnifying glass of some sort in their philatelic toolbox, but when working with youth, a large, probably inexpensive and low powered, magnifying glass with a colorful handle works just as well. Check out some examples of microprinting at: ***www.mysticstamp.com/wordpress/what-is-microprinting-2/.***

In 2013, the United States issued a set of 20 Harry Potter postage stamps. Seven of those stamps have microprinted words that, when found, form a sentence. Harry Potter, being as popular as it is with children, will have them looking at these stamps a while before they discover the secret sentence.

Canada has been using secret marks on its stamps for many years. In 1988, Barth Healey wrote an article that appeared in the *New York Times*. It discussed some of the Canadian issues that have those secret marks and also references two then-current

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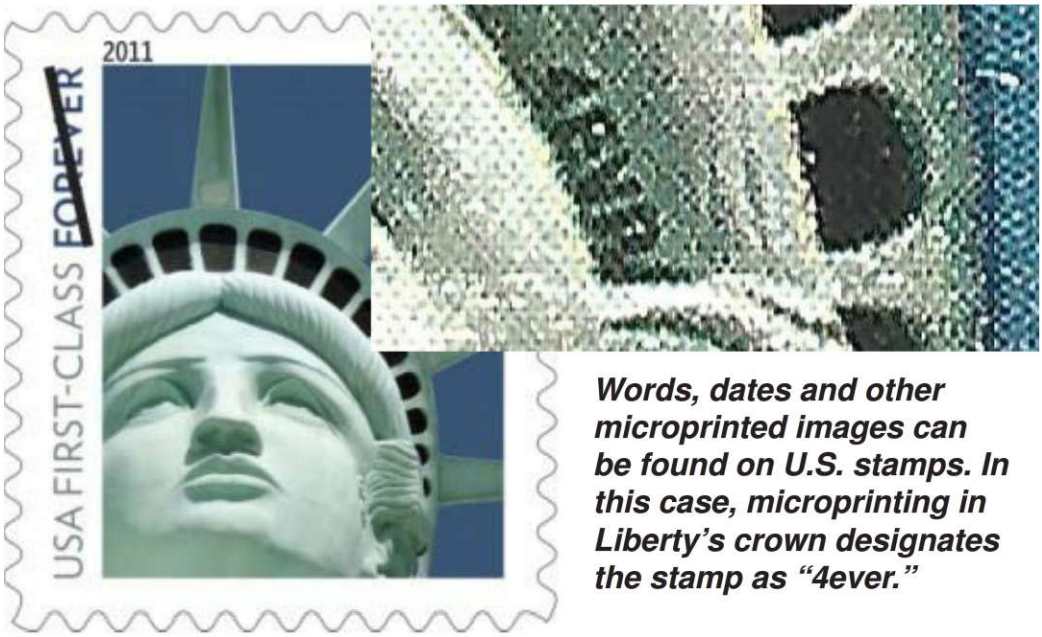
books that were written on the subject. An online version of the article is found at: ***www.nytimes.com/1988/05/15/style/stamps-hidden-issue-dates-challenge-hobbyists.html.***

It might be easier to obtain the Canadian stamps than the U.S. micro-printed stamps. Used condition, if the cancel does not completely obliterate the stamp design, should suffice.

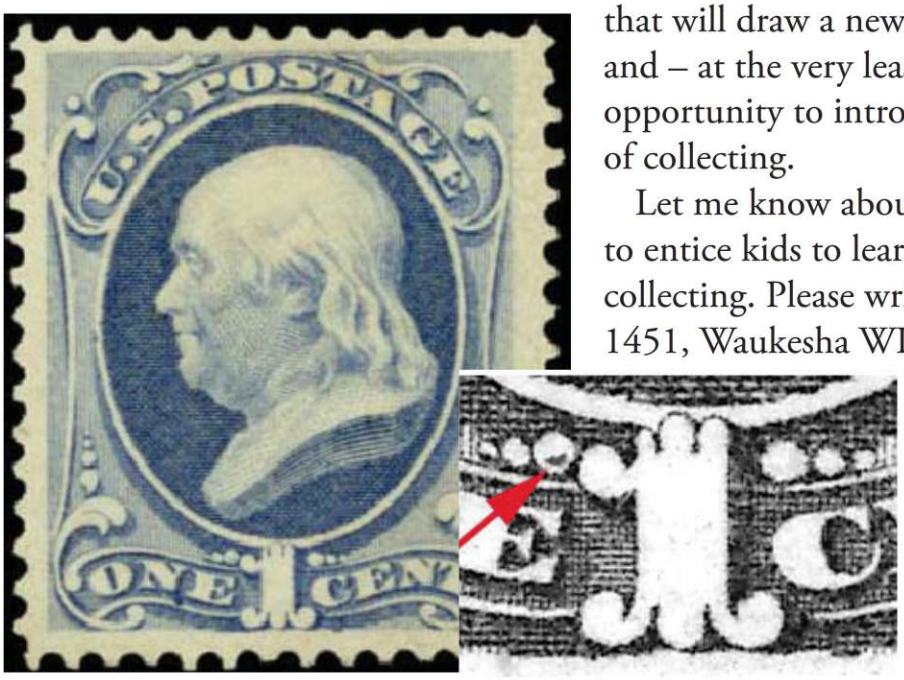
The more advanced collector can search for secret marks on the older 1873 Continental issue and the 1879 American Bank Note issues. A starting reference to these secret marks can be found at: ***www.kenmorestamp.com/1873-1879-secret-marks.*** This is sometimes referred to as flyspeck philately, as one seeks to find and study small details on a stamp.




***Words, dates and other microprinted images can be found on U.S. stamps. In this case, microprinting in Liberty's crown designates the stamp as "4ever."***

All in all, these non-conventional stamp images just might provide the "hook" that will draw a newcomer into the hobby and – at the very least – provide you with an opportunity to introduce and discuss the joys of collecting.

Let me know about what "hooks" you use to entice kids to learn more about stamp collecting. Please write to me at PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187. I will share ideas received in a future article.




***An example of a secret mark on one of the U.S. Large Bank Note issues.***

*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.*

# PUBLICATION REVIEWS

*George B. Griffenhagen*

## Foreign Thematic Periodicals

### Netherlands

*Thema*, Society for Thematic Philatelly, Volume 27, April 2014, Henk van Zuphen, Editor, 16 Elzendweg, 6616 A.W., Bergharen, The Netherlands, ***henk.vanzutphen@inter.nl.net***, 8¼ by 11¾ inches, saddle stitched, 42 pages. These issues of the Dutch-language periodical of the Society for Thematic Philately include Volume 27, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5, 2014.

On Nov. 3, 1951, the Soviets launched *Sputnik 2* into orbit with the only living occupant being a female mongrel dog named Laika, Russian for "Husky." Before humans were sent into space, both the Russian and American scientists used animals to test the effects of long periods of weightlessness on the body. Laika's appearance on postage stamps led some to conclude that this Russian dog was the first canine to travel in space – not so. Sadly, Laika expired after a few hours in space. Six years earlier, the Soviets selected as many as nine dogs to test their R-1 rockets. The first two were named Dezig and Tsygan ("Gypsy") and were launched Aug. 15, 1951. They were successfully recovered by parachute, becoming the first canine suborbital cosmonauts. The other eight dogs used to test the Soviet rockets in 1951-52 were Smelaya (Bold); Malyhka (Little One); Belka (Squirrel); Streka (Little Arrow); Pohelka (Little Bee) and Musska (Little Fly). One dog, Bolik, ran off before the launching so its replacement was called ZIB (a Russian acronym for 'Substitute for Missing Bolik'). All of the dogs were female because it was easier to care for them.

***Laika the Russian space dog was not the first dog in space, but perhaps was the most publicized. She is shown here on a matchbox label, and appears on stamps as well.***

Primates were also used to evaluate the long-term exposure to the effect of weightlessness. In 1951, a monkey named Yorick survived a journey into space on an Aerobee missile, becoming an instant star. Two Philippine monkeys, Patricia and Mike, successfully went into space and returned alive on May 22, 1952. Enos became the first chimp to orbit the earth in 1961 as part of Project Mercury. Gordo, a squirrel monkey, survived a 300-mile journey into space in 1958 in the nose cone of a Jupiter rocket. Sam, another rhesus monkey, was one of the best known monkeys of the space program. His name was an acronym for the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Sam was launched Dec. 4, 1959, housed in a capsule within the *Mercury* spacecraft. It eventually landed in the Atlantic Ocean, where Sam was retrieved several hours later. Miss Sam,

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another rhesus monkey who was Sam's mate, made another flight with the Mercury spacecraft on Jan. 21, 1960, after which the two monkeys retired to the training colony where they had prepared for their two missions in space. The Russians tended to use dogs in these experiments, while the American found monkeys to be useful. These animals performed a service for their respective countries that no human could have performed and the animals often gave their lives in the name of technological advancement, paving the way for humanity's many forays into space.

The April and September 2014 issues of *Thema* provide information on several types of popular birds. The Hoopoe (*Upupa epps*) is a colorful bird found across Afro-Eurasia, notable for its distinctive crown of feathers. The Hoopoe was chosen as the national bird of Israel in May 2008. The Hoopoe is the king of birds in ancient Greek comedy; King Tereus of Thrace was turned into a Hoopoe.

The Raven (*Corvus corax*) differs from his cousin the crow, having a larger and heavier black beak and shaggy black feathers. In Norse mythology, there is a pair of Ravens that flies all over the world to keep the god Odin informed. Edgar Allen Poe cites in the last paragraph of his 1849 poem:

*"And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting*
*On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;*
*And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming,*
*And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;*
*And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor*
*Shall be lifted—nevermore!"*

## Sweden

*Motivsammleren*, Swedish Thematic Society, Vol. 18, No. 35, 2014, Sten-Anders Smeds, editor, 23ASlatattervagvan, Uppsala 75646, Sweden, ***sassmeds@tele2e***, 30 pages.

There are many post offices in the United States with Swedish place names. This is the seventh article in this interesting series. On April 12, 1888, a U.S. postal card (Scott UX1) was sent from Chicago to Lindsborg, McPherson County, Kansas. The city of Lindsborg was established in the spring of 1869 by a group of Swedish immigrants from the Varmland provence of Sweden, led by Pastor Olof Olsson**.** The city's name was Linden Castle. It was then named by three men whose last names referred to trees, Messers Lind, Lindgred and Lindahl. They all held positions within an organization of Swedish farmers in Chicago until they moved to Lindsborg. The first railroad was built through Lindsborg in 1879 and the town was incorporated the same year. They built the Swedish Pavilion at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. Lindsborg has long been noted for the Svensk Hyllningfest to remember its pioneer heritage. It is a biennial celebration held in October of odd-numbered years, since 1941

## Belgium

*Themaphilia,* Belgium Thematic Philatelic Association, Vol. 49, No. 218, 2014, Koenraad Bracke, editor, 83 Baerdonckstraat, B-9230 Belgium, ***kobra22@telenet.be***, 48 pages.

Beer, or more specifically**,** ale, is one of the oldest beverages humans have produced, dating back to ancient Egypt. The oldest evidence we have is a 6,000-year-old Sumerian clay tablet. Cereals containing sugar can undergo spontaneous fermentation and, with wild yeasts in the air, beer

can be easily produced. The use of hops was first proposed in 822 to flavor beer. By the 13th century, the introduction of hops sharply improved both the brewing process and the quality of beer. The use of hops spread to Germany in the 15th century, where unhopped beer was known as ale, while the use of hops made it a beer.

The brewing industry changed from a family-oriented activity to a large-scale export industry. The efficiency of the steam engine in 1765 benefited larger-scale production of beer. The introduction of the thermometer in 1760, and the hydrometer of 1770, transformed the method of brewing beer by measuring its specific gravity. Most important of all was Louis Pasteur's 1857 discovery of yeast's role in fermentation that led brewers to develop methods to prevent the souring of beer by elimination of undesirable microorganisms.

The last information on the history of beer that we will add to this summary of the article featured by the Belgium Thematic Philatelic Association is a list of the oldest and best-known breweries in various parts of the world.

**Achel Brewery, Belgium.** The Dutch monks of 1648 built the Abbey of Saint Benedict in the Belgian municipality of Achel. In 1852 the monks added a brewery. The beer has been regularly sold to the public to support the monastery (except during WWI and WWII).

**Anheuser-Busch Brewery, U.S.A.** Eberhard Anheuser, a prosperous German-born soap manufacturer in St Louis, purchased a failing city brewery with a partner, D'Oench, and subsequently renamed it E. Anheuser


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& Co in 1860. A young German immigrant, Adolphus Busch, moved to St. Louis in the 1850s, where he found work as a brewery salesman after the Civil War. Busch married Eberhard's daughter in 1861. The Anheuser-Busch company developed pasteurization to keep beer fresh, and was the first to use refrigerated railroad cars allowing for mass distribution.

**Budweiser Budvar Brewery, Czechoslovakia.** In the Czech city of Budweis, the Budvar Brewery was established in 1785. Nearly a hundred years later, the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, after studying European brewing methods, introduced Budweiser. It was similar to the beer being produced in the Budvar Brewery. This launched a series of lawsuits. After two dozen years of legal filings, it was decreed on July 29, 2010, that Anheuser-Busch may not register the name Budweiser as an EU trademark for beer. In the European Union only Budejovicky Budvar is allowed to use the trademark Budweiser, except for Great Britain, Ireland and Sweden, where both beers are sold as Budweiser.

**Carling Brewery, London, Ontario.** This brewery traces its story back to 1818, when Thomas Carling left England for the rich farming opportunities in Canada, settling near present day London, Ontario. His brew was so popular among neighbors, he soon gave up farming to pursue brewing as his business. The Carling Brewing Company was established in 1840.

**Cascade Brewery, Australia.** Englishman Peter Degraves founded this brewery in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1832. The oldest continually operating brewery in Australia, Cascade operates its own maltings from local-grown barley.

**Grupo Modelo, Mexico.** This brewery, founded in 1925, is the leader in Mexico in beer production. Its main brand is Corona, a golden color; 4.6% alcohol. In Mexico, this beer is traditionally served with a slice of lime in the neck of the bottle.

**St. James's Gate Brewery, Dublin, Ireland.** A brewery founded by Arthur Guinness in 1759 became the largest in the world in 1886 by producing 1.2 million barrels annually. Because of the Irish Free State's "Control of Manufactures Act" in 1932, Guinness moved its headquarters to London. The main product is Guinness Draught, a dry stout, one of the most successful beer brands worldwide.

**Heineken Brewery, Netherlands.** Twenty-two-year-old Gerard Adriaan Heineken purchased "The Haystack" brewery in Amsterdam in 1864. Ten years later, Heineken Breweries was incorporated and the name "Haystack" was replaced by Heineken. After prohibition was repealed in 1933, Heineken was the first European beer to be shipped to the United States. In 2012, Heineken was still operated by members of the Heineken family and is now sold in 170 countries. In 2015, it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

**Keith's Brewery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.** Scotsman Alexander Keith immigrated to Canada in 1817 to establish the brewery in Halifax. Among his most popular beverages are Keith's India Pale Ale, Keith's Red Amber Ale and Keith's Nova Scotia Lager.

**Molson Brewery, Montreal, Canada.** Eighteen-year-old John Molson left England in 1782 and settled in Montreal, where he went to work for a small brewery to learn the trade. He then returned to Europe to search for modern equipment and supplies currently used to brew the best beer. Upon his return to Montreal,

he offered Montreal farmers free seeds if they would grow them to satisfy the brewer's need for malt. Within six weeks, John Molson had his first brew, which he sold for 5¢ a bottle. By 1816, Molson had formed a partnership with his three sons and was soon providing special brews for all of Canada. A second Molson brewery opened in Toronto in 1955. Two years later, in 1957, the Molson family acquired the Montreal Canadiens hockey team and, in 2005, Molson merged with a U.S. company to form the Molson Coors Brewing Company.

**Pilsner Urquell Brewery, Czechoslovakia.** The Pilsner Brewery was founded in 1839 by local German and Czech citizens, and the first beer was brewed in 1842 by Bavarian Brewer Josef Groll. The brand name was trademarked in 1898 as Urquell to show that it was the original Pilsner beer that was brewed in 1842.

*[Editor's Note: The author (George Griffenhagen) was a member of the U.S. Army 20th Combat Engineers during World War II. Here is his story on the use of Pilsner Beer in the town of Pilsen].*

"On May 7, 1945, I was with the 20th Engineers when they occupied Pilsen. World War II officially ended that night so on the morning of May 8th, the Engineers broke into the large Pilsner storage facility in Pilsen and removed thousands of bottles of beer. Another segment of the 20th filled its dump trucks with chopped ice. The ice was dumped into piles in the town square; bottles of beer were stuck into the ice like pins in a pincushion. In this way, the 20th Engineers were able to celebrate the end of WWII with the citizens of Pilsen."

**Sinebrychoff Brewery, Helsinki, Finland.** The Sinebychoff Brewery was established in 1819 in Helsinki, Finland, by Russian merchant Nikola Sinebrychoff, whose tomb stands at the original entrance of the Helsinki Brewery. It subsequently moved to Kerava where the company brews Koff brand lager and porter. It is now part of Carlsberg Breweries.

**Samuel Smith Brewery, Tadcaster, England.** The Old Brewery at Tadcaster, Yorkshire, was established in 1758. Samuel Smith, a butcher and cattle dealer from Leeds, funded his son John to buy it in 1847. It was renamed John Smith's Brewery until it passed on to his nephew Samuel. Thereafter, it was known as the Samuel Smith Brewery. The Smiths brewed a large number of different beers including Oatmeal Stout and Organic Cherry Fruit Beer.

**Smithwick's Brewery, Kilkenney, Ireland.** Smithwick's Brewery was founded in 1710 in St. Francis Abbey, Kilkenny, Ireland. In 1800, export sales began to fall and, by 1900, output was at an all-time low. By January 1980, Smithwick exported to France and in 1983 the company launched Smithwick Pale Ale, made with pale ale malt, Smithwick yeast and Amerilo hops.

**Stiegl Brewery, Salzburg, Austria.** Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, but in the very same year the Stiegl Brewery was established in Salzburg, Austria. The most famous of its brews are Hefeweizen and light lager. The Stiegl Brewery also offers visitors a guided tour of a museum of the history of beer and a 35,000-square-meter beer hall to test the final product.

**Svytury Brewery, Klaipeda, Lithuania.** The Svytury Brewery was established in 1784, but still uses old German technology with beer being brewed in vertical and horizontal

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containers that provide unique flavor and aroma. Svytury is being exported to more than 20 countries, including Belarus, Cyprus, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria and the United States.

**Warka Brewery, Warsaw, Poland.** In 1478 the Mazovian Prince reserved to Warka the exclusive right to provide beer to his court. The current Warka plant opened in 1975 under the Warsaw Brewing Industries. The Warka Brewery was modernized in 2004 and now has a production capacity of between 299 and 350 million litres annually. The majority of Warka is owned by the Dutch Heineken Group.

**Weihenstephan Brewer, Munich, Germany.** The Weihenstephan Brewery is perched atop Nachrberg Hill in Freising, a small town just north of Munich. The brewery was originally a Benedictine monastery founded in 740 A.D. by a monk named Korbinian. It wasn't until 1040 A.D. that Abbott Arnold secured the brewing license. Despite four fires, three plagues and a major earthquake, the company has been brewing beer nonstop for nearly a thousand years.

**Yuengling Brewery, Pottsville, Pennsylvania.** German brewer David Gottlob Huengling immigrated to the United States in 1823 from Adlington, a suburb of Stuttgart, Germany. He anglicized his surname and established the Eagle Brewery in 1829 in Pottsville, Pa. In 1873, the name of the Brewery was changed to D.G. Yuengling and Son. During prohibition, the Yuengling family survived by producing "near beers" (beverages with a 0.50% alcohol content). After prohibition, the brewery reintroduced lager that became the flagship of Yuengling. An increasing need for production led the Yuengling family to purchase an operating brewery in Tampa, Fla, in 1999. In 2000, the company added a third brewery near the Pottsville facility. Among the new products being offered for sale is "Pottsville Porter," which is bottom-fermented, something that few mainstream breweries can produce.

## Great Britain

*Orbit*, Astro Space Stamp Society, No. 101-104. January, June and October, 2014, Jeff Dugdale, editor, Glebe Cottage, Speymouth, Mosstodloch, Moray, Scotland, IV32 7LE, ***jefforbited@aol.com***, 40 pages.

Editor Jeff Dugdale continues to update the Classical Constellations in the January, June and October 2014 issues of the Astro Space Stamp Society journal. Such an update reveals that changes are being made. No longer can we consider that there are only 12 Zodiac Constellations. Jeff prominently adds to one of the monographs the following bold-face announcement:

**Constellations of the Zodiac: the 13th Zodiac - Ophiuchus.** The official announcement reads: "Ophiuchus has sometimes been used as a thirteenth sign in addition to the twelve signs of the Zodiac because the eponymous constellation Ophiuchus as defined by the 1930 International Astronomical Union constellation boundaries is situated behind the sun between December 1 to December 18. We are also reminded that in 1929 the IAU approved the adding of all other constellations to the list of the 88 modern constellations."

**Mythology of the Constellations**

**Aquarius** (The Water Carrier). Various myths link him with Hapi (god of the Nile) or Ganymede, the cup bearer to the Greek gods.

**Aries** (The Ram). Its fleece was the Golden Fleece sought by Jason

and the Argonauts. It was originally a magic flying animal created by the god Hermes.

**Cancer** (The Crab). The crab was sent by the goddess Hera to attack Hercules as he fought the Water Snake. Crushed by Hercules, the crab was rewarded by Hera.

**Capricornus** (The Sea Goat). The goat-fish, sea-goat or horned goat has various myths and is sometimes associated with the Greek god Pan.

**Gemini** (The Twins). Castor and Pollux were twins, one mortal and one immortal. When Castor (mortal twin) was killed, his brother Pollux was so grief-stricken that he begged Zeus to let him share his immortality with his brother. Zeus allowed this by placing them both in the sky.

**Leo** (The Lion). The Lion was Nemea, who was killed by Hercules, the first of his 12 labors.

**Libra** (The Scales). This constellation was part of Virgo, providing the scales of justice held by the goddess of justice.

**Pisces** (The Fishes). Inspired by the story of Venus and Cupid, who escaped from a giant called Typhon by jumping into the River Euphrates. They disguised themselves as fishes.

**Sagittarius** (The Archer). This constellation is depicted as a centaur shooting an arrow and is not to be confused with Centurious-Sagittarius, or Nergel, the archer god.

**Scorpius** (The Scopion). The Scorpion killed Orion (the Hunter). As a result, the scorpion rises in the east and Orion sets in the west.

**Taurus** (The Bull). The great god Zeus disguised himself as a beautiful bull to seduce Europa, daughter of King Agenor of Phoenicia.

**Virgo** (The Virgin). Myths link this constellation with the goddesses of justice and many other females including Persephone. She is normally depicted as holding an ear of wheat.

*Readers of* Topical Time *who know of other 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 via email:* ***gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com****, for mention in future "Publication Reviews" columns.*

---

The last time Publication Reviews was published in *Topical Time* was the March-April 2014 issue. For the past year, your author has been recovering from a knee replacement operation. Fortunately, the editors of the more than a dozen different foreign-language thematic journals have continued to send me each issue of their periodicals. This permits me to review each one that has been published for the past year. This takes a great deal of time, since they are published in Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and other languages. I will retain all of these foreign-language journals for several years so that I can loan specific issues as requested by ATA members. Just tell me what you need. Going forward, I plan to submit my Publication Reviews column on a quarterly basis.

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

# Membership

## New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with similar collecting interests, are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited without prior written consent of the Executive Director of the Association. **This list includes new membership numbers 57234-57268 and recent reinstatements.** This reflects membership through May 31, 2015.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 57234 | AMORIM, Eduardo | **Ships, Explorers, Judaica, Birds** |
| 57255 | BECKMAN, Norman | **Butterflies, Aquarium Fish** |
| 57241 | BEEBE, Annette, ***bayougumbo1962@gmail.com***<br>562 Coolair Dr, Dallas, TX 75218-2192 | **Women Artists, Mathematics, Artifacts, Food, Black Eyed Susans** |
| 57239 | BINDOFER, Joseph, ***binjl@yahoo.com*** | **Buzzards, Disney Characters, Trout** |
| 57256 | BROWN, Jeffrey, ***retail@unclejeff.us*** | |
| 57248 | CONSTANTOURAKIS, George, ***geo.constant@sympatico.ca*** | **Sculpture, Polar, Exploration, Birds** |
| 57253 | DeMARTINI, Ron | |
| 57237 | DeROSE-DROUBAY, Linda ***ldd@yahoo.com*** | |
| 57242 | DIXON, Dr. Michael, ***mdd10@att.net*** | |
| 57243 | DOWIE, Gerald, ***gcdowie@gmail.com*** | **American Indians, African Americans, Space, Muhammad Ali, Boxing** |
| 57250 | FITZGERALD, Enarra, ***enarra@comcast.net***<br>3737 SW 87th Ave Apt 28, Portland OR 97225-2864 | **Science Fiction** |
| 57246 | FONSECA, Dr. Sandra, ***sfons63@hotmail.com***<br>2046 Haig Dr, Ottawa, ON K1G 2K7 Canada | **Education, UNESCO, Plants** |
| 57236 | GILLETTE, Shannon, ***gillettes@live.com***<br>6704 County Road 435, Saint Jo TX 76265-2303 | **Sports, Female Aviators, Butterflies, Authors, US States, Flags, Presidents, Texas** |
| 56682 | GOFF, William, ***williamgoff@citlink.net***<br>9 Greentree Rd, Tivoli NY 12583-5405 | **Trains, Anthropology, Native Cultures, Japan, Australia** |
| 54707 | GOLDBERG, Larry | |
| 57251 | GRANT, Andrew, ***andrewpgrant03@aol.com*** | **Lighthouses, First Ladies, US Presidents, Birds, Pharmaceuticals, US States** |
| 57245 | HARDIN, Dan | |
| 56355 | KELLEY, Cathy | |
| 57258 | KOOZER, Mark | |
| 57235 | LEVESQUE, Joel, ***joel@joellevesque.com***<br>561 Gondola Point Rd, Quispamsis, NB E2E 1H7 Canada | **Aviation/Aviators** |
| 57261 | LUNSFORD, William, ***billun@comcast.net*** | **World War II, Art, Photography, New York City** |
| 57246 | MacDONALD, Kate | |
| 57252 | MACKEY, Jim, ***k3fn@aol.com***<br>PO Box 270569, West Hartford CT 06127-0569 | **Amateur Radio, Radio, Communications** |
| 31115 | McCULLAGH, Scott, ***scottmccullagh@yahoo.com***<br>592 Cypress Ave, Batavia IL 60510-1131 | **Music, Musicians, Musical Instruments, Abraham Lincoln** |

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| 57238 | MEEKS, Dana, ***dana.meeks@gmail.com*** | **Medicinal Plants, Inventors, Agriculture/Horticulture, Food & Beverages** |
| 57257 | MORELLI, David | |
| 56070 | NASSIF, Sherman, ***sherm63@sbcglobal.net***<br>6212 Stratford Glen Ct, Saint Louis, MO 63129-6308 | **Space, Astronomy, X-Planes, Science Fiction, Manned Stratosphere Balloons** |
| 57259 | OLDFIELD, K. David | |
| 52620 | PARKER, Ronald | |
| 57260 | PHIPPS, Timothy | |
| 52265 | PRUTHEE, Sameer | |
| 57240 | RUST, Margaret, ***jenufa@sonic.net*** | **Ballet, Opera** |
| 57244 | TATA, Venkat, ***vstata@gmail.com*** | **Paintings, World Heritage Monuments, Rhinos, Crocodiles, Penguins, Audubon, Vatican** |

## Unknown Address

20473 ALGARVA, Wayne (Tex.)

## Change of Address

43841 THOMAS, Dalene, 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood CO 80232-6778

## Deceased Members

24676 JOHNSTON, Hugh W (Wash.)
56659 WHITE, Martin "Marty" (Mo.)

# ATA Membership Recruiters 2015

The following ATA members have recruited new members during the first five months of 2015. Their account in the ATA Bucks Bank will receive $5 for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.

## New Members

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Davidson, Larry | 13 | Foo, Austin | 1 |
| Hamman, Dawn | 4 | Knapp, Eric | 1 |
| Fisk, Allan | 3 | Pettway, Jim | 1 |
| Bruce, Sue | 2 | Skvara, Fred | 1 |
| Congrove, Jack | 2 | Stout, Jean | 1 |
| Winnegrad, Mark | 2 | Trier, Orlie | 1 |
| Edholm, Keith | 1 | Youngblood, Wayne | 1 |

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TO A GOOD HOME. 25+ years of *Topical Time* back issues. My age, poor eyesight and downsizing forced this decision. It's either a good home or the city dump. HELP! All yours for the postage cost of three UPS large shipping boxes. ***geemompat@hotmail.com***
(28/392)

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

FREE NEW 120-PAGE WORLDWIDE PRICE LIST. Find out why most collectors place orders when they receive our lists. Martin Winter, 9026 E Nacoma Dr, Chandler AZ 85248 (27/397)

COVER STOCK. Envelopes: IP accent opaque, smooth white 80# text, no gum on flap. 6 ¾" commercial, 7 ¾" monarch, 10" business size. Pricing: ***k3fn@aol.com*** Website:***airmailpostage.com***
(25/397)

## Editorial Content

For editorial content of *Topical Time*, write to Wayne L. Youngblood, editor. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ATA, its officers or staff. Neither the ATA nor its officers assume responsibility for individual dealings with or between members.

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

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## Membership Information

For ATA membership information, change of address, ATA publication orders, back issues of *Topical Time* or ATA handbooks, contact the ATA Office. All copies of the *2011-13 ATA Membership Directory* have been sold; the *2015-17 ATA Membership Directory* should be published later this year and is available from the ATA Office.

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

ATA website: ***www.americantopicalassn.org***.

## ATA Membership Dues

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

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

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

## Advertising

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

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

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# Philatelic Journals

(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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

*Canadian Stamp News*:
P.O. Box 28103, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2N 7P8, Canada
***bret@trajan.ca***; ***www.canadianstampnews.ca***

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

*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*: Hugh Jeffries, editor, 5 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SH, United Kingdom
***www.stanleygibbons.com***

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

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

*Linn's Stamp News*: Chad Snee, editor, P.O. Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
***csnee@amosmedia.com***; ***www.linns.com***

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

*Philatelic Exporter*: Graham Phillips, editor, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 35H, United Kingdom
***exportereditor@aol.com***
***www.stanleygibbons.com***

*Philatelic Exhibitor:* Randy L. Neil, editor, P.O. Box 8512, Shawnee Mission KS 66208-8512 USA
***randyneil1941@gmail.com***

*philatelica.ro:* Dan Dobrescu, editor, Sos. Stefan CelMare Nr 4, B114 Sc B, Ap47, Bucuresti 63, 011737
Romania. ***computerstamps@yahoo.ro.***
***www.philatelica.ro***

*Philatelie Quebec*: Guy Desrosiers, editor, 275 Rue Bryant, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1J 3E6, Canada.
***editions_ddr@videotron.ca***
***www.philateliequebec.com***

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

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

*Stamp Insider*: Albert W. Starkweather, editor, 5520 Gunn Hwy. #1406, Tampa FL 33624-2847 USA.
***astarkweather@nystampclubs.org***
***www.stampinsider.org***

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

*Stamp Magazine:* Guy Thomas 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***

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

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

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# Show Calendar

**July 17-19, 2015, Minnesota.** Minnesota Stamp Expo, sponsored by Twin City Philatelic Society and various local clubs, Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive N., Minneapolis, Minn.
Contact: Randy A. Smith (952) 431-3273
**Email:** ***rasmary4@frontiernet.net***
**Website:** ***www.stampsminnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm***

**Sept. 25-26, 2015 Missouri.** Kansas City Stamp Show, sponsored by National Stamp Dealers Association. Gladstone Community Center, 6901 North Holmes St. Gladstone Mo. Hours 10-5 Friday and Saturday. Free parking and admission and free appraisals by 17 nationwide dealers.
Contact: Dale E. Smith (816) 734-4536
**Email:** ***thedale.smith48@gmail.com***

**Oct. 2-4, 2015, Indiana.** Indypex 2015, Hamilton County Fairground & Exhibition Center, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, IN. Hours: 10-5 on Friday and Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday. Indypex is a national-level stamp show hosting the ATA, Machine Cancel Society/Post Mark Collectors Club and the Indiana Postal History Society. A total of 34 dealers are confirmed. Contact: Chuck Slagle.
**Email:** ***chuckslagle@prodigy.net***
**Website:** ***www.indianastampclub.org***

**Oct. 17-18, 2015, New Mexico.** NewMexPex 2015, sponsored by the Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Rio Rancho Stamp Club and the Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE in Rio Rancho, N.M. Tenth annual stamp show, free admission and parking, 9-5, and 9-4, respectively. Features about 36 frames, 10 dealers, possible USPS substation show cancel.
Contact: Paul Morton (505) 867-9664
**Email:** ***p.morton@att.net***

**Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2015, Michigan.** AAPEX 2015, sponsored by Ann Arbor Stamp Club, Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, Mich. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Features 28 dealers, exhibits, youth table, cachetmakers Saturday, Peninsular State Philatelic Society meeting. Free parking and admission.
Contact: Harry & Dottie Winter (734) 761-5859
**Email:** ***harwin@umich.edu***
**Website:** ***www.annarborstampclub.org***

To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, 4615 Lindell Blvd Apt 1102, Saint Louis MO 63108-3720, or by email to: ***wystamps@gmail.com.*** Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show.

## Index to Advertisers


| Page | Advertiser |
|---|---|
| 87 | American First Day Cover Society |
| 63 | American Philatelic Society |
| 48 | Americover Exhibition |
| 57 | Bentley1Stamp |
| 81 | Champion Stamp Shop |
| 29 | County Stamp Center |
| 66 | Eastern Shore Stamp Co. |
| 69 | France International |
| 02 | Gartner, Christof |
| 09 | Gitner, Henry |
| 40 | Geerlings Design |
| 66 | Gray, R.W. |
| 52 | McConnell, E. Joseph Inc. |
| 72 | *Mekeel's & Stamps* |
| 61 | Miner, R.D. Philatelics |
| 64 | NY 2016 |
| 49 | Northwest Philatelic Library |
| 65 | Penguins on Stamps Study Unit |
| 60 | Philatelic Database |
| 50 | Rasdale Stamp Co. |
| 92 | Regency-Superior Auctions |
| 56 | Rising Sun Stamps |
| 30 | Seapex 2015 |
| 14 | Stamp Connections |
| 65 | Stamp Insider |
| 59 | *Stamp News*, Australia |
| 45 | Stamp Smith |
| 70 | Stamp Vault |
| 05 | Universal Philatelic Auctions |
| 68 | Virgin Stamps |
| 62 | Westminster Stamp Gallery |
| 67 | Wydly.com |

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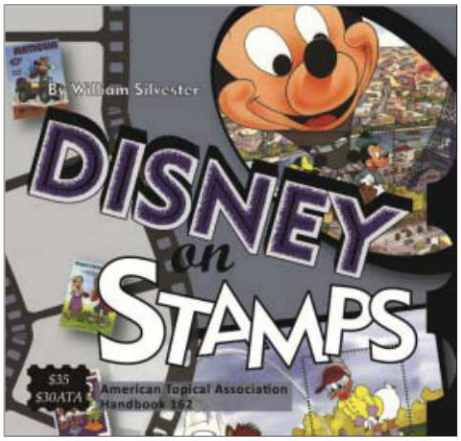


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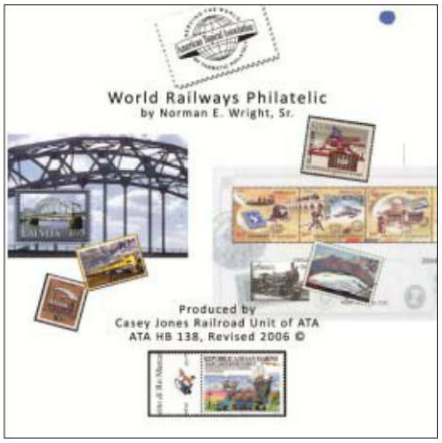
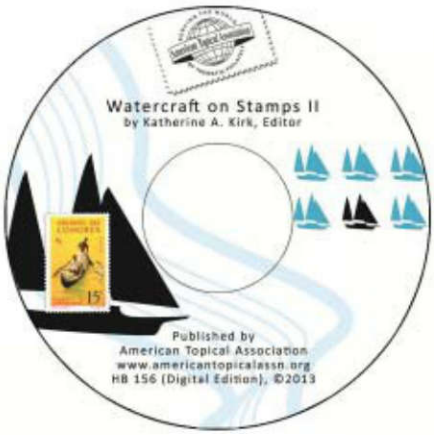



**$20.** (.pdf on CD, not DVD). Lists railways stamps to ~2004. *The Dispatcher* from the Casey Jones Rail Road Unit has later listings of stamps.

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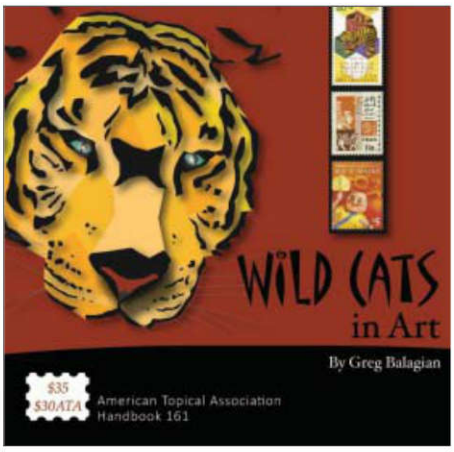


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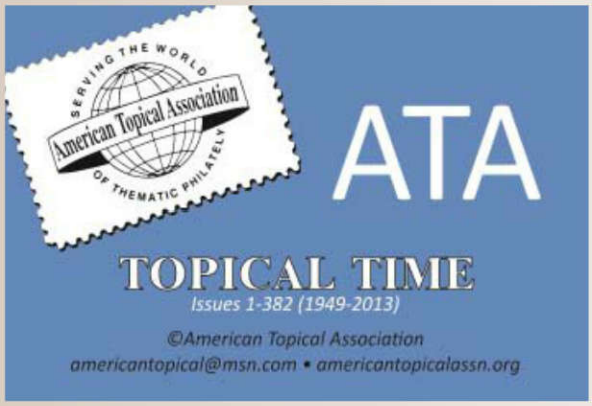


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☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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☐ Topical interests ☐ Email address ☐ Mailing address

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*Signature* _____

# TOPICAL TIME

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**DATED MAGAZINE**

POSTMASTER:
Send New Address to:
**American Topical Association**
**P.O. Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008**

***Web Page: www.americantopicalassn.org***

**ATA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please renew my ATA membership.

Name:

Member # (on address label):

US Print & Electronic:
__1 yr $30 __2 yrs $55
__3 yrs $80 __5 yrs $125

Electronic: __1 yr $25 __2 yrs $45
__3 yrs $65 __5 yrs $100

International Print & Electronic:
__1 yr $40 __2 yrs $75
__3 yrs $110 __5 yrs $175

**$_____ Donation to ATA's BTTF (Boldly to the Future)**

$_____ See attached order for Checklists, Handbooks, Multimedia

□ **Enclosed is my check for $_____**

If paying electronically, please add a small bonus to help cover charges.

□ I am making payment by PayPal to *americantopical@msn.com* (no need to return this form)

□ Charge $_____ to my □Visa □MasterCard □Discover Card

Card #_____ _____ _____ _____

Expires ____/____ CVC __ __ __

Signature:

# NTSS 2015 Registration – Portland (Clackamas), Oregon – July 31-August 2, 2015

Preregister by **July 24** to receive special nametag and preregistration materials upon arrival at the show hotel.
**Admission is $5 for all three days, which includes free parking for the duration of the show.**
Completion of this form is required for entrance to the show. Information will not be released to other entities.
Mail form to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008. Or attach copy to an email, ***americantopical@msn.com***

Last Name: First Name: ATA Member? Y/N

# Adults: # Children: List names of additional attendees:

Address: City/State/Zip:

Email address:

If a stamp collector, please list collecting interests:_

I plan to travel to NTSS by: ☐car ☐train ☐plane ☐bus Locally I plan to use ☐hotel shuttle ☐my own transport

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

☐ Philatelic publication - Please give publication name: ☐ Flyer picked up at a stamp show. – Show name:

☐ Postcard from Dealer ☐ Media (radio, TV, internet, Facebook, etc.) – Kind of media:

☐ ATA Website ☐ ATA Society table at a stamp show; show name:_

On what days do you plan to attend this show? ☐ Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun.

Where are you staying while attending this show?

☐ Home ☐ Friends ☐ Monarch Hotel & Convention Center ☐ Another Hotel ☐ Other:

**Please volunteer to help with NTSS! Contact Jean Stout, 656 April Sound, Pearl, MS 39208-6603, *jcstout61@bellsouth.net***

## Registration and Event Tickets

Event reservations after July 1 accepted only if space is available. Prices below are for event registrations after that date.
If registering before July 1, take $5 off of each numbered event.

| Event | Function | Number | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Show Regstration** (3 days, free parking) | ____ x **$5.** (youth <18 yrs, dealers and exhibitors free) | |
| #1 | **Half-day Thursday Tour**<br>Thursday, July 30, depart hotel 11:00 am<br>(limit of 31 tickets available) | ____ x **$40.** Visit to McMenamins Kennedy School, lunch on your own (suggestion: the school's Courtyard Restaurant), Northwest Philatelic Library, Pittock Mansion, Powell's City of Books. | |
| #2 | **President's Reception** (Old Spaghetti Factory)<br>Friday, July 31, 5:30-7:30 pm<br>(limit of 60 tickets available) | ____ x **$25.** Choice of three Old Spaghetti Factory favorite entreés, salads, dessert, beverages. Cash bar. | |
| #3 | **Awards Banquet**<br>(Clackamas/Columbia Rooms, Monarch Hotel)<br>Saturday, Aug 1, 7:00 pm | ____ x **$55.** Buffet: Filet of Salmon/Lemon Butter, Chicken Monarch, Slow-roasted Prime Rib, Yukon Gold Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed Greens/Candied Walnuts, Caesar Salad, Desserts | |
| #4 | **Full-day Monday Tour**<br>Monday, August 3, depart hotel 9:00 am<br>(limit of 45 tickets available) | Motorcoach tour to Mount Saint Helens Visitor Center, Forest Living Center and Johnston Ridge Observatory.<br>____ x **$55.** Chef salad picnic lunch included.<br>____ x **$55.** Sandwich picnic lunch included. | |
| | **Program Contribution** | *Donations are tax deductible; each donor of $10 or more will be listed in the NTSS 2015 show program.* | |
| | **TOTAL Enclosed** | *Tickets will be included in show preregistration packet* | |

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

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**:

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

___ Check payable to ATA (preferable--saves all fees)

___ Sending payment by PayPal to ***americantopical@msn.com*** (best way to pay electronically)

___ MasterCard, Visa, or Discover; please complete form below.

Card Number: _____ /_____ /_____ /_____ Expiration date: ____ /____ CVC (security) code: __ __ __

Name on card: Signature: