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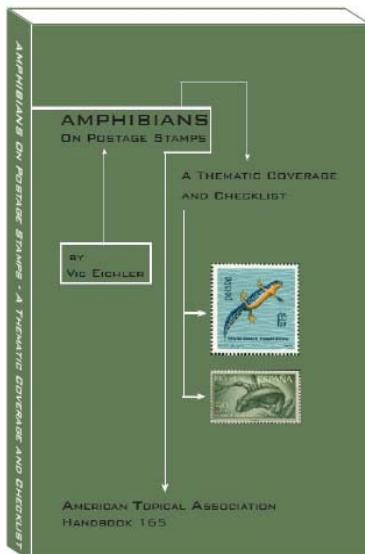
Amphibians On Postage Stamps, published by the ATA, authored by Vic Eichler, is a colorful, contemporary compilation of the amphibians that have been recognized on postage stamps of multiple countries throughout the world.

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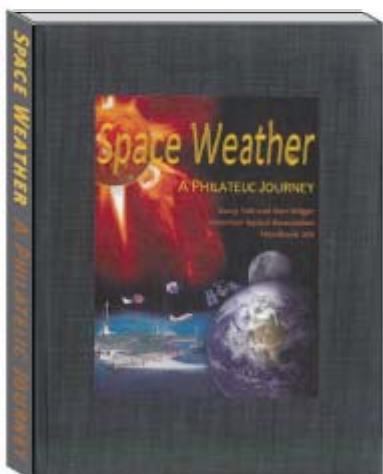
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AMPHIBIANS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Space Weather A PHILATELIC JOURNEY



Space Weather, a beautifully written publication by the ATA, authored by Garry Toth and Don Hillger, discusses in detail the relationship between solar events and their impact on space and earth through text, postage stamp and cover images, and documented with a check list of stamps and covers. The science of space weather analyzes the environmental conditions that occur in the various layers of the atmosphere; the understanding of those interactions and their impacts on people and technology.

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Digital (166-E): \$35 (\$30 for ATA Members) + \$1.50 for shipping within the US/Canada, \$3.50 to other countries

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2018 ATA Officers and Board of Directors

President

Dale E. Smith (to 2019)
 1212 NE 96th Ter
 Kansas City MO 64155-2149
 Telephone: (816) 734-4536
 Email: thedale.smith48@gmail.com

First Vice President

Dawn Hamman (to 2019)
 21042 Anclove Ct
 Venice FL 34293-3051
 Telephone: (941) 485-1193
 Email: dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com

Second Vice President

Jack Congrove (to 2019)
 PO Box 33092
 Fort Lewis WA 98433-0092
 Telephone: (253) 564-0969
 Email: [jacksongrove@comcast.net](mailto:jackcongrove@comcast.net)

Secretary

Beth C. Collins (to 2020)
 344 W Main St
 Cottonwood MN 56229-2122
 Telephone: (507) 828-9215
 Email: bc309167@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dennis M. Dengel (to 2018)
 17 Peckham Rd
 Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018
 Telephone: (845) 452-2126
 Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net

Board of Directors

Jack André Denys, Past President (to 2018)
 3 East Cadillac Dr
 Somerville NJ 08876-1701
 Telephone: (908) 725-6010
 Email: jdenys@verizon.net

Christopher E. (Chris) Dahle (to 2020)
 1401 Limmar Dr NE
 Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724
 (319) 364-4999
 Email: cdahle8@gmail.com

Igor Grigorian (to 2020)
 2764 Delevan Dr
 Los Angeles CA 90065-5134
 Telephone: (323) 864-3327
 Email: armssr@gmail.com

Jeffrey (Jeff) Hayward (to 2019)
 PO Box 60180
 Staten Island NY 10306-1080
 Telephone: (718) 701-2447
 Email: jeffhaywardata@gmail.com

Kim E. Kellermann (to 2020)
 35 Chestnut Ave
 Westmont, IL 60559-1127
 Telephone: (630) 794-9900
 Email: kim@rasdalestamps.com

Richard (Dick) Roman (to 2018)
 Saint Louis MO
 Telephone: (314) 302-1440
 Email: dick.roman@sbcglobal.net

Laurie J. Ryan (to 2020)
 4134 Wenbrook Dr
 Cincinnati OH 45241-2963
 Telephone: (513) 706-3095
 Email: doxiemom7@gmail.com

Appointed Officials

Executive Director

Vera Felts: See contact information below

Editor, *Topical Time*

Wayne L. Youngblood
 705 Forest Glen Cir
 Prairie du Sac WI 53578-1077
 Telephone: (608) 370-9098
 Email: wystamps@gmail.com

Director Emeritus

Catherine Fechner
 411 Poplar Ave
 Maywood NJ 07607-1244
 Telephone: (201) 845-8769

ATA Founder

Jerome D. Husak (1932-2018)

**ATA Office, PO Box 8
 Carterville IL 62918-0008 USA
 Telephone: (618) 985-5100**

**Email: americantopical@msn.com
www.americantopicalassn.org
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DALE'S DIALOGUE

Dale Smith, ATA President

New Ways to Collect Stamps

“Stamp collecting is dying. Stamp Collecting is dying!” I hear those words over and over too often these days. In his report to the general membership meeting at AmeriStamp Expo in Birmingham, Ala., American Philatelic Society Executive Director Scott English addressed it with this statement: “The hobby is not dying, organized philately is,” he told the members. I would like to add “Stamp collecting is not dying. Instead, the way people collect has changed.” Let me explain.

We attended four shows in five weeks during February and March this year.



Those shows were busy with collectors buying stamps; but some were not collectors. They had ideas of different uses for the stamps they purchased. We formal collectors may not approve, but here are some of the uses of postage stamps that I have seen over the last two years.

One customer looked for more than two hours for horses on worldwide stamps. She was very particular in the few but beautiful stamps she selected. No, she was not going to put them in an album. This lady was a very accomplished artist. For years she has bought horses

on stamps to paint beautiful pictures exactly like the stamp. I have seen her impressive work. She sells these paintings to horse enthusiasts and gets very good money for them.

There was another lady who liked mushrooms on stamps and bought all she could, used or mint. She focused on souvenir sheets. It turns out that she frames the souvenir sheets and has decorated her kitchen with frame after frame of these stamps. She places the singles and sets on outgoing mail and packages. Recipients immediately know the letter is from the “mushroom lady.”

Another lady collected stamps of all holidays and seasons. As Easter, Christmas, Independence Day, Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day and other holidays arrive, she hangs the framed stamps throughout the house. She changes the pictures as each season/holiday approaches. She constantly searches for new issues to add to her collection. She told us that she changes stamp pictures 16 times a year. What a different use of topical stamps!



I have seen used stamps placed on lampshades, waste baskets and into empty glass bowls of lamp bases that you could fill with any collectible. I've seen clasped wooden cigar and other boxes decoupage with many used stamps and philatelic material on the surface. These make great treasure chests for young children – a great gift that just might get them interested in stamp collecting in the future. I've even seen mailboxes covered in stamps.



Many people buy the 34¢ and 37¢ birthday stamps and use them to denote a birthday on a card they are sending. Or they use other denominations to total 50¢ and create an interesting card that everyone will notice as it goes through the mail system. The recipient immediately knows what the card is about.

I visited the wine cellar of a fellow stamp collector recently. I was amazed at the massive number of framed wine revenue stamps in Vario stock sheets throughout the cellar. What a phenomenal idea for a friend's wine cellar! I have never seen so many denominations of these stamps so attractively displayed. We have a wine cellar and I am going to do the same thing – inexpensive, attractive, unique and easily obtained. What a wonderful gift to our friends who have similar cellars.

But wait, there is more. I love sending Christmas cards to our friends. We send about 60 a year. On each envelope I use Christmas stamps of smaller denominations in groups to make up the 50¢ rate. Sometimes I put four to six stamps on one envelope. That is not all. I love to find older Christmas seals of all sorts and attach a large variety to the back of the card. I have found a lot of them dated from the 1920s through the '50s for little or nothing. What a pleasure to add Christmas seals older than most of the recipients of these cards. Recipients are often amazed. We always receive calls, comments and pleasant acknowledgements about those cards. We receive many of them back from family and friends. Many times they mail them back in an envelope franked with a forever stamp. Our Christmas cards are always noticed and appreciated for their philatelic beauty. It is worth the two days it takes me to frank our Christmas cards.

Unfortunately, common first-day covers of Fleetwood, Artcraft, Cachet Craft and, yes, even beautiful Colorano covers are not as desired by collectors anymore. Most collectors can't get rid of them, some auction houses will not accept them and dealers reject them. I informed a collector who wanted me to appraise his 30-year collection of the previously named producers' first-day covers that there was little value to them. There were 17 large white banker boxes stuffed completely full of these covers. This man cherished his collection, handed down from his grandfather to his father then to him. He had been told by other dealers the bad news about the value of his covers. He was hoping that I had better news. The apartment he lived in for many years was under complete remodeling. I literally left him in tears when he realized that the thousands of dollars that had been spent on his first-day covers were not recoverable. Much to my surprise, he called me four months later to visit him again. I told him that nothing had changed as to the value of his covers. He was excited and said that he



needed me to visit to see what decision he made for his covers. This was a large apartment with three bedrooms and 2½ baths. To my utter amazement, each bathroom was wallpapered with first-day covers from floor to ceiling. It was a beautiful, interesting and stunning sight to see this exhibit of one man's passion for his hobby. The covers were touching each other, glued down in some way then had a glossed lacquer cover to protect them. It was beautiful to a philatelist. I was so stunned that I forgot to even get a picture. This probably cost him less than having the bathrooms wallpapered.

And there's more... One day a lady who was getting married called me wanting to find older postage. She wanted to send "save the date" notices, consisting of a wedding invitation and an RSVP card, all franked with older postage. I thought she would want older Love stamps, wedding stamps and celebration stamps for such mailings.

No way. She wanted older stamps that most people today have never seen – some 3¢ from the 1940s and larger denominations from later years. She spent hours looking through sheets of stamps and finally chose more than \$400 of unusual stamps to put on her mail. She was a graphic artist who made one of the most unusual and attractive invitations that I had ever seen. The invitation was heavy and needed \$1.42 postage for each. It worked. The amazement and response was immense after she sent each item out. Friends actually called her and exclaimed how interesting the invitations were. Her efforts had the impact she desired – and she is not a collector. She understood the impact that philately can have on those unaware of the fascination that stamps can have on us. I have had three referrals from her of others wanting to do the same thing.

I have a friend who makes stamp jewelry out of cats on stamps, or any other topic you may want. I encountered a teacher who teaches world history using stamps. On Friday, she gives her students a stamp of an individual, an event, a country or an anniversary. By Monday, students are expected to write a short paper on what that stamp was commemorating. Using the Internet, it is easy for them to find the desired information and they always give a report on their stamp that Monday. For once her students were excited about world history and looked forward to the stamp they would get on the next Friday.

And this is not all. Go to Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) and type in "stamps." You will not believe all of the interesting uses of postage stamps that are exhibited there.

No, this is not stamp collecting as we know it. But we should embrace it today. Dealers, philatelic organizations, exhibitors and the stoic collectors of the past should welcome this new interest in stamps. I really feel that if they are mentored by us, many of these individuals can discover our passion for collecting as we know it today. Their education about our hobby will make them the collectors of the future.

Do you believe that stamp collecting is dying? What do you think we need to do to bring more individuals into our hobby? What unusual uses of stamps have you seen? I would love to hear from you: thedale.smith48@gmail.com



About ATA

For information about contacting the ATA Office or our leaders – please see Page 4.

Our Show is Coming!

Read about the highlights of our joint NTSS show with the American Philatelic Society in this issue and the next. We're going to have four action-packed days. This will be a stamp show unlike any you've attended before!

Featured Study Unit

This year's Featured Study Unit is the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER). This enthusiastic and very active group collects stamps honoring the African Diaspora. The unit will be honored at our show Aug. 9-12, in Columbus, Ohio.

Thematic Exhibiting On the Road Course

There's still time to register for a full-day course on thematic exhibiting on Aug. 9. ATA member and award-winning exhibitor, Phil Stager, will teach on the first day of the joint APS/ATA show in Columbus, Ohio. Visit the APS website at www.stamps.org for more information.

Last Call for Exhibits

May 15 is the last day to enter an exhibit in the show. Find the prospectus and entry form on the APS StampShow page, or follow the link on the ATA website. Exhibits handled thematically (tell a story) will be in the ATA section, and ATA will be giving its usual high awards.

ATA Day of Giving

We'll be honoring ATA founder Jerry Husak, who died Feb. 22, with an ATA Day of Giving on May 25. Please consider making a donation to the Husak Visionary Fund on or near that date. Together, the ATA family continues Jerry's legacy.

New Publication

We're so proud about the release of one of our finest handbooks: *Amphibians on Postage Stamps*, by Vic Eichler. There's an interview with Vic in this issue.

New Checklists Available

Our committed checklist coordinators, Dominic Sgro and Beth Scully, continue their extensive work in keeping up our quality checklists with new issues and updates from members. In addition, they are developing and adding checklists. The following new checklists were added recently: **Nature:** Anemones (animals), Eels-Moray, Jellyfish, Sea Urchins; **Culture:** Cupcakes, Ice Dancing, Olym-

What's your collecting passion?

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

pics (topic now divided into 39 lists), Snowboarding; **Technology:** Electronic Devices, Russian Subway Stations.

Mike Vagnetti is coordinating a project to develop checklists for all states, and much progress is being made. If you have a state checklist, or are willing to develop one, please email Mike at atastatechecklistproject@gmail.com. These checklists are now available from ATA: Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan and Ohio. Have fun collecting your state!

Volunteers Needed

Checklist Helpers. If you have access to a set of Scott catalogs (even older ones), you have the “tools” needed to give our checklist coordinators a hand. There is a lot of checking and proofreading that comes with the territory. If you have a computer with the Excel program installed, that’s even better. A few hours of your time each month would be wonderfully helpful!

Coordinator for Advertising Marketing. We need an enthusiastic volunteer to contact potential advertisers for *Topical Time* and our website. This position involves contacting current and potential advertisers to expand our current advertising base.

International Outreach. ATA has members in 44 countries. We invite our international members to join a committee to develop international relationships and form a council of ambassadors in other countries to help their philatelic organizations and attract new members to ATA. Please let us know if you would like more information about becoming involved.

Topical Tuesday Every Week on Facebook!

Join in the fun by posting a topical stamp image on the ATA Facebook page. Our members get very creative with their posts. Take a look and join us!

Speakers at the RPSC (Royal) Show in St. Catharines, Ontario

ATA members Larry Davidson and Dawn Hamman will speak on topical collecting and thematic exhibiting at The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada show from June 22-24. There will also be an ATA Roundtable.

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Recent Stamp Events and New Members

March 11, Sno-King Stamp Show, Everett, Wash. **Ambassadors:** Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm. New member: 1

March 16-18, St. Louis Stamp Expo, St. Louis, Mo. **Ambassadors:** Sue Bruce, Vera Felts. New members: 3

March 22-24, Garfield-Perry March Party, Cleveland, Ohio. **Ambassador:** Loraine Stanton. New members: 3

April 21-22. Plymouth Show, Westland, Mich. **Ambassadors:** Loraine Stanton, Sandy Strzalkowski. New member: 1.

May 5-6. Orapex, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. **Ambassador:** Larry Davidson. New members: 2

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

May 11-13. Pipex, Portland, Ore. (see **Jack Congrove**) www.pipexstampshow.org

May 18-19. Ropex, Canandaigua, N.Y. (see **Fred Haynes** or **Dale Smith**)
www.rpastamps.org

May 25-27. Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, Denver, Colo. (see **Tonny Van Loij**)
www.rockymountainstampshow.com

June 1-3. Compex '18, River Grove, Ill. (see **Susan Jones**) www.compexstampshow.org

June 22-24. Royal 2018 Royale, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada. (see **Larry Davidson** or **Dawn Hamman**) www.rpsc.org

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ATA Day of Giving

May 25 is a special day for the ATA. It is the birthday of ATA founder **Jerry Husak**, who died recently. We will remember him and his important work with an ATA Day of Giving. On that day – or near that day – please make a donation to ATA and designate it, “ATA Day of Giving.”

This celebration is meant to showcase the many people who enjoy an ATA membership, and wish to acknowledge ATA’s founder with a donation. It can be any amount. Please join us.

At this time of year, our board members and staff make pledges to support our work financially, in addition to the many hours they give on ATA day-to-day duties and special projects. Other special friends make pledges and meet them each year. Thank you all!

Some ATA members have preferred to make a donation in memory of a topical collector who has died, or in celebration of someone who has had a milestone birthday. We have also had some contributions recognizing Jerry Husak’s vision, back in 1949, for a topical organization.

As we work ever harder to meet our fundraising goal for 2018, here’s where we are now:

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

2018 BTTF Goal:	\$ 40,000
Received to date	\$ 14,490
Received to date	\$ 6,595
Amount needed to goal	\$ 18,915

ATA’s budget depends on your gifts. Every dollar you give helps to reach our goal! You can send your 2018 gift in any of these ways:

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

If you do not use the Internet, you may supply your credit card information to ATA.

ATA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Each donation is tax deductible for U.S. tax-payers and is acknowledged with a “tax letter” acceptable to the IRS.



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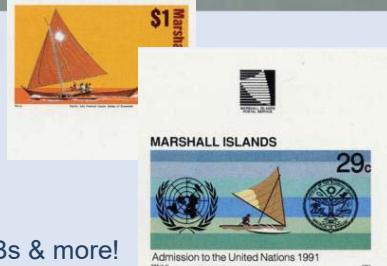
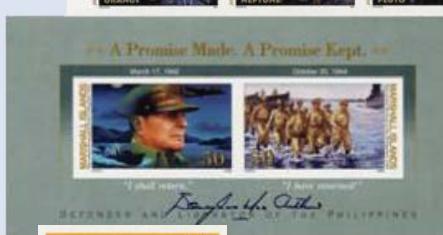
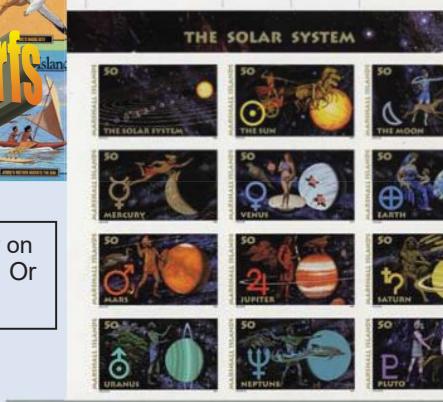
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WWII collectors:
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VERA'S VIEWS

Vera Felts, ATA Executive Director

ATA: Powered by You

Borrowing a phrase from our local PBS/NPR stations, from my perspective our ATA is truly greater than the sum of its parts. Working together – giving, volunteering, contributing knowledge and skills, connecting with other members, adding items and info to our checklists – these are all activities that members do that make ATA so much more than it would otherwise be. I'd like to note some outstanding "givers" and mention a way that you might like to join their ranks.

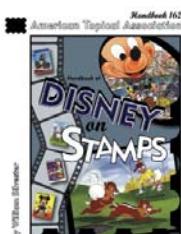
Philatelic Donations: An outstanding topical stamp donation was recently received from member **Juliana Wells**. It is truly a wonder! Thousands of beautiful, large, colorful varied topical stamps from every imaginable topic. Her two large boxes of stamps are a treasure trove of material for our Taste of Topicals beginner kits and other youth activities. Another beautiful contribution was the one from **Paul Petersen**, who sent almost 50 luscious topical packets of 50 stamps each. I believe they came from our newest *Topical Time* advertiser, Nordfrim. They are truly appreciated, along with the many topical stamp packets prepared by the **Philatelic Society of Lancaster County**, Paul's home stamp club. Other outstanding donations recently arrived from **Ron Tabbert** and **Henrik Rossell**. Both of these gentlemen regularly send large lots of stamps and covers – so varied, and so helpful in our activities with beginning collectors.

Mint U.S. Postage: Other ATA members have continued to respond to my "ask" for mint postage donations. Stamps have recently been received from **Gary Denis**, **Carol** and **Keith Edholm**, **Lanny Peterson** and **Lee Shadroff**. Thanks to all of you – and previous donors – we now have enough 3¢ stamps to last for a decade or more! But mint postage with higher face values than that are "as good as gold" to ATA. We are most appreciative of any stamps you can send!

Labors of Love: When I think of our "unsung heroes," I think first of **Barbara Asher**, who has spent dozens, if not hundreds, of hours sorting our donated stamps for Taste of Topicals beginner kits. And I think of our Ambassadors such as **Keith** and **Carol Edholm**, **Allan Fisk**, **Lorraine Stanton**, **Bob Mather**, **Jack Congrove**, **Larry Davidson** and **Dawn** and **John Hamman**, who store ATA materials between shows and set up and staff our society tables. And I remember the many hours that **Sue Bruce**, **Carol Costa**, **Karen Miller**, **Jean Stout**, **Dawn** and **John Hamman** and **Dale** and **Andrea Smith** have spent at the ATA Office doing needed but not-so-interesting work. And I think of the thousands of postage stamps that **Norm** and **Betty Beckman** and **Rich** and **Mona Diefenbach** have "licked-and-sticked" for ATA. Lastly, our "Angel No. 7," **Myron Wambold**, has done yeoman duty scan-

ning donated stamps for sale, and **Jeff Hayward** has assisted us with all things tech, helping to bring ATA into the digital age.

And Now the “Ask”: I have a new idea as to how you can help both ATA and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL). If you are a member



of APS, you know the importance of maintaining APRL collections to further advance our hobby. According to APRL Librarian Scott Tiffney, five ATA handbooks are needed for the APRL collection. Wouldn't it be nice to present all five of these books, on behalf of individual ATA members, to the APRL during our upcoming APS StampShow/NTSS? If you donate a book by sending a check or PayPal to ATA, we will take care of all the details on your behalf, and the book will be inscribed with your name as the donor. You would pay to ATA the member cost for the book; no postage cost will be incurred. You may choose from the following books:

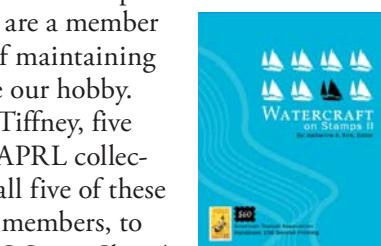
HB 156-R – *Watercraft II* (2013) - \$55

HB 162 – *Disney on Stamps* (2012) - \$75

HB 163 – *Plants on Stamps V* (2013) - \$35

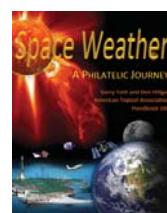
HB 165 – *Amphibians on Stamps* (2017) - \$30

HB 166 – *Space Weather* (2017) - \$60



A total of 166 ATA handbooks have been published between 1952 and now. Our association is known for providing excellent and accurate information to further our hobby. It would be wonderful if our members can help APRL to complete its collection of ATA handbooks. They are all located in the Mary Ann Owens topical collecting section of the APRL.

Scott Tiffney tells me that the APRL is also in need of DVDs for each of the previously mentioned books. Those can be sponsored for the regular price of \$30 per DVD. May we count on your help? ☺



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WAYNE'S IMPRESSIONS

Wayne L. Youngblood, Topical Time Editor

When it's time to sell your stamp collection: An auctioneer's perspective

[Editor's note: This is part II of a planned series of articles from several different perspectives on the ultimate disposal of your stamp collection.]

The reasons we stop collecting are many. In some cases collectors simply lose interest; in others they go on to form other collections. But, in most cases collectors finally stop their activities either because they are no longer physically able to keep up (poor vision, coordination or illness) or they die. It then becomes the responsibility of the collector's heirs to choose the most responsible and beneficial means of fulfilling that responsibility and (hopefully) obtaining the most value for a collection with the least amount of effort.

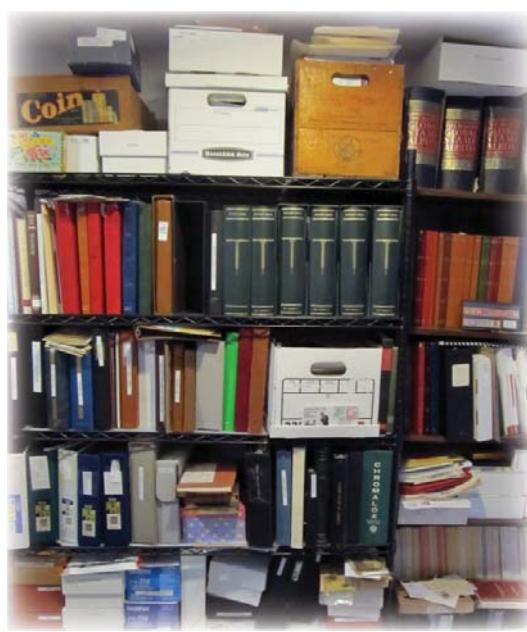
During the number of years I worked with an auction firm, we took in collections worth as little as few hundred dollars to those worth several hundreds of thousands of dollars. In most cases we were honestly able to tell the seller (or heirs) that we were able to realize a higher price for their collection than they could have expected from other options.

Before proceeding, let's take a quick look at the auction process itself.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, stamp auctions operate by selling stamps, covers and accumulations to the highest bidder at one advance over the second-highest bidder. What this means is that there are potentially many different bidders for items, with collectors bidding against dealers, accumulators and exhibitors for material. It is

this competition that allows for higher realizations of philatelic material, as everyone is bidding on items based on commercial need or collecting desire. Let's say there are four bidders for an item estimated at \$150. The three lower bidders have accelerated the bidding to \$130, with the highest bidder bidding \$250. Despite this bid, the high bidder will still obtain the item at \$140 – a single increment over the second-highest bid.

While some auction houses will buy material outright, it is usually a better idea to consign your material if it has sufficient value. If an auctioneer buys your collection, you will have a check in hand immediately. But keep in mind that an auctioneer – just



like a dealer or any other buyer— must purchase a collection at a low enough price to remove virtually all risk of financial loss while preserving the potential for a decent profit. In addition, much material that they cannot use themselves is simply “along for the ride”; that is, not considered in the financial offer, as it will have to be resold elsewhere. Thus, consigning to auction is usually most beneficial for the seller. Unless an advance is negotiated, it will likely be anywhere from four to eight months before payment is received, but you will almost certainly obtain more. If you are not financially strapped that process should work well.

When an auctioneer takes a collection in on consignment, it is in his or her best interest to obtain top dollar for it. Why? Because auctioneers work on a commission basis, taking a percentage of the total sales (in most cases from both the buyer and seller). The more money that a collection brings for the owner, the more money an auctioneer earns for the company through commissions. It's that simple.

Of course, in choosing an auctioneer you need to make sure the match is a solid one, otherwise you may not obtain maximum value. Does the auctioneer specialize in the type of material you are offering? If not, does the company at least sell enough of that material to get the right eyes to see it and bid?

More to the point, however, is whether the auction firm is aligned with your type of material. An auction house that is accustomed to selling single stamps for thousands of dollars each will not pick through a comparatively small collection that is worth only a few thousand in total. It will likely be offered as a single lot. Better to work with a slightly smaller firm that will take the time to break out some stamps or sets that will sell in the hundreds of dollars than to essentially wholesale the entire collection.

Next, let's take a good look at the commission structure. As I mentioned, most auction firms charge a commission fee to both the buyer and seller. This is how the company survives and how it pays its light bills and employees. You will find published seller fees for as low as 10% and as high as 25% or more. The lowest fee is not necessarily the best.

Even a 25% commission is not necessarily a dealbreaker. An auction firm that charges you 25% but is able to sell your collection for 1½ times that of the 10% auction house is still your best bet. Do the math: If your collection sells for \$10,000 at 10% commission (\$1,000), you are netting \$9,000. If, on the other hand, the auctioneer who sells your collection for 25% commission hammers it down at \$15,000 (\$3,750 commission), your net is \$11,250. So you paid more than double the commission rate, but still came out way ahead. These numbers will continue to diverge the higher the net value of your collection.

What are your expectations? They should be realistic. Even under the best of circumstances a collection that does not have “better” material (stamps and sets worth in the hundreds of dollars) can only be expected to bring 10%-12% of catalog value as a group (not counting all the 25¢ catalog minimum-value items). Better material in premium condition will take care of itself in terms of return. Don't expect to have your entire collection dissected and offered as sets and singles. That simply won't

happen. However, an auctioneer working for the benefit of the client will typically pull out some better sets and singles that are in demand and offer them separately. No auctioneer wants to pull all good material out of a collection, leaving a lifeless husk that will sell for very little. Let the auctioneer – who knows the current market – exercise judgement over how to maximize the return on your collection.

At this point, let's look at estimates. A "no reserve" auction is just that; all items are opened at a small minimum bid and will sell for whatever the market demands on that particular day. For special or esoteric material, most auction houses will allow you to set a "reserve" price; that is, an amount under which an item will not be sold. But these reserves should be used conservatively and sparingly, as they can diminish the possibility of a real sale. A reasonable estimate with a conservative start bid (and adequate images) should help ensure material will sell for a fair price.

Once your collection has been lotted, most auctioneers send out a report to show how your material was handled and estimated. This is your chance for reasonable input. It is most important at this stage to make sure no major mistakes have been made or that material is not missing (material can occasionally be misattributed to another seller).

Assuming all goes well at this stage, simply sit back and await the auction. You should be notified by email within a day or two, or by hard copy within a week or so of what your collection sold for. The initial notification will likely be followed up with a hard copy of your report. This number is only tentative and is not set in stone. A buyer's default, for example, may result in having to sell to an underbidder, which would be slightly lower. This is a little unusual, but it does happen.

When evaluating an auction firm for potential consignment, look very carefully at its payment terms. There is a very big difference between "30-45 days" and "30-45 business days" (weekends and holidays extend the real calendar time). Don't be overly worried if you do not receive your check within a few days of when it was promised, but do begin to be concerned if that drags on for weeks afterwards.

Selling stamps at auction – whether they are unneeded duplicates or your lifelong collection – can be very satisfying and financially rewarding, as long as you have done your homework ahead of time, including leaving instructions for heirs. ☐

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



Dickens Festival
Station
Riverside CA 92501
February 3, 2001



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

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TOPICAL POSTLINE

Letters to the Editor

Hobby Inspires Poetry

The letter to the editor in the last issue of *Topical Time* (Jan-Feb 2018) prompted me to send you this little poem (more of limerick) I composed in English and Italian with the hope you might consider sharing it with readers of the magazine.

— Gerardo Perrotta
via email

Stamps

They stick me on the corner of here and there
And send me near, far and anywhere.
Once I reach my final destination
I become a source of recreation
For the one who frees and befriends me with care.

Francobolli

M'incollano all'angolo di qua e di là'
E mi mandano vicino, lontano e più in là'
Una volta giunto alla mia ultima destinazione
Divento fonte di ricreazione
Per chi mi libera e tenera amicizia mi fa.l



Thank you, Gerardo, I like to think that stamps inspire us in many different ways; this is just one of them!

— Wayne

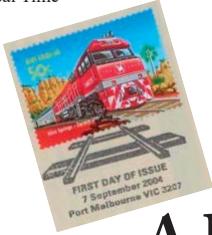
About the Cover

This month's cover features a detail of a mural found in the Ariel Rios Federal Building in Washington, D.C., titled *Unloading the Mail*. It was created in 1936 by Reginald Marsh (1898-1954) and represents another fine example of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art that was so prevalent during the Great Depression. It was photographed in 2009 by noted photographer Carol M. Highsmith.

This particular mural measures 6 feet 7 inches tall by 12 feet 6 inches wide.



Reginald Marsh was born in Paris, France, in 1898, the second son of two artists. He graduated in 1920 from Yale University's art school and became one of the first two artists for *The New Yorker*, when it was founded in 1925. ■



TOPICS ON POSTMARKS

George DeKornfeld

A Rose by Any Other Name

Finally, the doorbell sprang to life. Benny, my Labrador retriever, and I immediately made for the source of the ringing, both of our tails wagging with excitement. Yay, the pizza delivery had arrived! Of course, the dog handily beat me to the front door and, as I toddled up behind him, I swear I heard him, under his breath, cursing the fact that he didn't possess opposable thumbs so he could work the doorknob. That pleasure belonged to me and, as I swung the door open, it hit us like a locomotive: the smell of a large pizza with extra cheese, slathered with chopped, fresh, heavenly garlic. After tipping and thanking the delivery dude profusely, off to the kitchen we sped to sit down to a feast the likes of which makes the manufacturers of statin drugs giggle with delight. Garlic not being good for pooches, Benny had to settle for just the crusts this time around, but they made his evening nonetheless. As we sat there glowing in the aftermath, Benny taking a nap and me finishing my beer, I realized that my breath was now as offensive as it could possibly ever be and that I had the odor of garlic exuding from every pore. It was at that moment that it occurred to me that I had unintentionally stumbled upon the topic for my next article in *Topical Time*, so away we go.

Garlic (*Allium sativum*), aka "The Stinking Rose," has been enjoyed as a flavoring for foods and used for its spiritual and medicinal attributes going all the way back to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The Chinese have been using garlic for thousands of years, as have the Mediterranean Europeans. Here in North America its use as a food came much later, influenced in large part by English cuisine that frowned upon its application for any reasons other than as a folk medicine treatment. History is replete with many anecdotal reports of garlic's medicinal value, including its use as an antiseptic (it was used to help prevent wound gangrene in both world wars); but the jury (i.e. the Food and Drug Administration and the American Medical Association) is still out on its actual medical value, in some cases. Many correlations, however, have been made on garlic's positive effects in reducing the incidence of some stomach, brain and lung cancers and as either a treatment or a preventative against various maladies, such as atherosclerosis, hypertension, bronchitis, tuberculosis, diabetes and others. Garlic also has a proven anti-coagulant effect, important for those with heart disease. As a food, however, its use is now favored by many worldwide.



Figure 1.

Let's kick off with a pictorial used in Monticelli d'Ongina, Italy, that celebrates that municipality's 2003 Garlic Festival. This Fiera Dell'Aglio is held yearly, starting on the Friday before the first Sunday of each October and, as is typical of these types of festivals, features international foods centered around the use of our bulbous plant friend. This one, as do most others, also celebrates local farming and agriculture.

As an aside, I can't help but think the woman featured on the stamp (*Herodias at Herod's Feast* by Fra Filippo Lippi) has the expression of someone who just got a snoot full of someone else's garlic breath and is attempting to maintain her composure (Figure 1).



Figure 2.

Finland is our next stop, with a marking used in the town of Kerava in 1992. A bit difficult to make out, but the bottom of this pictorial reads, "Valkosipuli-Festivaalit," indicating that this is another garlic festival being commemorated, this particular one

being known for its

garlic beer (don't knock it if you haven't tried it – more on weird, yet tasty, garlic concoctions later). The festival is held in a part of town that, in 1929, started as an amusement park and circus named Suomen Tivoli. A market was added in 1977 that includes this yearly garlic-centered affair (Figure 2).



Figure 3.

It should come as no large surprise that garlic is featured in many French pictorial postmarks, given the French proclivity for adding garlic to a multitude of their Provençal culinary treats. In Figure 3 we see yet another festival being celebrated, this one held in 1987, the 10th annual of an event held each August at Locon, in the Hauts-de-France region. This marking features a garlic braid, an item available at most fairs and one that makes for a super (as well as functional) kitchen decoration (Figure 4). Need a few cloves for a recipe? Reach up and pick a bulb off the hanging braid. That said, I usually don't have the heart to do any bulb-plucking and normally have a few loose bulbs hanging around for use instead. I enjoy the decorative look of the complete braids way

too much. Even dried out and no longer of any value for cooking, they keep their country kitchen look for a good, long time and I simply replace them when they eventually start either to disintegrate or get funky looking.



Figure 5.



Still in France, next we'll check out a couple of pictorial machine cancel-



Figure 4.



Figure 6.

lations, the first one commemorating, yes, you guessed it ... another garlic festival. Figure 5 brings us to Piolenc, a commune in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, and their festival held on the last weekend of each August. First held in 1979, this example is from 1986. Piolenc calls itself the garlic capital of France, producing 2,000 tons of garlic per year!

Lautrec, situated in the Midi-Pyrénées region of France, calls itself the capital of Pink Garlic, a mild-flavored strain that has been grown there since the Middle Ages. The soil in this region, predominantly clay and limestone, lends itself nicely to the growth of this particular variety seen in Figure 6. Here our

marking, used in 1998, also includes the 17th-century windmill that's located on a hill just above the town (Figure 7).

Figure 8 brings us to Great Britain and a pictorial used as a first-day marking on Royal Mail's 1997 "Legends of Horror Stories"

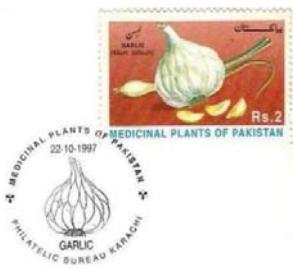
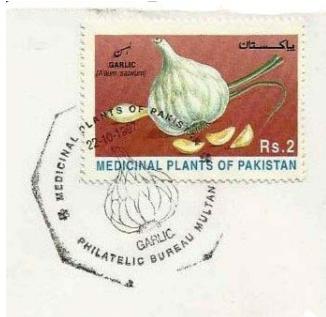
set of four stamps. Issued (in part) to commemorate the centenary of Bram Stoker's



Figure 7.



Figure 8.



Dracula, the use of a garlic bulb to cancel these stamps was a terrific choice given that – as we all know – garlic is one of the things used to ward off Dracula and his neck-nibbling vampire underlings. The 43p stamp all the way to the right suggests what Benny might have looked like had he eaten more of our garlic pizza than just the crusts...

Sticking with first-day markings, our next two examples are both from

Figures 9 and 10 (left).

Pakistan and both are from 1997. These pictorials remind us of the time-honored medicinal potential and use of this edible plant, especially from this side of the planet (Figures 9 and 10).

Additional medicinal-related pictorials come from Tunisia, 2011 (Figure 11) and



Figure 11.

Ankara, Turkey, 2005 (Figure 12), where “şifalı bitkiler” translates into “medicinal herbs.” Both of these postmarks are also first-day markings.



Figure 12.

maximum card from South Korea that simply screams of concordance between the card image, the stamp and, of course, the pictorial postmark. What a beauty! (Figure 13).

For those garlic lovers out there, I would strongly suggest taking in a local garlic festival should any come near your area. One near me is held each September in Saugerties, N.Y.

(Figure 14). It makes for a great all-day affair with activities for all ages and, of course, lots of locally-produced foods, most of which include the so-called “Stinking Rose.” Here I’ve tried garlic sausage (delicious), garlic ice cream (once a year is adequate),

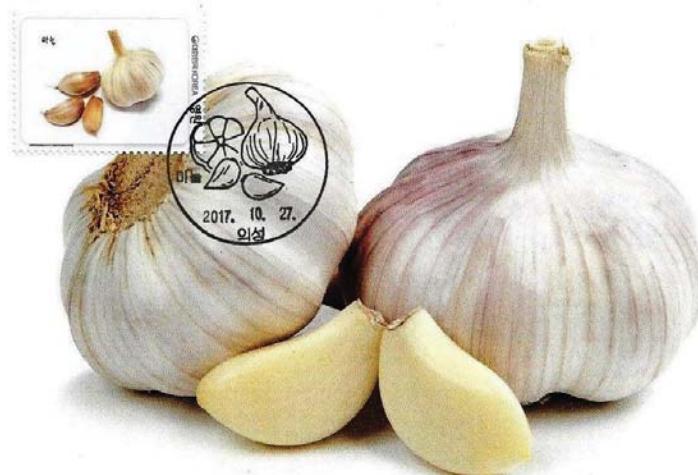


Figure 13.

ATA DAY OF GIVING
May 25 - Jerry Husak's Birthday

garlic chocolate (ditto), and garlic honey (surprisingly, pretty good), amongst other culinary oddities. I always come home with a couple of shopping bags full of goodies bought from a wide array of vendors, along with some growing stock for my vegetable garden. It's truly a day well spent!

If you'll recall, back in the Jan-Feb issue of *Topical Time*, in my "Winter...Its Snow Fun" article, I couldn't explain a pair of snowman pictorials that were issued in Salgótarján, Hungary, given the inclusion of Olympic rings in both markings. Well, apparently an un-named ATA member who belongs to the Cowichan Stamp Club of Duncan, BC, Canada, shares his *TT* with fellow members, one of whom is Hungarian. Julius Hayek wrote to say: "*The cancels refer to what I think we would call a Scouting Winter Jamboree. Téli = winter, Úttörő = pioneer (the communist version of scouts), Olimpia = Olympics. Doesn't look like this event is still being held as such, but there is a National Scout Ski Day being held at the region's ski hill.*" Thank you, Julius, for clearing up that mystery!

I'll leave you this month with this:

As you may know, Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot most of the time. This resulted in an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail. And, as a result of his odd diet (which included massive amounts of garlic), he suffered from bad breath.

This made him a super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Until next time! ☺



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Figure 14.

APS STAMPSHOW/ NTSS 2018

Dawn Hamman

It's the biggest stamp show of the year, and you're invited! When ATA and APS team up in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-12, exciting things will be happening each day at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.



The fun will begin Thursday with a USPS first-day ceremony unveiling four different colorful dragon stamps, formatted in a pane of 16. That will kick off four days of dragon-themed events. The USPS is planning a large exhibit area with lots of activities for all ages.

The APS will have a passport available, with spaces to collect Cinderellas (poster stamps) from different dealers and society tables. Bring your completed passport to the APS to be eligible to win prizes.

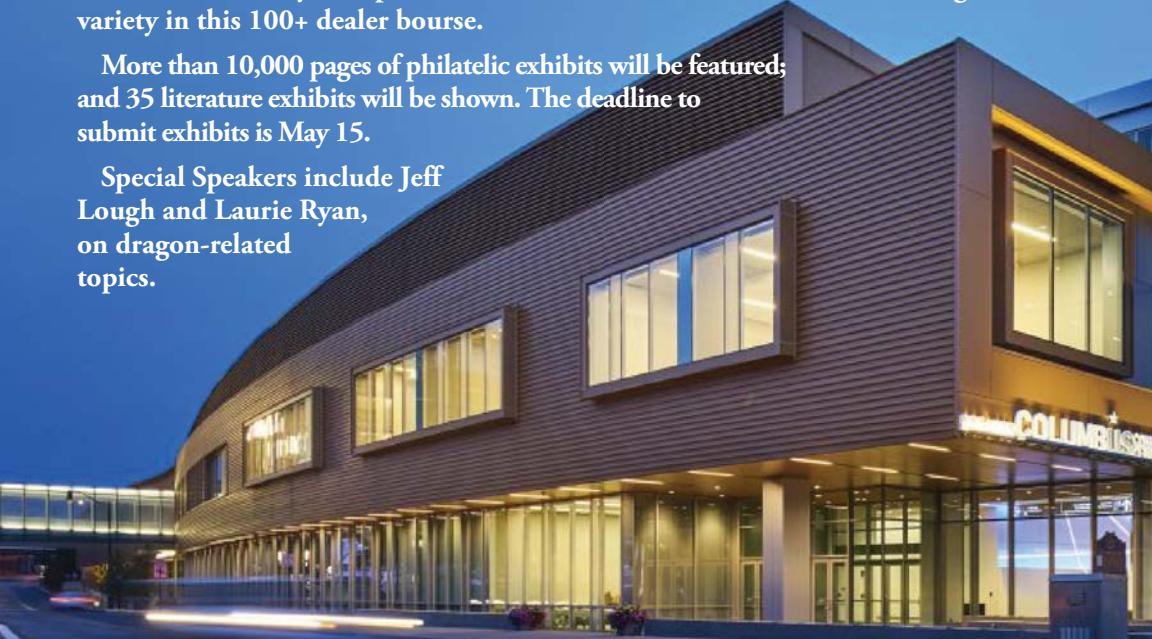
ATA and APS are creating album pages for the dragon topic. It's a great way to begin a topical collection right at the show.

A cachetmakers' bourse on Saturday will include a wide variety of covers, and societies and study units will have show cachets, as well.

Dealers will carry stamps, covers and more for all collectors. You'll find great variety in this 100+ dealer bourse.

More than 10,000 pages of philatelic exhibits will be featured; and 35 literature exhibits will be shown. The deadline to submit exhibits is May 15.

Special Speakers include Jeff Lough and Laurie Ryan, on dragon-related topics.



It's time to pre-register for the show and sign up to attend the awards banquet. The banquet is expected to sell out, so make your reservations today on the APS website: www.stamps.org, where you'll also find important registration information. You may also click the link to the APS site on the ATA website: www.americantopicalassn.org.

The ATA annual meeting will be held at 1p.m. on Friday. Come hear about our projects and plans.

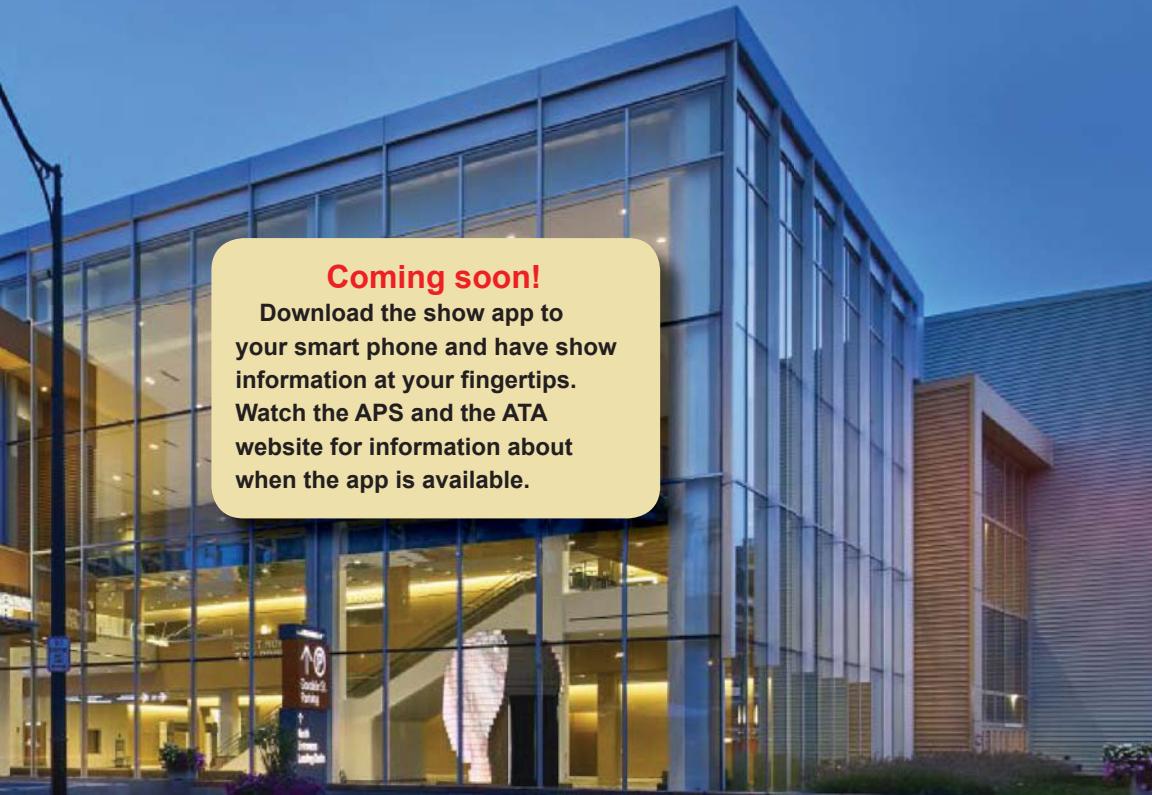
The ATA President's Reception, a festive evening, will be a buffet dinner at Schmidt's Sausage Haus, a quaint German restaurant in the historic German Village. Bus transportation will be provided. See the ATA website to sign up.



As usual, ATA will offer a full-day tour on Monday, Aug. 13. See the highlights on Page 28. All those attending the show are invited to attend. ☺

Coming soon!

Download the show app to your smart phone and have show information at your fingertips. Watch the APS and the ATA website for information about when the app is available.



Special Events at StampShow/NTSS in Columbus

President's Reception

This is an ATA tradition; a festive evening of good food and fellowship will be on Friday, Aug. 10. Bus transportation will take us to Schmidt's Sausage Haus, a famous landmark eatery in the historic German Village neighborhood. We'll enjoy a cash bar and buffet featuring an assortment of authentic German foods.

A cost of \$47 per person includes the meal, transportation, tax and gratuities. The registration form is on the ATA website and facing page of this issue.

Columbus Highlights: All-Day Tour

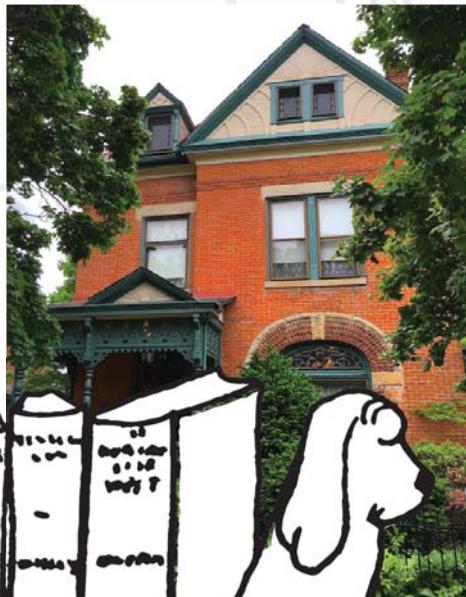
On Monday, Aug. 13, we'll visit some of the best sites of Columbus. All show attendees, ATA and APS members are invited to attend.

We'll travel by bus to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, with its lush foliage and displays of magnificent glass sculptures by famed artist Dale Chihuly. www.fpconservatory.org

The tour then goes on to the German Village neighborhood, a charming area that looks much like it did 150 years ago. Enjoy boutiques, shops, fabulous architecture, a bookstore and lunch on your own in one of the restaurants. <https://germanvillage.com>

The last tour stop will be a visit to the childhood home of artist/author James Thurber, most-famous for *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. www.thurberhouse.org

Cost for the all-day tour is \$68 per person, and includes transportation, entry fees, taxes and gratuities. The registration form is on the ATA website and on the facing page of this issue. ☐



ATA SHOW EVENT TICKET FORM – COLUMBUS, OHIO – AUG 9-13, 2018

Preregister show attendance with APS at www.stamps.org/stampshow-ss by July 15.

Completion of this form is required for ticketed ATA events (President's Reception; Tour). Information will not be released to other entities.
Mail form to ATA, PO Box 8, CARTERVILLE, IL 62918-0008. Or attach copy to an email to americantopical@msn.com

Last Name:

First Name:

ATA Member? Y/N

List Guest Name(s):

Address:

Email address:

EVENT TICKETS

Register by **July 15, 2018**, for prices listed below. If received by ATA Office **after July 15**, add \$5 to the cost for each ticket.

No refunds made to purchaser if cancellation of ticket order occurs after July 27.

Later event reservations accepted *only if space is available*.

All gratuities and taxes included. Event will be canceled and payments refunded if minimum number of participants is not met.

Event	Function	Number	Total
#1	President's Reception Schmidt's Sausage Haus Friday, Aug 10, bus from Crowne Plaza; 7:15 pm cash bar and dinner	___ x \$47. German-style Buffet Meal (price includes transportation, tax, gratuities; cash bar not included)	
#2	All-Day Monday Tour Monday, Aug 13, depart Crowne Plaza 9:30 am, return ~5:30 pm	___ x \$68. Motorcoach Tour to Franklin Park Conservatory, German Village Neighborhood and James Thurber House (includes transportation, entry fees, taxes and gratuities; lunch on your own)	
	ATA Show Contribution	<i>Donations are tax deductible and support ATA's participation in the 2018 show.</i>	
	TOTAL Enclosed	<i>Please pick up your tickets at the ATA show booth</i>	<input type="text"/>

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

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

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

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

___ Sending payment by PayPal to americantopical@msn.com (best way to use electronic card)

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



Please volunteer to help with APS StampShow/NTSS!

Sign up on the APS website; volunteer 8 hours for APS to receive free banquet ticket.

Also, please assist ATA in its participation!

Email americantopical@msn.com or click Volunteers/ATA on the ATA website for times, and to learn of other volunteer opportunities.

**Support your ATA chapters!
Make sure your chapter's newsletter
reaches our ATA Chapter Coordinator.**

This Year's Featured Study Unit: ESPER

The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections was founded in 1988 by Esper G. Hayes.

She was an avid collector who frequently attended stamp shows. In the 1970s, she once stood in line at a show to get the autograph of famed Olympic track star, Jesse Owens. He commented to her that the two of them were the only Black people in the room. He told her more should be done to help Black people take pride in themselves; she promised to help. Years later, after Owens had died, she remembered her pledge, and created ESPER.

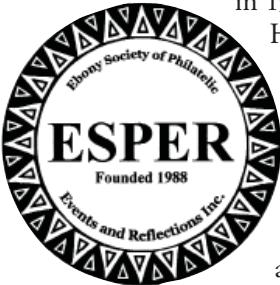
An active and vibrant organization, ESPER's mission is to promote and foster an interest in the study and collecting of stamps honoring Black Americans and other people, places and events of the African

diaspora. With this in mind, members speak at stamp shows, school clubs and churches. The group has a society table at many national shows and is active in mentoring new collectors.

Among its many member services, ESPER

publishes a colorful award-winning journal, *Reflections*. Edited since 2007 by Don Neal, it is filled with society news, interesting features, new stamp issues and general hobby news.

The group's website, www.esperstamps.org, has many interesting articles and much information about stamps picturing Black Americans. Annual membership is \$25 (print journal) or \$20 (electronic journal). Complete membership information is on the website. Each new member receives a membership card, new member handbook and a guide to U.S. stamps honoring African Americans, events and related subjects.



Esper G. Hayes, founder.

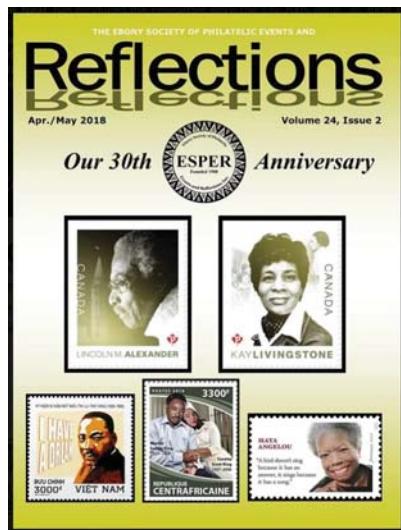


Photo taken in 2013 at the large 25th anniversary gathering of the founding of ESPER.

Walter Lee Faison, Jr., has been president since 2012. Prior presidents were Esper G. Hayes, Earnest Shinault, Jr. and Manuel Gil-yard.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of ESPER's founding. Members will celebrate in November in Crystal City, Va. Keynote speaker will be USPS Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman.

Be sure to stop by the ESPER table at the joint APS StampShow/ATA National Topical Stamp Show this August to meet members and hear more about their busy schedule. The group will also hold a general meeting at the show, and will host Mark Thompson, speaking on Women of the Black Heritage Series – From the Fields of Slavery to the Halls of Congress. ☐



Reflections, publication of ESPER.



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Amphibians on Postage Stamps Handbook

By Dawn Hamman

Over the past 69 years, ATA has published many handbooks. Among the best is the most recent, the work of Vic Eichler, *Amphibians on Postage Stamps*.



Until I picked up this colorfully-illustrated book, I didn't know I was interested in amphibians! Vic describes the life cycles of amphibians in an interesting way that is easy for a non-technical person to understand. He introduces his readers to fascinating members of the amphibian family, and shows how stamps educate us about these animals. The book includes

a checklist of 1,915 amphibian stamps issued by 212 governments. There are useful indexes and a listing of additional resources for those who wish to explore this topic further. The book's final section shows amphibians on stamps that have been produced from photos, cartoons and even toys that represent frogs.

I was eager to ask Vic about the path that led him to write the book.

Q. Does your interest in amphibians relate to your career, or an outside interest?



A. *I earned bachelor's and master's degrees in zoology from the University of Illinois. For my doctorate, I opted to study with a professor who was well-known for his work on the metamorphosis of amphibians, and how the changes during the transition from a tadpole to a frog are dependent on a hormone from the thyroid gland.*

Vic then went on to postdoctoral studies with the National Institutes of Health. He continued his research on amphibians as a faculty member at Wichita State University. He also spent two years as a scientist with NASA, and was on the team that sent a life-science experiment aboard the last Apollo spacecraft, the one that joined with the Russian Soyuz craft in a joint mission in 1975.

Q. How did you get involved with this handbook project?

A. *When I joined ATA eight years ago, I looked to see what stamps were listed for amphibians.*

ATA handbook No. 91, Lower Vertebrates: Fish, Amphibians, and Reptiles of the World, had very few stamps of amphibians. I let Vera Felts know that I was willing to do the research to create a new handbook about amphibians on world stamps.





Q. Who will find this book useful?

A. Besides those who collect stamps of a biology nature and, more specifically, those interested in the topic of amphibians, this book will be of interest to people generally interested in amphibians.

Q. Why is this topic important?

A. Amphibians are the animal group that is most seriously threatened with extinction. In the last 20 years, 100 species have become extinct. People of many countries have influenced their governments to emphasize the threatened nature of amphibians. A graph in the book shows that, since the first amphibian stamp was issued in 1945, there has been a dramatic increase in the stamps showing frogs, toads or salamanders. The numbers are increasing each year.

Q. Why are amphibians important to humans?

A. More than 800 chemicals have been isolated from the secretions of frog skin that have antibiotic, antimicrobial and antifungal properties. The book outlines many other ways frogs help humans. For example, about 10 percent of Nobel prizes given in medicine and physiology have involved research using frogs.

Q. Do you collect topics in addition to amphibians?

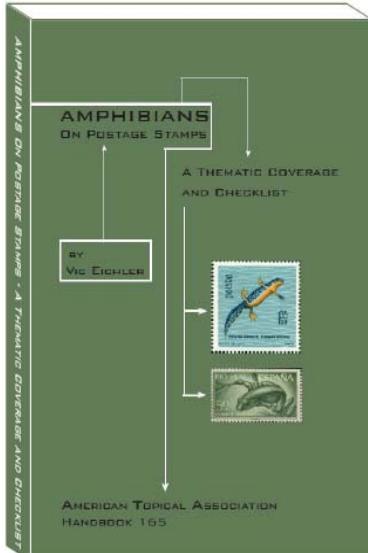
A. Because I was a professor of biological sciences, I am interested in a variety of topics related to animals. My favorite animals among the fish are the coelacanths, which were on the line of evolution of amphibians. My favorite stamps of reptiles are of true chameleons from Madagascar. They have many unique features – eyes that move independently, prehensile tail, dramatic color changes.

Q. You worked on this fine book for years. Are you glad it's finished?

A. It's always a thrill to see a manuscript in published form! This is my 11th book, and I have no plans to jump into another long-term writing project!

Amphibians on Postage Stamps is available from the ATA office and at shows where ATA has a booth. Mail a check to

ATA or send an email to american topical@msn.com and request *Amphibians*, ATA HB 165 (printed book) or HB 165-E (on DVD). Cost for either version is \$35 (\$30 for ATA members). Add postage: for printed book: \$2.50 U.S., \$3.50 Canada, \$8 to other countries. Add postage for DVD: \$1.50 U.S./Canada, \$3.50 to other countries. ☐



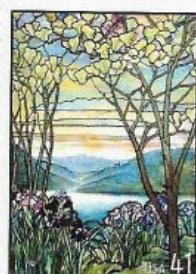
MY TOPIC

Mike Doherty

Dawn Hamman

Mike Doherty often thinks of stamps as miniature works of art. So, when he chose a topic to collect, it followed that he would choose his favorite type of art: stained glass.

"I think of my collection as an art project," he explained. "Stained glass fills cathedrals and churches with light. Stories and color bring about joy or, when the sun is right, even elation."



LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY

U.S. stained glass issue, Scott 4165.

Mike and Dot Doherty lived in Dublin in 1989 and 1990, and Dot began collecting stamps of Ireland, as did their daughter, Mary Lynne. As they tired of the collection, Mike inherited and continued it. But, he turned to a topical collection, when his Ireland collection was near completion.

On their travels, they often visit cathedrals to marvel at the stained glass, much of which is very old. "I have stood in awe at the beauty of the windows and mused about the hundreds of thousands of people over the centuries that have also admired the same stained glass," Mike said.

Mike has shared his love of stained glass with his family. On a trip to Ireland, he told his grandchildren there was a stained glass window in St. Patrick's Cathedral in London that was donated by Arthur Guinness, beer brewer. His bright young granddaughter Analyn soon found it. It is of *Rebecca at the Well*, and



Portion of stained glass window at St. Patrick's in Dublin, reproducing *Rebecca at the Well*. Stained glass donated by Guinness.



Ireland stained glass meters.

MONACO

3,00

Festival of Devote, Monaco Scott 2076.

has the saying, "I was thirsty and ye gave me drink!"

The colorful stamps Mike collects are mounted in albums on off-white card stock. A facing sheet of paper shows a title, Scott number and description of each stamp. "Given my conception of the collection as an art project, I spend quite a bit of time and effort arranging the stamps in an aesthetically pleasing fashion," he said.

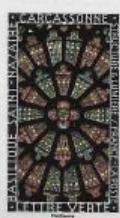
The challenges in Mike's topics are the same as those of other topical collectors. He often has to buy a whole set to get one stamp, and he must keep a considerable inventory of mounts to accommodate the many

different-sized stamps. "What might otherwise be the enormous problem of knowing what stamps there are in one's topic, has been taken care of by the invaluable checklists provided by ATA," he noted.

Mike's checklist, last acquired in 2017, listed more than 700 stamps showing stained glass.

Like most topical collectors he has somewhat expanded beyond stamps. He has postcards, a library of books on stained glass and stained glass pieces in his home. One is a replica of the rose window in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris. Another has interlacing Celtic figures.

Mike enjoys the connections between his country collection and his topical one. Pleasure comes from the beauty of the stamps, and also from learning about the sites and artifacts of Ireland. ■



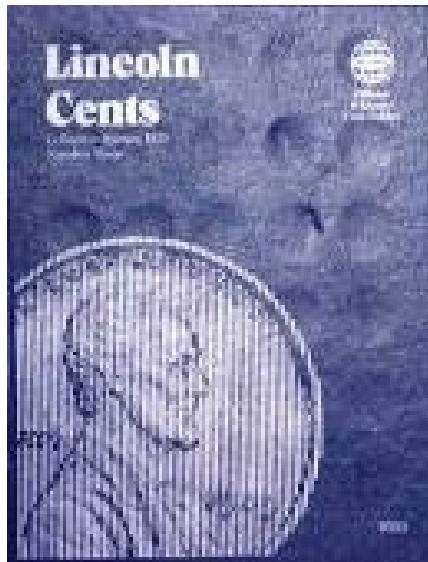
France, Scott 5137-5148.

How I Became a Collector

Mike Vagnetti

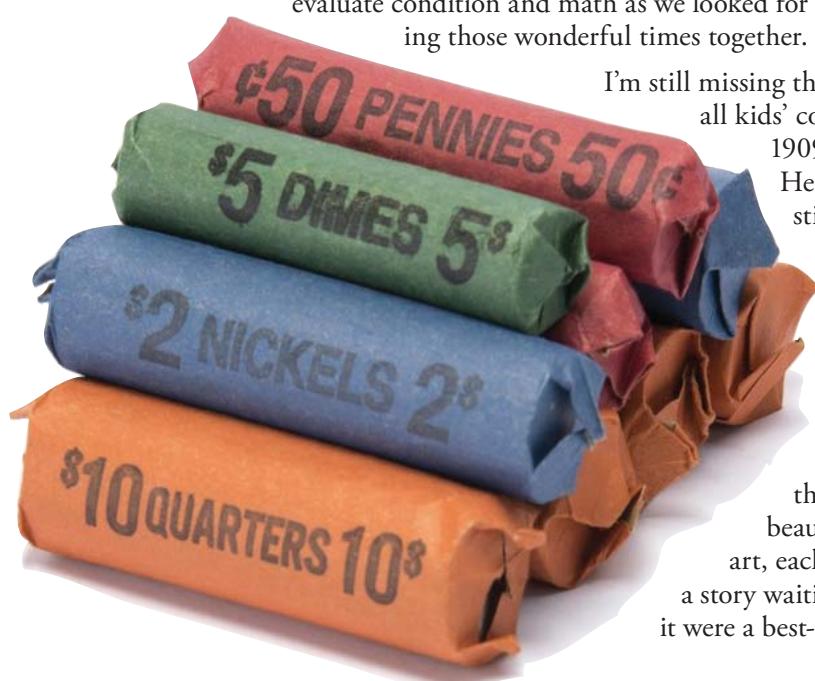
It all started with coins. That's what I collected as a kid. My father worked at the Ford Motor Company's Highland Park, Mich., tractor plant. In the mid- to late-1950s, every Friday evening, my two younger brothers and I would meet our Dad at the corner bus stop on his way home. In one hand he carried his lunch pail, and in the other a canvas sack of rolled coins. You see, my Dad would stop at the bank on the way home and cash his paycheck in for those rolled coins. That was part of the routine, the ritual.

Hurrying home with our stash we would proceed to dump the rolled coins in the middle of our living room floor and carefully open the rolls, exposing our loot. We searched through the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters for any that were missing from our blue Whitman heavy cardboard coin folders. When our search was over, we had to count out and re-roll those coins for deposit back into the bank sometime the following week. We learned trading skills, how to evaluate condition and math as we looked for quality pieces during those wonderful times together.



I'm still missing that "holy grail" of all kids' coin collections, the 1909 S-VDB Lincoln Head penny, but I still have those blue folders!

Our family all had the collecting bug. For me it was coins, then baseball cards and now stamps; those fascinating, beautiful, tiny pieces of art, each one holding in it a story waiting to be read as if it were a best-selling novel. □



AWARD WINNERS

The ATA offers a variety of exhibit awards to any show with a juried exhibit. A list of available awards and their criteria can be found on the ATA web page. The awards can be obtained by contacting our new Awards Chairman, Lynn Vernon at vscs@embarqmail.com or 8430 Iris Rd, Plymouth IN 46563-9055.

Remember – only those shows submitting a report to the Awards Chairman will be acknowledged here and can receive future awards. *Denotes ATA member.

American Topical Association Exhibit Awards

[In this column we say a reluctant goodbye to Dalene Thomas, who has given remarkable service over the years, both through her series on topical postal stationery, and the "Award Winners" column. We also welcome Lynn Vernon, who will be continuing the Award Winners column. Contributions from both appear below.]

***Phil Stager**'s exhibit, *The Wonderful World of Bamboo*, received the ATA 1st medal at the Sarasota Stamp Exhibition. ***Dawn Hamman** was awarded the ATA second medal for her exhibit, *Backyard Chickens. Iceland Saga: The 1972 Match of the Century*, shown by **Michael Schumaker**, received the ATA 3rd medal.

At the Southeastern Spring Show, ***Addie Amos** was awarded the ATA 1st medal for exhibiting *The Penguin: A Bird That Does Not Fly*.

***Madeline Seibert** won the ATA Youth award for her exhibit *Philatelic Vexilology* shown at the Nashville Philatelic Society Stamp Show.

Springpex 2018 presented **Macario Sarreal** both the ATA 1st and ATA one-frame award for exhibiting *Corregidor*. **Paul Schumacher**'s *The Presidents of Congress* received the ATA 2nd medal.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada's Spring Show, produced the following award winners: **Sam Chiu**'s exhibit, *Frogs & Toads - Their Relevance to Humans*, received the ATA First Award; **Amelia Kelbert**'s exhibit, *The World Of The Monarch Butterfly*, took the ATA Youth Award; while **Alex Liusz Moser** won the ATA Youth Second Award for his exhibit, *Time of Dinosaurs*.

At Oxford Philatelic Society's annual show Oxpex/Otex in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, **Karl Wysotski** was awarded the ATA First Medal for his exhibit, *Remarkable Arvian Phenomenon. Stamp functions from A to Z*, exhibited by **Gerry Lassche**, received the ATA Second Medal and **Victor Potter** took the ATA Third Medal with his exhibit, *The White Cross*. ☐

ATA DAY OF GIVING

May 25 - Jerry Husak's Birthday

BASICS AND BEYOND

Jack André Denys



Topical Collecting: The Next Step?

[Editor's Note: This column first appeared in "Jack's Journal" in the Nov-Dec 2012 issue of Topical Time. It is repeated here for newer members and collectors, as well as a refresher for topical veterans. The author is interested in knowing what you'd like to read about in this "Basics and Beyond" column. You may contact him: jdenys@verizon.net. His street address is found on Page 4.]

You like to admire your topical collection. You have almost all the stamps on the ATA checklist. You have enjoyed the thrill of the hunt for several elusive pieces. Additional items are few and far between. There aren't many new issues to keep up with. What do you do now? Time to begin another topic? Maybe. Or maybe not.

An alternative could be to write up your collection – if you haven't done so already — not for an exhibit (though that could come later), but for your own enjoyment. You would give your stamps a story, a background, a context. You would gain thematic knowledge. And you would have fun in a new way.

I'll share what works for me when I do R & W – Read and Write-up. You can, of course, adapt these suggestions in any way you choose. But, how to begin?

From your own bookshelf and the public library, find some books on your topic.

As you browse through and read them, feel free to highlight parts you may want to easily locate again later – only if the book is yours, of course! I also use index cards to make notes, much like when writing a term paper. The advantage is that the cards can later be arranged into different order. That flexibility helps when you want to organize your story.

That's the next step. Check the tables of contents of the books you are using – they may give you ideas to break down your general topic into a logical sequence of subjects or categories. Choose the order that you like - you can always change it later. Rearrange the cards into that order.

It helps if your stamps and other philatelic items are placed in stockbook pages, preferably ones you can see through. Leave room between the rows. That's where you can put your write-up. Now it's time to match the information from

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your cards with those stamps. Put your stamps in the same order as your cards. Most likely you have written down much more thematic knowledge than you can readily use. You will need to pick and choose. I like to copy and condense the information from the index cards onto Post-it stick-ums (My wife says I ought to buy stock in that company!) Yes, it's work, but I find that the more I recopy thematic information, the more familiar I am with it and the more it becomes part of me.

When you begin to match your sticky notes and stamps, you will most likely discover that you do not have stamps or other philatelic items to illustrate every point of your thematic knowledge. You then have several choices. You could put away the unused cards and sticky notes, waiting for new issues to depict that information. Or you could start collecting non-philatelic items, such as picture postcards, medals and other ephemera that support your topic.

Or, you could expand your collection to include stamps that do not picture your topic, but are related to it. For example, if you collect polar bears, you could add stamps that depict where polar bears live, what they eat, what endangers them, what efforts are made to protect them or other relevant factors that affect their survival. If you choose to expand in this way, you move from being a topical collector to a thematic collector. You now collect a theme, rather than a topic. And you can start your "philatelic phun" all over again – checklists, want lists, write-ups. The possibilities are almost endless! Enjoy! ☺



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Cletus Delvaux

Named Distinguished Topical Philatelist

The American Topical Association's highest award, Distinguished Topical Philatelist, is being presented this year to Cletus Delvaux. A 39-year ATA member, Delvaux is a prolific philatelic writer and editor.

A retired English teacher from Green Bay, Wis., Delvaux has written more than 100 articles for *Topical Time*, *Linn's Stamp News*, *Across the Fence Post* (publication of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs) and other philatelic publications. His primary topics are journalists, authors and poets on stamps.

Delvaux has been president of the Journalists, Authors, and Poets On Stamps (JAPOS) Study Unit since 1993. In 2000, he also took on the job as editor of the *JAPOS Bulletin*, and he also writes extensively for that publication. He is a past president of the Green Bay Philatelic Society, and edited its newsletter for 25 years. ☐



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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?

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CINDERELLA CORNER

Arthur H. Grotin

Dinosaur Redux

About a year ago I showed you some Dino the Dinosaur paraphilately.

For some reason, the Germans had a particular fascination with dinosaurs. I can show two full sets made around 1913. The first set of six was produced by Cosmos of Stuttgart to promote its magazine, 12 issues a year for M.4.80 (Figure 1).

The second set of 12 has no indication of who released them or for what product. I suspect they were some sort of promotion like the Dino sets in the United States, with an album to place them in as one collected them with each purchase (Figure 2).



Figure 1.

The Swiss chocolate manufacturer Tobler produced hundreds of topical sets covering a wide range of subjects. Albums were supplied to house them. Figure 3 shows set No. 43, with 12 items (as they all were). Each of these striking images is carefully numbered at the lower left



Figure 2.



for the particular stamp, and at the lower right all the numbers in the set. As a side note (and a comment on anatomical inaccuracy), check out the teeth on the elephant (far left, second row).

No doubt there are other sets of dinosaur paraphilately. I'd like to hear about them if you run across any. ☺

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

ATA DAY OF GIVING

May 25 - Jerry Husak's Birthday

The Story of Butterfly and Moth Antennae

By Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

The body form of butterflies and moths is like no other creature in the world. They are beautiful flying insects that have unique characteristics, unlike any other.



Figure 1. An Ireland automat stamp depicting antennae.

Butterflies and moths have remarkable antennae, as shown by the 2011 Ireland automat stamp shown in Figure 1. These antennae help them find their way, locate each other and even help them tell the time of day. Butterflies' and moths' antennae work along with sensors on their feet as essential tools that allow them to find food, migrate, mate and sleep. Butterflies have one

pair of segmented antennae. These can be seen in the Figure 2 image of the normal and color variety stamp of 1956 from Japan.

The basic shape is clubbed, meaning the segments increase in size as they get further away from the head. For butterflies, this usually creates a club-like appearance on the tip of the antenna. Butterfly antennae have chemoreceptors that are used for assessing the environment's physical and chemical properties. Chemoreceptors are similar to the taste buds on our tongues. They are open nerve endings that transport information to their central brains for translation. For example, butterflies use their antennae to detect which plants are producing nectar and males can sense pheromones from females of the same species. Butterflies tend to be active during the day, resting



Figure 2. Japan Scott 622, color variation and normal.

when night falls. Instead of just using their eyes to distinguish day from night, butterflies use their antennae as light receptors. The antennae track the position of the sun and turn that information into a time of day. When butterflies lose their antennae, they aren't able to determine time as well as those



Figure 3. Original art for Lebanon Scott C427.

with intact antennae. Another key element of butterfly antennae is their ability to help the butterflies fly in the right direction. This is especially important for butterflies that migrate, such as Monarch butterflies. These groups must know which direction to fly during what season, such as flying south for the winter. This tends to work in conjunction with the clock feature; to keep flying south, for example, the antennae must determine what time it is and where the butterflies must be positioned relative to the sun's position in the sky. This navigation system also helps butterflies find their way back to favorite feeding grounds. The antennae can sense the direction of the wind and changes in that direction, helping a butterfly ride the wind currents without losing its way or becoming disoriented. At the base of the antennae, butterflies have a special organ – the Johnston's



135º aniversário em memória de Charles Darwin

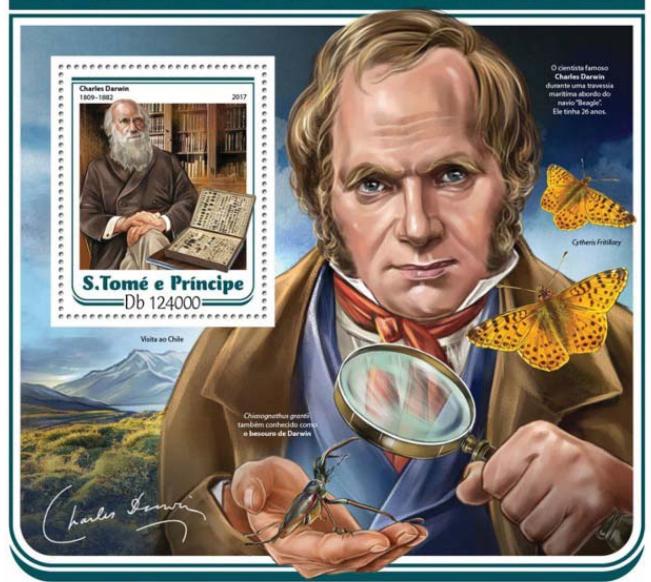


Figure 4 (top). This 2016 stamp from Germany shows the detail of a feathery antennae.

Figure 5 (above). Charles Darwin is shown on a 2017 souvenir sheet from St. Thomas & Prince Islands.

Figure 6 (left). The artist's original artwork for Monaco Scott 874.



Figure 7. The Gambia, Scott 1635b.

organ – that draws information from the antennae to help keep the butterflies balanced. This organ helps butterflies find mates as well, recognizing the wing beats of other butterflies of the same species.

One of the easiest ways to tell the difference between a butterfly and a moth is to look at the antennae. A butterfly's antennae

are club-shaped with a long shaft and a bulb at the end, as shown in the Figure 3 artist drawing for a 1965 Lebanon stamp. A moth's antennae are feathery, as shown on the Figure 4 stamp from Germany (2016), depicting the feathery, saw-edged antennae of the moth *Saturnia pavonia*. Male moths with larger antennae are better equipped to detect the low quantities of sex pheromone, a chemical signal that female moths release to attract mates.

In 1871, Charles Darwin suggested that a female's choice of mate could drive the evolution of mating signals in males (Figure 5, 2017 souvenir sheet from St. Thomas & Prince

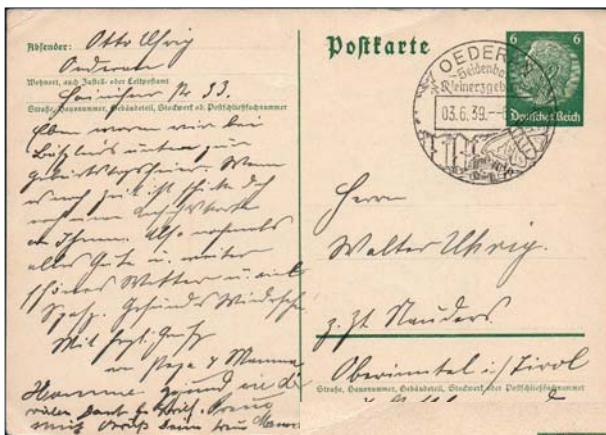


Figure 8. A 1939 special pictorial cancel featuring a female silkworm.



Figure 9. A 2009 booklet cover from Spain featuring male and female Graellsia isabelae moths.



Islands). The male is effectively advertising his qualities and, if a female chooses to mate with him, the genes for his traits are passed on to their offspring in the next generation, which ensures the evolution of the male display and the female's preference. Darwin also proposed that sexual selection can favor males who are better at detecting and responding to signals from females, including chemical signals like pheromones. So males with sensory structures that can better detect female signals may have the edge in finding them to mate and pass on their genes.

The famous French scientist Jean-Henri Fabre (1823-1915) devoted his life to the field of insect research, especially to the world of smells. Fabre's method of studying live insects, particularly in their natural habitats, allowed him to make many new discoveries. His insights included finding out that female Great Peacock moths (*Saturnia pyri*) produce a scent (pheromone). Fabre and a specimen of *Saturnia pyri* appear on the Figure 6 stamp from Monaco (1973). Thus, Fabre first discovered the olfactory possibilities of butterflies and moths. He proved that the smell exudes a tiny drop of liquid from the born female and the smell spreads to a huge space compared to it and the males have a hypersensitivity to the smell of the female.

German biochemist Adolf Friedrich Johann Butenandt (1903-95) is shown on the Figure 7 Gambia stamp from 1995. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1939 for his "work on sex hormones of insects." Bombykol is a pheromone released by the female silkworm moth to attract mates (Figure 8, special 1939 cancel from Germany, with female silkworm). Discovered by

Figure 10. The original artwork intended for a 1966 stamp.



Adolf Butenandt in 1959, it was the first pheromone to be characterized chemically. Minute quantities of this pheromone can be used per acre of land to confuse male insects about the location of their female partners. It can thus serve as a lure in traps to effectively remove insects without spraying crops with large amounts of pesticides. Butenandt named the substance after the moth's Latin name, *Bombyx mori*.



Figure 11 (above). A sphinx moth is featured on the stamp, cachet and cancellation of this 1994 postal card from Romania.

Figure 12 (left). Switzerland Scott B228.

Figure 13 (below). St. Vincent Grenadines, 2001.



Moths have different sorts of antennae. For example, in the family *Saturniidae*, females have plain antennae and males have feathery antennae (Figure 9, a 2009 booklet from Spain featuring male and female *Graellsia isabellae* moths). Moths of the *Tineidae*, *Plutellidae*, *Tortricidae*, *Pyralidae*, *Noctuidae* (Figure 10, original art for 1966 Austria stamp with moth of *Noctuidae* family), *Arctiidae* and *Uraniidae* families have threadlike antennae, but moths of the *Sphingidae* family have thickened antennae (Figure 11, sphinx moth on entire 1994 postal of Romania with special cancel). One molecule per cubic meter of air – this is the concentration of the



Figure 14. Photographically cropped 1995 postal card from Austria.

fragrant substance of the female trapped by the males. Scientists have found that males of the moth *Lymantria monacha* (Figure 12, *Lymantria monacha* on 1953 stamp of Switzerland) arrive at the smell of a female from a distance of 200–300 meters. Moth *Lymantria dispar* (Figure 13, 2001 souvenir sheet from St. Vincent & Grenadines with male and two female *Lymantria dispar*) can perceive the smell of a female at a distance of 3.8 kilometers and moth *Saturnia pyri* from 8 kilometers (Figure 14, *Saturnia pyri* on 1995 Austria postal card 1995). There is also a record distance. Male silkworms with feathery antennae feel the smell of the female at a distance of 11 kilometers (Figure 15, designer's drawing of 1965 North Korea stamp showing male silkworm).

I hope this story illustrated the different types of philatelic materials possible to help philatelists identify and develop a philatelic exhibit of butterflies and moths. ■

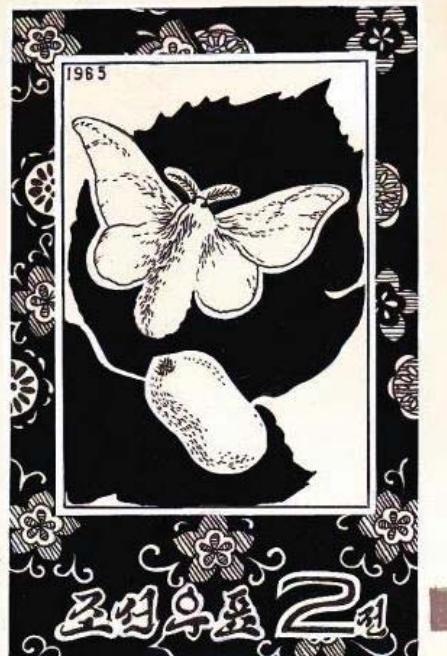


Figure 15. Original artwork for a 1965 stamp from North Korea that depicts a male silkworm, Scott 639.

The author would like to hear from others who are interested in butterflies and moths. He also assists philatelists in creating philatelic exhibits on butterflies and moths. He may be reached at: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, or by email: vladimirkachan@mail.ru.

60 Years of Earth Imaging from Satellites

By Don Hillger and Garry Toth

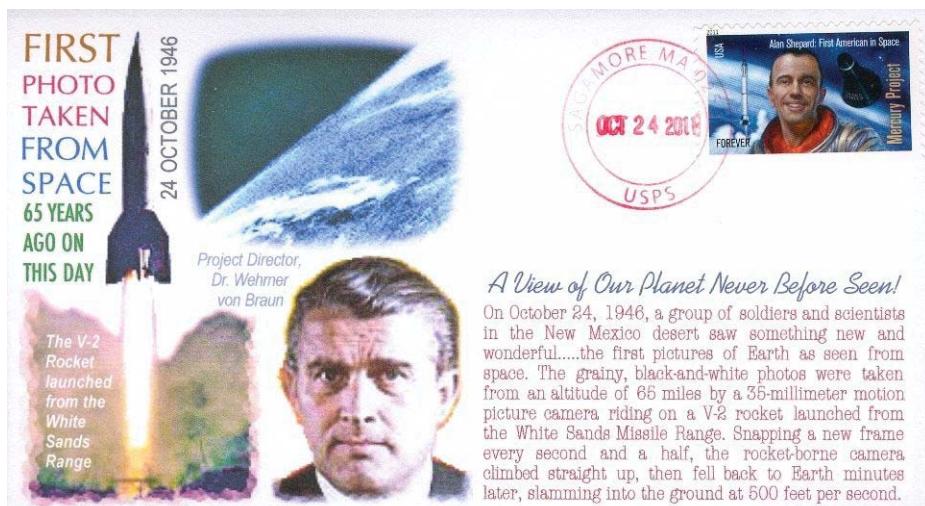
Satellite imagery is a common and integral part of modern life, from the frequent cloud photos used for weather analysis, forecasting and television illustrations to Earth-observing imagery for environmental monitoring. This flood of imagery is a modern phenomenon. Starting with the first artificial satellites in the late 1950s, the ability to view Earth from space has progressed steadily to the point that many terabytes of imagery are now obtained daily from satellites, which have become the main sources of the remote-sensing data that swell the archives of the scientific community.

The topic of satellite imagery and its history could fill a large number of volumes. The goal of this article is to outline certain aspects of satellite remote-sensing history (hitting the highlights, as it were) and, in particular, to focus on some of the innovative satellite imagery that has recently become available.

The First Earth Imagery

The first photo of Earth from space was not taken by a satellite, but rather from a German V-2 missile launched from White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in New Mexico on Oct. 24, 1946. The story of that photo is documented in the Smithsonian Air and Space Magazine (www.airspacemag.com/space/the-first-photo-from-space-13721411). The only postal item known to show this rocket-view image is a 65th anniversary cover for the launch of that V2 rocket. This cover sets the stage for the many items with satellite-based imagery that follow in the years after 1946, a theme that is well documented in space philately.

The first image of the Earth taken by an orbiting satellite was a badly-smeared photograph from Explorer-6, taken on Aug. 14, 1959. A postage stamp from Cameroun has a TV display of an image of Earth. The stamp refers to Explorer-6



First image of the Earth from space, from a V-2 rocket launched in 1946, for which this 2011 Coverscape cover commemorates the 65th anniversary of launch.

A View of Our Planet Never Before Seen!

On October 24, 1946, a group of soldiers and scientists in the New Mexico desert saw something new and wonderful....the first pictures of Earth as seen from space. The grainy, black-and-white photos were taken from an altitude of 66 miles by a 35-millimeter motion picture camera riding on a V-2 rocket launched from the White Sands Missile Range. Snapping a new frame every second and a half, the rocket-borne camera climbed straight up, then fell back to Earth minutes later, slamming into the ground at 600 feet per second.

and includes the Aug. 7, 1959, launch date. Earth was hardly recognizable in the first image (not shown here) from the satellite. The stamp probably includes a depiction of what that image might have looked like rather than an accurate reproduction. On the TV screen we see a low-resolution satellite view that might have been possible from the highly elliptical orbit of Explorer-6, which reached a maximum altitude of 7,870 km above Earth. The image shows the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America to the left and Europe and Africa to the right.

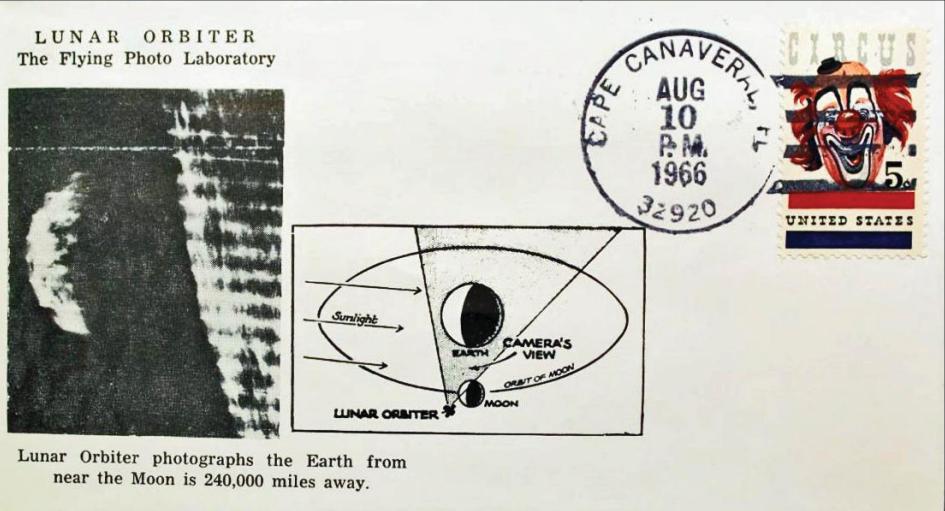
At about the same time, a few satellites were sent out of Earth orbit, and some of them had cameras that could look back at the planet. On Aug. 23, 1966, the Lunar Orbiter-1 satellite caught Earth in an image it took while in lunar orbit. A launch cover from Aug. 10, 1966, reproduces that image in its cachet. The full disk of Earth is present, though only a crescent of the planet is illuminated and visible. To the authors' knowledge, this is the earliest full-disk Earth image to appear in any philatelic item. The stamp and cancel must have been applied to a blank envelope on Aug. 10, with the cachet added later when the image became available. The cachet maker is unknown.

First True Color Images of the Earth

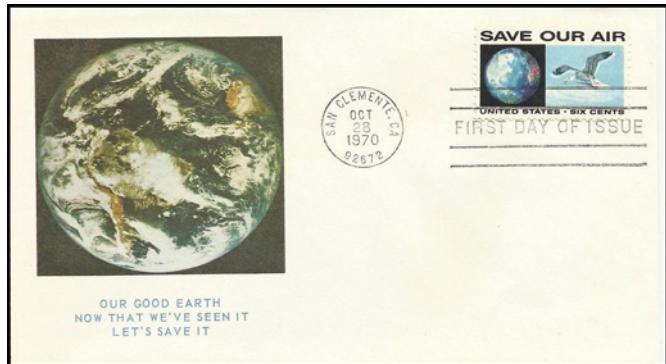
In 1967, nearly a decade after the dawn of the satellite era, the Applications Technology Satellite 3 (ATS-3) provided the first full-disk "true color" images of



Explorer-6 schematic image of Earth: Cameroun, Scott C99, Michel 533, 1968.



Lunar Orbiter-1 launch cover; Cape Canaveral cancel. The cachet includes an image of Earth above the lunar horizon taken on Aug. 23, 1966.



**ATS-3 true-color image of Earth: United States,
FDC, Scott 1413, Michel 1015, 1970.**

of geostationary satellites returned, until relatively recently, to single-color visible images with additional infrared images for day and night use. While single-band visible imagery satisfied basic user requirements for daytime imagery, the loss of true-color capability and its inherent ability to distinguish a wide range of atmospheric and surface features via coloration left a notable void. True-color imagery was relegated to polar-orbiting satellites, such as the Earth Observation Satellites (EOS), Terra and Aqua satellites that will be mentioned later. However, it was not until nearly a half-century after ATS, with the launch of Japan's Himawari-8 satellite in October 2014, that there was once again a geostationary sensor, the Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI), that contained the multispectral visible bands required for true-color imaging. That was followed by a similar capability on the U.S. geostationary satellite GOES-16 launched in late 2016. True-color imagery is now a primary product generated for full-disk multi-spectral imaging of the Earth. But that's getting ahead of ourselves. Let's see what else transpired between the earliest images and the present with respect to Earth imaging.

Blue Marble 1972

Full-disk images of the Earth were routinely available in black and white from numerous weather and environmental-observing satellites in geostationary orbit dating back to the 1970s. Earth was also often photographed in black and white from space for many years from manned spacecraft, but none of those photos are as impressive as true-color images. However, some true-color images from manned spacecraft were also made.

The most famous and single-most widely used full-disk true-color image of the Earth is the so-called Blue Marble image. Never has a particular image of the Earth become as popular. The Blue Marble photograph was taken on Dec. 7, 1972, by the crew of *Apollo-17* as the astronauts made their way to the moon. The sun was behind them, so Earth

***The first Blue Marble image of the Earth,
taken from Apollo 17 on Dec. 7, 1972.***

Earth. An example of that image appears in the cachet of a U.S. first-day cover from 1970. With its depiction of blue oceans, golden deserts and green forestlands beneath white clouds, the imagery captured the Earth in a way that resonates strongly with human perception. However, after ATS-3, the standard fare

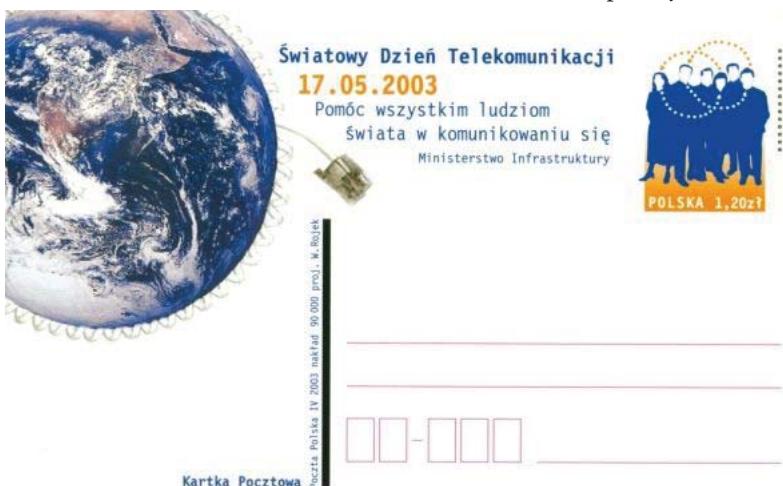


was fully illuminated when the photograph was taken. Geostationary weather satellite images are taken from the geo-synchronous altitude of 35,000 km, while the Blue Marble photo was taken from somewhat farther away (45,000 km).

The original Blue Marble image is shown nearby, for comparison with the postal items that will follow. The image is centered over the western Indian Ocean just to the east of Africa. Except for brown and slightly-green land features, the tones are mostly blue, thus inspiring the Blue Marble name given to this image. Identifiable features in the image are the cloud-free Sahara Desert and Arabian Peninsula in the north. South of that, patchy clouds cover equatorial Africa, and still farther south, a large frontal system of thick white clouds, visible as an inverted “comma,” creates a distinguishing feature that is immediately noticeable even on small renditions of the image. Other cold fronts are visible to the west and east of the main “comma.” At the



Blue Marble 1972 image: Qatar, Scott 947, Michel 1181, 2001.

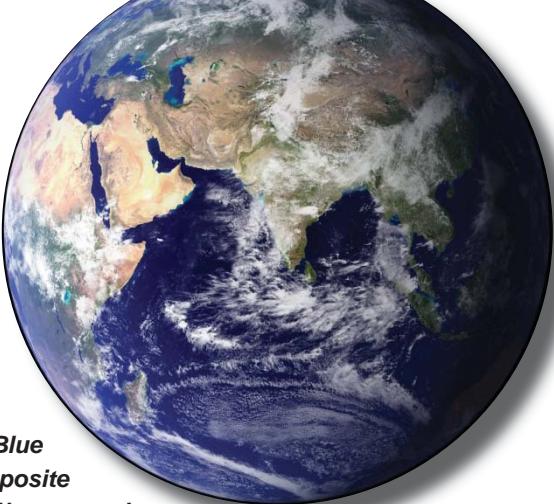


Blue Marble 1972 image: Poland postal card, 2003.

bottom, Antarctica appears mostly white in a combination of snow and ice surfaces and clouds, fully lit at what is nearly the peak of the Southern Hemisphere summer.

The Blue Marble image can be found on a large number of postal items. Aside from the beauty of the image, it is very popular because it is in the public domain. Some postal items reproduce it more or less faithfully, while others alter it in various ways. In some reproductions, the colors have been changed or the image has been cropped from the original full-disk version. In others, the Blue Marble image has been rotated, flipped, or both, when compared to the original orientation with North on top. The rotated and flipped images can be hard to identify, though the big white comma cloud generally stands out. Its shape is useful to guide the transformations to flip and/or rotate an image on a stamp back to the original orientation.

About 200 postal items from 70 countries have been found to include the Blue Marble image, though some are simply postal derivatives, such as FDCs or



*The 2001 Blue
Marble composite
images of the Western and
Eastern Hemispheres, respectively.*

other covers. In this article, two postal items with the best Blue Marble images are shown: a stamp from Qatar and a postal card from Poland. The Blue Marble image on the Polish postal card is rotated slightly clockwise, compared to the image on the stamp from Qatar. All Blue Marble items known to the authors, including those with small or difficult-to-interpret images, can be examined on the website whose URL is included at the end of this article.

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The 1972 Apollo-17 Blue Marble is not the only true-color image of the Earth that was widely reproduced on postage stamps and covers, nor is the Blue Marble name unique to that photograph. A second official NASA Blue Marble was created in 2001, this time one that covers more of Earth, with views of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

This 2001 Blue Marble image is not made from a single photograph. Rather, it is a composite from numerous true-



*Blue Marble 2001
Western Hemisphere
image: Jordan, Scott
2127, Michel 2168, 2012.*

color images acquired by the Terra (EOS-AM) and Aqua (EOS-PM) satellites. On board both satellites are Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instruments that take continuous visible and infrared images that cover the entire surface of the Earth every one to two days from their sun-synchronous polar orbits.

From single MODIS images, none of which see

more than a 2,330-km-wide swath of the Earth at any time from an altitude of 705 km, computer software was able to piece together thousands of “granule” images, as they are known, each of which contains five minutes of data. To create the Blue Marble full-disk image, individual “granules” have been stitched together and any gaps between orbits filled with imagery from previous or later orbits. The resulting composite has land surface, ocean and sea ice features acquired from June through September 2001. Cloud features were acquired on two separate days: June 29, 2001, for the Northern Hemisphere, and Nov. 16, 2001, for the Southern Hemisphere.

The 2001 Blue Marble is presented here in two parts, with views of the Western and Eastern Hemispheres. In the Western Hemisphere view, Earth is tilted south so that more of the Northern Hemisphere is shown. Emphasis is placed on North America, and much of the North polar region can be seen. The Eastern Hemisphere image also has Earth tilted to the south, but less drastically, so that none of Antarctica can be seen, while Asia, Europe and part of Africa are clearly visible. Since these are composite images, almost any orientation of Earth is possible, and some other orientations are found on philatelic items in the authors’ checklist in the URL presented later.

About 80 postal items have been found with the 2001 Blue Marble image, but only two examples will be presented here. Shown are a stamp from Jordan with a Western

Hemisphere version of the 2001 Blue Marble and a souvenir sheet from Bulgaria with the 2001 Blue Marble centered on the Eastern Hemisphere. Readers who wish to examine the full set of items are referred to the authors’ website at the URL found at the end of this article. The Blue Marble on each item was identified by the patterns of land, water, ice and cloud, even in cases where only portions of the full disk image are included.



*Blue Marble 2001 Eastern Hemisphere image:
Bulgaria, Scott 4426, Michel BL291, 2007.*

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The 2012 Blue Marble

In 2012, NASA created yet a third Blue Marble image, this time composited from Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) imagery from the Suomi National Polar-Orbiting Partnership (S-NPP) satellite at an altitude of 824 km. Single VIIRS

“granule” images are 3,040 km wide, but only 570 km long in the along-orbit direction. That amount of data is obtained in only 90 seconds of scanning by the instrument. At first glance, this composited Blue Marble image appears to be similar to imagery from geo-synchronous orbit, but the extra-large size of North America, compared to the entire Earth, betrays its creation from a lower-orbit satellite. At the time of writing, only one reproduction of this latest Blue Marble image has been found, on a postage stamp from the United States from 2016. However, the authors expect that it is just a matter of time before more philatelic images will be produced.

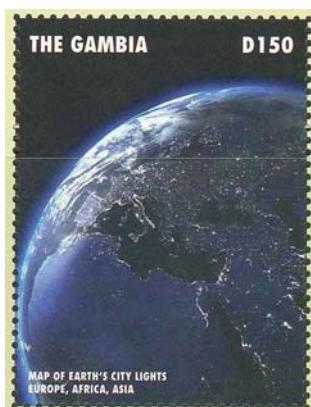


**Blue Marble 2012 image:
United States, Scott 5071,
Michel 5245, 2016.**

Day/Night Band (DNB) Imagery

Along with its visible and infrared imagery, the VIIRS instrument obtains unique Day/Night Band (DNB) imagery. That imagery is available at a much higher spatial resolution (750 m) and at much lower light levels than its predecessor nighttime imagery from U.S. military satellites. Nighttime visible imagery has become a popular way of observing via reflected moonlight what would normally be seen only during the daytime via reflected sunlight. DNB imagery also sees city lights and other human and natural light sources as if someone were on the International Space Station viewing Earth below. The DNB also observes Earth during the daytime, as the name implies, but that imagery is largely indistinguishable from other daytime visible imagery.

Among the philatelic items featuring this new nighttime imagery are: a set of stamps from The Gambia, a souvenir sheet of three stamps from The Netherlands (with the nighttime imagery in the background/margins) and another sheet of two stamps from Bosnia and Herzegovina (again with the nighttime imagery in the background). On this last sheet, the nighttime portion of the DNB image (on the left) shows city lights, but in the daytime portion (on the right) any human/city lights are too weak to show up, given the solar illumination reflected by the Earth’s surface. In this case, the right side of the background is true-color imagery created from the red, green and blue component images from VIIRS.



**Day/Night Band imagery:
Gambia, Scott 3653,
Michel unknown, 2015.**



Above: Day/Night Band imagery, Netherlands, Scott and Michel not yet listed, 2016.

Left: Day/Night Band imagery, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croat Administration), Scott 330a, Michel BL36, 2016.

Below: Day/Night Band imagery in lower-left margin of souvenir sheet of 4 stamps released for the 60th anniversary of Sputnik-1: Ivory Coast, Scott and Michel not yet listed, 2017.



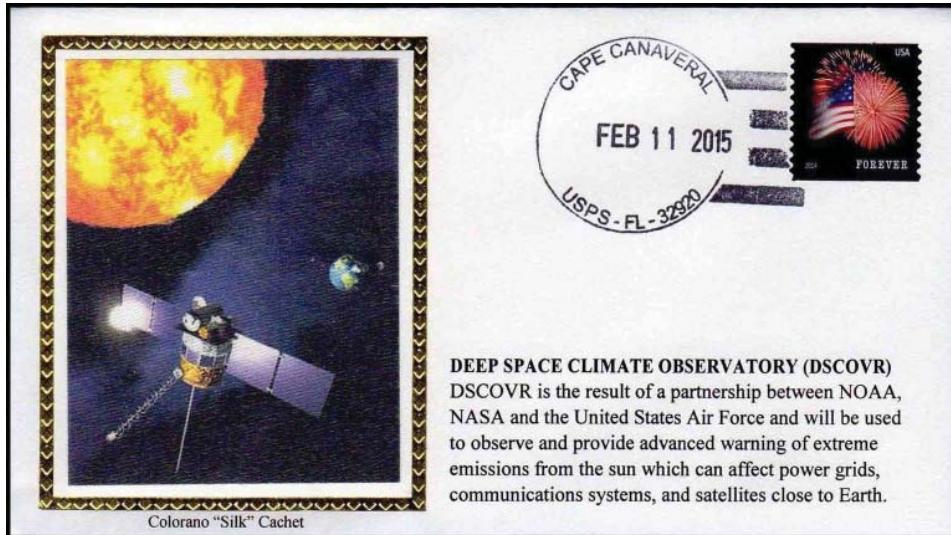


Day/Night Band imagery utilized in background of a souvenir sheet of single stamp for the 60th anniversary of Sputnik-2, carrying the first space dog Laika: Ivory Coast, Scott and Michel not yet listed, 2017.

With the increasing popularity of imagery of nighttime lights from space, postal items continued to appear in 2017. The following two items from Ivory Coast utilize DNB imagery in the margin or the background of souvenir sheets that mark the 60th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik-1 and 2, respectively. Since these items do not use the DNB imagery as the primary element, it's easy to miss such uses. Often the DNB imagery is combined with daytime true-color imagery, together making unusual and impressive images of Earth.

Earth imagery from farther outside Earth orbit

In 2015 a satellite was launched that became the latest operational solar-observing satellite. To be most effective at forecasting space weather for Earth, a satellite should continuously monitor the Sun and the solar wind at some point between the Sun and the Earth. An ideal location for doing this is the gravity-neutral point in space called the Lagrange point 1 or L1, at which, due to a balance of gravitational forces, a satellite orbits the Sun once per year, just like Earth. In other words, a satellite at L1 "hovers" constantly between Earth and the Sun. The satellite launched in 2015 is the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR), which also views the Earth in full sunlight at all times by looking away from the Sun. Beautiful images of Earth, showing it spinning on its axis, can be found at <https://epic.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. The Earth images are a secondary mission for DSCOVR, but they can be useful for monitoring the weather and climate, with continuous views of the entire full-disk from about one million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away. The DSCOVR imagery is the first Earth imagery of its kind from these distances. No images of the Earth from DSCOVR have yet been found on any postal items, but launch covers exist, such as the one nearby.



Launch cover for DSCOVR satellite from 2015, whose primary mission is to monitor the Sun and space weather, but also provides full-disk Earth imagery.

The Current State of Satellite Imagery

Over the last 60 years, the capabilities of satellites have greatly improved, with images now regularly obtained at much higher spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions than ever before. The spectral resolution refers to the numerous spectral bands that are observed, ranging from visible to infrared wavelengths, including the true-color and nighttime visible imagery that were previously discussed.

The USA's primary weather satellite systems, JPSS (in polar orbit) and GOES (in geostationary orbit) provide vast amounts of information on the state of Earth for weather and other environmental-monitoring purposes. Similar satellites from Europe, Japan, Korea and China likewise monitor Earth as never before. The DSCOVR satellite provides a type of imagery not available from the weather satellites. Ever since the advent of satellites in the late 1950s, there has been an increasing level (resolution and frequency) of Earth imaging, but only recently is the imagery at space and time scales that can be considered to provide true global monitoring.

Additional online information

A checklist of satellite imagery on postal items is available at <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/billger/satellite-images.htm>. The authors would like to hear from anyone who knows of additional postal items that have been missed, particularly the Blue Marble and Day/Night Band imagery found on postal items. Email correspondence with the authors is welcomed, using the addresses on Page 60. ☐

Biographical notes

The authors have researched and written extensively on the subjects of weather, climate, and non-manned satellites on stamps and covers, as well as other topics. For a complete list and electronic reproductions of those publications, see <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/billger/stamp-articles.htm>.

Don Hillger, PhD, is a research meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and holds a cooperative position at Colorado State University. Send correspondence to don.hillger@colostate.edu

Garry Toth, MSc, now retired, worked for many years at the Meteorological Service of Canada. Send correspondence to gmt.varia@gmail.com

The authors also wrote ATA's handbook No. 166, *Space Weather*. Ordering information is found on Page 2.

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Ann Triggle 1935-2018

Jack André Denys

Renowned philatelic judge, exhibitor and long-time ATA member, Ann Maureen Triggle died April 26 in Sarasota, Fla. Ann was named Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 2006 and won the reserve grand award at the National

Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) in 1999 for *Ichthyology: a treatise on fishes*. The title and two other pages may be seen at www.americantopicalassn.org/ex-ichthyology.shtml. She also served as both an ATA- and APS-accredited judge.



Born in Wales, Ann lived in Buffalo, N.Y., before retiring to Florida with her husband, David.

She had collections on the topic of coal, as well as on revenues, stationery and postal history of Wales, British Guinea and Western New York. Her pioneering exhibit, *Sanitary Inspection Fee Stamps of Rosario, Argentina*, about “ladies of the evening” hooker stamps (also known as “Red Light Revenues”), is available online: rpastamps.org/presentations/ladies/indexoutline.html

Ann received many philatelic honors, including the John N. Luff Award for outstanding service to philately. When she was named a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, it was noted that “her contributions to judging programs have been immense. She was an important collaborator in devising and implementing the North American approach to judging and exhibiting. On behalf of The RPSC and the APS, she spearheaded a successful proposal to the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) for the introduction of a one-frame class at the world level.”

Ann served as U.S. representative on the FIP Thematic Commission and as a member of the FIP Thematic Bureau. She was one of only two persons to concurrently serve on the Boards of both the RPSC and the APS.

Serving philately at all levels, Ann held offices in local and regional organizations, including Ropex (Rochester Philatelic Society) and the Sarasota National Exhibition. She served as U.S. commissioner to several international shows. Ann was a member or leader of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), the American Philatelic Congress (APC), the APS Writers Unit 30, Great Britain Collectors Club, the Society of Postal Historians, the Welsh Philatelic Society and the Collectors’ Club of NY. She chaired the Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibition Judges (CANEJ) and was awards chair for Pacific ’97 and Washington 2006. She also presented seminars at national shows, taught online courses for beginning collectors and mentored numerous philatelists.

Professionally, Ann – and her husband – taught at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Buffalo. She was founder/director of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Museum there.

Ann Triggle was widely respected throughout the philatelic world. Fellow judge Tom Fortunato writes, “I consider Ann among my top philatelic mentors. I judged with her many times. Her depth of knowledge in so many different philatelic areas was astounding. To say that she will be missed is an understatement.” □

UNITS IN ACTION

By Jeffrey Hayward, ATA Study Unit Coordinator (jefthowardata@gmail.com)

NOTE: THE GASTRONOMY STUDY UNIT WAS RECENTLY CHARTERED BY THE ATA AND ITS FIRST JOURNAL IS REVIEWED IN THIS COLUMN. WELCOME TO THE ATA!

Americana Unit

Americana Philatelic News

William Pederson continues his series of "Abraham Lincoln in Latin America: Part Two" with Lincoln stamps issued in several island nations as well as half of the countries in South America. Six pages of Americana-related new issues are also included in the July-September 2017 issue of *Americana Philatelic News*.



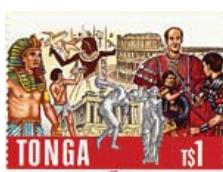
Dues are \$9 in the United States, \$15 elsewhere. Contact Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.

Email: dennisdengel@verizon.net
Website: www.americaunit.org

Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

Old World Archaeologist

The feature article in the July 2017 *Old World Archaeologist* is about saving monuments on Philae in Egypt. Philae is among the Nubian Monuments saved during the 1960s by UNESCO and the article contains many philatelic illustrations. There are also 12 new ar-



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chaeology-related new issues reported in this issue.

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

Email: editor@owasu.org

Website: www.owasu.org

Armenian Philatelic Association

(ArPA)

ArPA Quarterly Journal

A short autobiography of "Alain Prost, Formula One Four-Time Champion" is included in the June

2017 *ArPA Quarterly Journal*. Born in France in 1955, Prost is of Armenian descent and began racing carts



at age 14. Several stamp issues are shown commemorating Prost's racing accomplishments.

Dues are \$35 in the United States, \$45 elsewhere. Contact Igor Grigorian, 2764 Delevan Dr, Los Angeles CA 90065-5134.

Email: armssr@gmail.com

Website: www.armenianphilatelic.org

Astronomy Study Unit

Astrofax

In the September 2017 *Astrofax*, the editor recaps "The Eclipse" that occurred Aug. 21, 2017, illustrating the article with the recent USPS Eclipse postage stamp, along with several other covers and



postmarks depicting eclipses. Readers are also provided a philatelic tour of the Andromeda constellation in the journal.

Dues are \$8. Contact John W.G. Budd, 728 Sugar Camp Way, Brooksville FL 34604-1501.

Email: jwg'budd@gmail.com

Web: www.astronomystudyunit.net

Biology Unit

Biophilately

Vic Eichler writes about “A Unique Amphibian on a Postage Stamp,” which shows a Mexican Burrowing Caecilian. This is the first time that a caecilian amphibian has been illustrated on a postage stamp; it was issued by the Central African Republic in 2001.



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@biophilately.org

Website: www.biophilately.org

Books and Printing (Graphics Philately Association) *Philateli-Graphics*

“The Netherlands 2016 Year of the Book” sheetlet is the lead article in the April 2017 *Philateli-Graphics*. According to author John Sullivan, the Netherlands may have issued the largest number of stamps depicting books since the first “Day of the Book” in November 1930. The sheetlet has stamps showing 10 different books and authors, including *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



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: unhinged@gbstamps.com

Website: www.graphics-stamps.org

Captain Cook Society

Cook's Log

In the April-June 2017 *Cook's Log*, several biographies are written about Captain Cook's crew members James Burney, Thomas Shaw and Thomas Tretcher. Also in this issue is an article about the development of the chronometer and relics of Cook's voyages in the South Seas.



Dues in the United States are \$28, \$14 for the electronic version. Contact Jerry Yucht, 8427 Leale Ave, Stockton CA 95212-1913.

Email: us@CaptainCookSociety.com

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

Email: Secretary@CaptainCookSociety.com

or, \$Aus48 in Australia. Contact Len Harrow, 48 Tomasetti Crescent, Narre Warren, Victoria 3805, Australia

Email: australianbranch@CaptainCookSociety.com

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

Email: canada@CaptainCookSociety.com

or, \$NZ40 in New Zealand. Contact Brian Wyeth, 4 Bush Point Rd, Cable Bay 0420, New Zealand

Email: nz@CaptainCookSociety.com

Website: www.CaptainCookSociety.com

Carto-Philatelic Society

The New Carto-Philatelist

In the October 2017 *The New Carto-Philatelist*, Barry Garner continues part two of “Map Stamps from Australia’s Overseas Territories,” with stamps from the Cocos and Keeling Islands.



Twenty-seven islands make up the Cocos and Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean, more than 1,800 miles from Western Australia.

James Hamilton also writes about his favorite carto-philatelic stamp issued by and depicting Vatican City in April 1986 after being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

Website: www.mapsonstamps.org

Cats on Stamps Study Unit

Cat Mews

In the Autumn 2017 *Cat Mews*, Geir Arveng reports Germany issued cat stamps for 2017's For Youth semi-postal. The stamps depict the marionette Mikesch, the tomcat based on the cat from the book *Kocour Mikes* by Josev Lada.



Several pages of new issues and pictorial postmarks are also reported in this issue.

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www.stamps.org

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

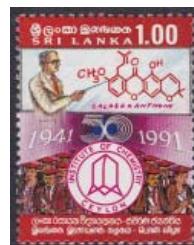
Email: bobmarci@aol.com

Website: www.catstamps.info

Chemistry & Physics Study Unit

Philatelia Chimica et Physica

Michael Fortea shares the “Periodic Table of the Elements FDC and Maximum Cards” for a stamp released by Spain in 2007 commemorating the centenary of the death of Dimitri Mendeleev and The



Periodic Table of the Elements. Thirteen different examples of FDCs and maximum cards with this stamp are shared by the author. Florin Patapie-Raicu also writes about Nicolae Constantin Paulescu and his discovery of insulin in the Spring 2017 *Philatelia Chimica et Physica*.

Dues are \$20 in the United States, \$26 in Canada, \$40 elsewhere. Contact Roland F. Hirsch, 20458 Waters Point Ln, Germantown MD 20874-1091.

Email: michael@cpossu.org

Website: www.cpossu.org

Chess on Stamps Study Unit

Chesstamp Review

Jon Edwards shared the many chess cancels on registered covers he has collected of “Botvinnik’s World Championship Matches” in *Chesstamp Review* April-June 2017.

Botvinnik was World Chess Champion from 1948-67, losing the title briefly during that period.

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

Christmas Philatelic Club Yule Log

“Collecting Christmas: Covers and Cards,” is the third article Christine Sanders has written about collecting the topic of Christmas. In this article Sanders shares the different types of Christmas covers and cards, explaining the various types and what makes them collectible. Four pages of updates to the Christmas checklist were provided in the July-September 2017 *Yule Log*.

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

Email: jp4stamps@windstream.net
Web: www.christmasphilatelicclub.org/

Disneyana on Stamps Society *Disnemation*

Ginny Sylvester begins part one of “The Year of the Car” in which she explores the different cars depicted in eight sets of Disney stamps with cars. Part one begins with four sets of these stamps that show cars made by Buick, Ford, Rolls-Royce and several other manufacturers. The Disney Films on Stamps series continues in *Disnemation* No. 79 with the years 1986-89.



Membership is free. Members receive *Disnemation* online six times a year; site access is password controlled.
Email: disnemation@yahoo.ca
Website: disnemation.wixsite.com/doss

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

In *Reflections* July 2017, editor Don Neal reports a new issue from “Canada Post’s Star Trek Captains.” African American actor Avery Franklin Brooks appears on one of the stamps as character Captain Sisko and a short autobiography is provided. The sheet of stamps shows the Starfleet captains along with the villains they battled.



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

Errors, Freaks, and Oddities Collectors’ Club *The EFO Collector*

John Hotchner continues his series about collecting EFOs and “Not Spending Big Bucks” with part 10. In this part of the series, Hotchner explores color blobs, splatters, bubbles, doughnuts, foreign matter and scooped ink that can all affect a stamp’s appearance. Auction No. 148 was also conducted by the EFO



Collectors Club in this issue.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$37 elsewhere. Contact David Hunt, 45 Fairway Dr, Denver PA 17517. **Email:** dbhunt@ptdprolog.net
Website: www.efocc.org

Europa Study Unit

Europa News

The July-August 2017 *Europa News* leads with a new issue of a special booklet issued by France celebrating European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Pequet's return to Earth after his six-month mission ended in 2017. Thirteen pages are also dedicated to the Europa 2017 theme of "castles," with more than 20 nations issuing castle stamps.



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

Email: tvanloij@gmail.com

Website: www.europastudyunit.org

Fire Service in Philately

Fire Stamp News

Fire vehicles manufactured by Opel, Pegaso, Puegot and Praga are featured in Ed Flory's continuing series on "Foreign Made Fire Apparatus on Stamps" in the April-June 2017 *Fire Stamp News*. Also in this issue is an article about "St. Florian: Patron Saint of Fire Fighters." Florian was a Roman general and had

adopted the Christian faith. After refusing to renounce Christianity, the Christians in his



district were rounded up, their homes burned and he was thrown into the fires.

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

Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit

The Philatelic Gourmet

The first issue of *The Philatelic Gourmet*, edited by David Wolfersberger, starts strong with articles on bananas, the cardoon (artichoke thistle) and "Recipes from Turkish Physicians." In addition to some administrative matters about the study unit, there are also five pages of gastronomy new issues in the journal.

Dues are \$20 in the United States, Canada \$24, elsewhere \$28, electronic version \$5. Contact Dawn Hamman, 21042 Anclote Ct, Venice FL 34293-0351.

Email: dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com

Website: www.gastronomystamps.org



Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Study Unit

Philagems International

In *Philagems International* July-September 2017, Josef Charrach explores "Tin through the Ages" and locations where this metal has been mined over the past 5,000 years. Li Jun also writes a biography of Chinese Geologist Shen Kuo, who was the first to describe the magnetic needle compass.

Dues are \$20 in North America and \$25 elsewhere. Contact Fred Haynes, 10



Country Club Dr, Rochester NY 14618-3720.

Email: fredmnbaynes@gmail.com

or, Josef Charrach, PO.Box 14, Metar, 85025, Israel

Email: jcharrach@gmail.com

Judaica Thematic Society *Judaica News*

A biography of "Gertrude Berg: Workaholic, Actor and Writer" leads

the December 2017 issue of *Judaica News*. Berg was born in New York City in 1899. Her parents operated a hotel in the Catskill

Mountains where she would entertain guests. She started her radio career in *Rise of the Goldbergs* in 1929.

Dues are not required; the publication *Judaica News* is available in electronic format only at no cost. Contact Gary Goodman at the following email address:
Email: judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

Lighthouse Stamp Society *The Philatelic Beacon*

Part five of Paul Loncrier's series on "Lighthouses of South Korea" continues in *The Philatelic Beacon* September-October 2017. The Geomundo Light and the Mokpogu Lighthouse are featured this time in the series. The first Geomundo



light was built in 1905 on the Southern coast of Korea. In 2006 it was replaced by a modern 108 concrete tower light that was placed alongside the original lighthouse.

Dues are \$15 in the United States, \$20 in Canada and Mexico and \$20 elsewhere; an electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for \$10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 1805 S Balsam St Apt 106, Lakewood, CO 80232-6778.

Email: dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org
Website: www.lighthousestampsociety.org

Masonic Study Unit *Philatelic Freemason*

Editor Robert Domingue recently discovered on eBay a cover featuring six Freemason "Commanders of the Frigate Constitution" and presents a biography of each of the commanders in the November-December 2017 *Philatelic Freemason*. There is also a report of several nations issuing stamps to celebrate the Grand Lodge of England's 300th Anniversary.



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

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

THANK YOU, PETER MORVILLE

Mathematical Study Unit

Philamath

A biography of American cryptographer, electrical engineer and mathematician Claude Elwood Shannon appears in the July 2017 *Philamath*.



Shannon is known for his digital design circuit theory, as well as for his contributions during World War II in the field of cryptanalysis. Shannon was



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commemorated on a Macedonian stamp issue in July 2016 for the centenary of his birth.

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

Email: montystrauss@gmail.com

Website: www.mathstamps.org

Medical Subjects Unit

Scalpel & Tongs

In the April-June 2017 issue, Jayant Pai-Dhungat writes about "Some



Medical Aspects of World War I" and the many medical conditions affecting soldiers during the war, as well as weapons used and the injuries they caused. Fred Skvara also writes about the use of "Cod Liver Oil" and its therapeutic effects when treating some medical conditions and diseases.

Dues are \$15 in the United States and \$18 elsewhere. Contact Fred Skvara, PO Box 6228, Bridgewater NJ 08807-6228. Email: fcskvara@optonline.net

Motivgruppe Musik (International Philatelic Music Study Group)

Der Musikus

A biography of composer, organist and choirmaster Cardinal Domenico Bartolucci is one of many biographies appearing in the September 2017 *Der Musikus*. Dominico was the director of the Sistine Chapel Choir, masses and concerts including a concert in 2012 for Pope Benedict XVI.



Twelve fully illustrated pages of music-related new issues are also included in the September 2017 issue.

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
www.motivgruppe-musik.de/indexe.html

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit *The Rookery Report*

Irene Porter shares her exploration of Captain Scott's hut in Cape Evans,

Antarctica, in *The Rookery Report* Winter 2018. While supporting scientific staff in Antarctica, Porter was able to see relics from the Scott Expedition and also had the chance to see Emperor penguins up close.

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

Email: gentoo172@yahoo.com
Website: www.penguinstamps.org

The Perfins Club *The Perfins Bulletin*

In *The Perfins Bulletin* May-June 2017, Steve Endicott and Paul Mistretta share what may be a new perfin for the Polish National Alliance. Jeff Turnbull of the Perfins Society of Great Britain also writes about Jersey International Response Coupons and how they are mostly used for philatelic purposes. The Perfins Club also conducted auction No.153 in this issue.



Dues are \$16 in the United States, \$23 in Canada and \$26 elsewhere. Contact Ken Rehfeld, PO Box 125, Spokane Valley WA 99016-0125.

Email: kenrehfeld@comcast.net
Website: www.perfins.org

Petroleum Philatelic Society International *Petro-Philatelist*

An article on "The Oil Stamps of Russia and the Far East," shared from a PPSI member's collection, is the lead article in Spring 2017 *Petro-Philatelist*. The article explores the Russian oil industry from the early 1900s through the late 1950s. Several new issues were also accepted as oil related and provided to members.



Electronic membership only: available worldwide. Contact Feitze Papa, 922 Meander Dr, Walnut Creek CA 94598-4239.

Email: oldad@astound.net

Pitcairn Islands Study Group *Pitcairn Log*

The editor reports "Another 'Mysterious' early Pitcairn Cover," describing all of the different elements used on the commercial cover sent in November 1945 from Pitcairn. The story of what was supposed to be Pitcairn's first airmail drop



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>

Lynn Vernon
8430 Iris Rd
Plymouth IN 46563-9055

Email: gentoo172@yahoo.com

in 1951 is told in the April 2017 *Pitcairn Log*.

Dues are \$20 in the United States and Canada, \$25 elsewhere for regular members, \$30 or more for contributing members, \$18 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Ed Morgan, 25 St. Julian Ct, Pawleys Island SC 29585-6309.

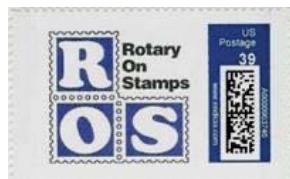
Email: eanddfof@gmail.com

Website: www.pisg.net

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

The ROS Bulletin

Several Rotary stamp new issues are reported in the August 2017 issue of *The ROS Bulletin*.



The Rotary on Stamps study unit also provided highlights from its Annual

Meeting and conventions attended by members.

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

Email: gfitz@suddenlink.net

Website: www.rotaryonstamps.org



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Scouts on Stamps Society International SOSSI Journal

The Scouts on Stamps Society International celebrated the 20th anniversary of the launch of its website, announcing that it has now opened to collectors

of Scout stamps a new reference library on the website. The reference library is composed of scout-related philatelic journals, catalogs, checklists and album pages. Several new scout issues are also reported in the May-June 2017 *SOSSI Journal*.

Dues are \$25 in the United States, \$30 in Canada, \$35 in Mexico and \$45 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for \$20 worldwide. Contact Lawrence E. Clay, PO Box 6228, Kennewick WA 99336-6228.

Email: lclay3731@charter.net

Website: www.sossi.org

United Nations Philatelists

Journal of United Nations Philatelists

Greg Galletti provides updates on exhibiting awards received by members and United Nations holders at the American Philatelic Research library in the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists* June 2017. Galletti also shares part six of his exhibit on *The Making of the United Nations Permanent Headquarters*, which

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introduced the U.N. planning committee and international competition to design the U.N. headquarters. UNPI

also conducted auction No. 46 with more than 100 lots for members.

Dues are \$28 in the United States, \$35 in Canada and \$50 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.

Email: bclemjr@yahoo.com

or, Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Dr, Cedar Rapids IA 52402-3724.

Email: chrisdahle8@gmail.com

Website: www.unpi.com

Wine on Stamps Study Unit

Enophilatelica

Deb Collett provides the lead article

"New Zealand Wine Post" in May 2017 *Enophilatelica*, exploring enophilatelic items in private

mail, customized advertising labels and wine post stamps. Four pages of new issues and checklist updates were also provided in the journal.

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

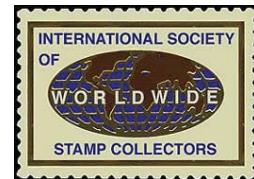
Website: www.wine-on-stamps.org

Worldwide Stamp Collectors, International Society of The Circuit

Ben Termini writes, in the July-August 2017 issue, about the "Local Posts of Morocco" and the three types of postal services used in Morocco at the turn of the 20th century. John Seidl also continued his "Dead Country" series with Brunswick and the ISWSC conducted Mail Bid Sale No. 77, offering more than 500 different stamp lots to its members.

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

Website: www.iswsc.org



mail, customized advertising labels and wine post stamps. Four pages of new issues and checklist updates were also provided in the journal.

Dues are \$17 in North America, \$22

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STUDY UNIT SPOTLIGHT

This month: Chess on Stamps Study Unit

[Editor's note: This is the 42nd 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 "60 Memorable Gems -- The Mulready Chess Set Advertisement," from the April-June 2017 issue of Chesstamp Review. To be considered for "Study Unit Spotlight," please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal recently (preferably with philatelic content) and submit it via email to the Topical Time editor (wystamps@gmail.com), or to Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward (stamps@jeffhayward.com). We hope you enjoy this fine feature.]

The Mulready Chess Set Advertisement

Charles Oppenheim

As is well known to all philatelists, the first postage stamps, the Penny Black and Twopence Blue, were made available for use by Great Britain on May 6, 1840. On the same date, the so-called Mulready letter sheets were also introduced. These sheets could either be written on directly, or could include an enclosure. As is also well known, the Mulready letter sheets failed to get a ready market, so production of the sheets ceased at the end of 1840, and they were replaced by other forms of postal stationery in 1841. The sheets were priced at 1/3d (about 6p in current British currency) for a set of 12. Very quickly, private

firms recognised a marketing opportunity here, and began printing advertisements on the inside of the letter sheets and then selling said sheets at less than face value. These advertising Mulready letter sheets had no space for writing on them, so always included an enclosure containing the actual letter when put through the post. Numerous such advertising sheets are known. Their dates range from end of May 1840 to July 1843, though any dated after 1841 were based on pre-existing stock of blank letter sheets, as new blank letter sheets were no longer issued. The paper used for making the letter sheets was very flimsy so, as a result, few exist in good condition.

So why is this of interest to chess topical collectors? Because just one of the hundreds of advertising letter sheets that were created, produced by a William Hallett on Aug. 10, 1840, includes an advertisement for chess sets and pieces (see nearby cropped illustration). This was one of a series of six weekly "Hallett's Postage Advertiser" Mulready letter sheets, each one advertising Hallett's own goods, as well as those of other advertisers. The Aug. 10 letter sheet is the only one featuring chess. William Hallett



himself was an interesting character, and some information about him can be obtained from contemporaneous records. He was born in 1811 or 1812, and described himself as a "turner" of wood, ivory and bone. He specialized in making and selling hairbrushes, toothbrushes, clothes brushes and combs, but also sold French polish, hair dyes and a few medicines, such as "Morison's Hygeian Medicine."

Looking at his advertisement relating to chess pieces, the reference to the "Edinburgh Pattern chessmen" is of interest, as that design was thought to have originated in Edinburgh in the mid-1840s, but Hallett's advertisement dates it somewhat earlier. He also developed his own design of chessmen (UK Registered Design – the equivalent of Design Patent – 82845, dated Jan. 13, 1852, for chess pieces in earthenware or wood). Whether any of the sets he advertised in August 1840 were his own design or not is unclear. He operated from 83 High Holborn, London, for many years. Based on London directories of the time, he seems to have been active as an ivory and wood turner between 1832-53. In 1852, he placed an advertisement offering to teach ivory turning at 1/6d (equivalent to 7.5p in modern British currency) per lesson. As can be seen from the Mulready advertisement, he offered his chess sets between 4/6d and 30/-, equivalent to 22.5p - £1.50 in modern currency. These days, a Hallett chess set in good condition sells for several thousand dollars. Finally, Hallett seems to have been a witness to a court case in the mid-1840s, but this might have been a different William Hallett, as the name was – and still is – not that uncommon.

I have been collecting chess topicals for nearly 40 years and, in that time, despite active searching, I have only come across two examples of the chess set advertising Mulready letter sheet: one from a dealer and one in a local auction. Both my examples are in less-than-perfect condition, either having tears or holes. I am still on the lookout for an example in good condition!

I am grateful to Jon Crumiller for his assistance in helping me find further background on Hallett. Jon was mentioned by Jon Edwards in *Chessstamp Review* No. 164, page 15, as a notable collector of chess sets and books. ☐

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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 Chesstamp 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. The group may be reached by email by writing keithfam@embarqmail.com, or simply visit the website: www.chessonstamps.org.

CHAPTER CHATTER

By Frederick C. Skvara, ATA Chapter Coordinator

Please send all chapter ATA publications to Frederick C. Skvara, 617 Country Club Rd, Bridgewater NJ 08807, or by email to: fcskvara@optonline.net

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

Website: annarborstampclub.org

Newsletter: AASC Newsletter; Harry Winter, editor.

Email: harwin@umich.edu

Newsletter topics: (February) At the March meeting Frank Donahue presented a program titled “Stamps in Murder-Mystery Motion Pictures.”



ATA Chapter No. 5, Milwaukee, Wis.

Website: wfscstamps.org/clubs/atachap5.shtml

Newsletter editor: Robert Mather.

Email: burrobob@wi.rr.com



Purple Basil.
Republic of China
2014 (Scott 4180).

Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple. Great Britain, Guernsey 1996 (Scott 579).

Newsletter topics: (February) The February meeting's theme was “Alphabet Night” with the letter ‘P’ selected as the letter. Members were asked to bring items from ‘P’ countries, philatelic items that begin with the letter ‘P’ topical that begin with that letter such as plants, presidents, penguins or others. At the January “Youth Meeting,” which is held immediately before the regular meeting, the theme was the “Winter Olympics.” (March) For the March meeting members were asked to bring items related to St. Patrick’s Day or items related to Women’s History, as March is Women’s History Month as well as the month in which St. Patrick’s Day occurs. The newsletter has a short article on “St. Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland” and shows the 1937 set of three stamps from Ireland commemorating the saint.

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

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

Newsletter topics: (February) There is an informative one-page comic-book-style article on the *Magna Carta* written and illustrated by Monty Wedd (1921-2012), an Australian comic artist. The article shows the 1965 United States 5¢ commemorative issued for the 750th anniversary of the *Magna Carta* and tells the story of the importance of this document that established the basis of personal freedom for many countries. (March) Bufpex, the annual show of the Buffalo Stamp Club, was held on March 3-4 and celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8. The show cancel shows the free-return trajectory that Apollo 8 used to circle the moon and return to earth. An article on the United States “Overrun Countries” stamps (Scott 909-921) issued between 1943 and 1944 mentions some of the flyspeck varieties found on this interesting set of stamps. Rob Henak has a nice article on “Noncompetitive Exhibiting” that first appeared in the January/February 2018 issue of *Topical Time*.

Greece (from Overrun Countries series. United States 1943 (Scott 916).

Evergreen Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 130), Kent, Wash.**Website:** www.stamps.org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club**Newsletter editor:** Tim Greene, email: gt45@msn.com

Newsletter topics: (February) At the January meeting Art Van Uchelen presented a program on the stamps of Switzerland, noting it was the second country to start a mail service. Until 1843 mail was delivered by armed messengers and thereafter by letter carriers. The stamp shown here commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Swiss airmail service. In the March issue of the *Federated Philatelist* the "Philatelic Quiz" is on Easter traditions and shows 10 stamps to be matched with 10 statements.



Swissair's DC-8
& DH3 Switzerland
1969 (Scott 499).

Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 4), Johnstown, Pa.**Newsletter:** *Philatelic Chatter*, Don Smith, editor.**Email:** donsmith32@atlanticbb.net

Newsletter topics: (March/April) The newsletter notes several new issues, including the Forever® commemorative issued March 23 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the public television show *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*. The stamp depicts a Walt Seng photograph of Fred "Mister" Rogers (1928–2003) and the puppet King Friday XIII. Additional new issues depicted are the two stamps from Germany showing Snoopy and the gang from "Peanuts," the cartoon strip created by Charles Schultz. The Europa theme for 2017 was castles and the newsletter shows several unusual interpretations of that theme from some of the European countries: Finland and Iceland depict ice castles, while Belgium shows a sand castle.

Knoxville Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 121), Knoxville, Tenn.**Website:** www.knoxstamps.com**Newsletter:** *Knoxville Philatelic Society News*, Tom Broadhead, editor.**Email:** tomwb50@aol.com

Newsletter topics: (February) The theme for this year's KnoxPEX, held in March, was the 100th anniversary of United States airmail. The show cover has a very nice postal cancel designed by Ralph Dinwiddie and will be franked with two United States stamps – the 1946 5¢ airmail stamp showing a Skymaster DC-4 (Scott C32) and one of the four 45¢ airmail stamps (C122–C125) issued during World Stamp Expo '89. The stamp of the month, also related to the KnoxPEX theme, was the 1958 blue 7¢ airmail stamp showing a silhouette of a jet airliner (C51). Pat Goebel contributed the stamp. Stu Hanlein, in "Meeting Jim," relates the story of how he met Jim Henson, the man behind the "The Muppets." He was an upperclassman at the high school where Stu, a sophomore, was involved in a sophomore class production of *Elmer*. Several United States stamps are shown with the article.



Skymaster DC-4. U.S.
1946 (Scott C32).





*Ruffed grouse & Mountain laurel,
state bird and flower
of Pennsylvania.
United States 1982
(Scott 1990).*

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (ATA Chapter

No. 118), Lancaster, Pa.

Website: www.lcps-stamps.org

Newsletter editor: Paul Petersen

Email: pcpetersen@comcast.net

Newsletter topics: (March) At the March meeting, Scott English, executive director of the American Philatelic Society, presented the program “The State of the APS and the Hobby.” Following the program Paul Petersen demonstrated techniques for removing permanent-stick postage stamps from paper. For the May meeting, Vera Felts, executive director of the American Topical Association, prepared the program, “State Symbols of Pennsylvania on Stamps.”

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 90),

Arlington, Irving & Granbury, Texas

Website: www.mid-citiesstampsclub.com

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

Email: editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

Newsletter topics: (February) The “Been There, Done That” columns this month include “Teufelsbrücke (Devils Bridge),” by Peter Elias, and shows a 1997 Switzerland stamp depicting the painting of a red devil on the wall of the mountain as the bridge enters a tunnel. The tunnel is in the Schöllenen Gorge near the St. Gotthard mountain pass. Pat and Bob Weidman share two experiences from their 2013 Italian vacation, a visit to the Vittoriano building in Rome, designed by Giuseppe Sacconi as a tribute to Victor Emmanuel II. It was completed in 1935 and is illustrated on a 2006 Italian stamp. They also stopped at St. Mark’s Square in Venice that is shown on a 1968 Italian stamp depicting a painting of the square by the Venetian painter Antonio Canaletto (1697-1768). Ray Cartier gave the presentation, “Tales From the Space Program,” at the Jan. 3 Arlington meeting. (March) Peter Elias shows some photos from a 2015 trip to Michigan and the 2018 USPS Express Mail Stamp showing the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on Lake Michigan. Peter also shows a 2010 German stamp celebrating the 200th anniversary of Oktoberfest and describes his experience at a 1986 Oktoberfest in Munich while he was working in Switzerland. In his column, “From the President’s Desk,” Ray Cartier describes his journey from collecting United States mint stamps in childhood to his exhibits on Jacques Cartier and Jules Verne, and on to his multiple gold medal awards for his space covers exhibit. Pat and Bob Weidman tell the story of St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City



*30th Anniversary of Lateran Pacts.
Italy 1959 (Scott 765).*



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and show the 1959 Italian stamp (Scott 765) showing the Lateran Palace on the left and the dome of St. Peter's on the right. The stamp commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Lateran Pacts of 1929, in which the papacy recognized the state of Italy with Rome as its capital and Italy recognized papal sovereignty over the Vatican City and full independence for the pope.

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

Website: milwaukeephilatelic.org

Newsletter: *Milwaukee Philatelist*, Jonathan Kumbera, editor

Newsletter topics: (February) A short article looks at the Feb. 22 issue from the USPS featuring bioluminescent life and notes that the basic process of bioluminescence is the reaction between a light-emitting pigment and an enzyme, resulting in visible light. (March) This issue has a nice article on the Mister Rogers stamp issued by the USPS on March 23. Born on March 23 in 1928, in Latrobe, Penn., Rogers



Firefly (from
Bioluminescent Life
series), United States 2018.

became a fixture on PBS in 1968 with his program *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*, which stopped production in 2001 after almost 900 episodes. His show won four Emmy awards and he won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1997 Daytime Emmys. In addition to his TV show, Rogers wrote more than 36 books. He died Feb. 27, 2003, from stomach cancer. The first-day ceremony was held at WGED Fred Rogers Studio in Pittsburgh, Pa.

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

Newsletter: *On Cover*, Kurt Romig, editor, email: mcscc442@yahoo.com

Newsletter topics: (February) This issue leads off with a short article on the USPS release of the Express Mail stamp (\$24) showing Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on the shore of Lake Michigan. Al Raddi's article, "Patriotic Covers Ridiculing Adolf Hitler," illustrates 11 covers canceled in April 1945, the month in which Hitler committed suicide. At the February meeting Dave Washington showed his album featuring stamps of post-USSR "Russian Federation and Commonwealth of Independent States." The new nations were created in 1991 by the Declaration of Alma-ATA.



Sary-Chelek Nature
Preserve. Kyrgyzstan
1992 (Scott 1).

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

Website: www.rpastamps.org

Newsletter: *Hinges & Tongs*, Fred Haynes, editor.

Email: fredmhaynes55@gmail.com

At the January meeting Luis Greiff, Jr. gave a presentation on the Orient Express, the European train that ran from 1883 to 2009. The article is illustrated with some of the many stamps that have depicted this train that transported passengers, goods and mail. In 1934 Agatha Christie wrote one of her most famous crime novels, *Murder on the Orient Express*, starring her master Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot. Several films are based on that book. Many of the stamps issued for this train



The Orient Express, with Hagia Sophia in Istanbul in background. On the right is the central label from the miniature sheet of nine showing the dining car. The year 2008 was the 125th anniversary of the Orient Express train line. Serbia 2008 (Scott 436).

would fit several topical collections: trains (for the different types and vintages of the engines), maps (for the train routes), architecture (for the structures often depicted with the train) and European history (for the many famous people who have traveled on the train and who have been depicted on stamps).

Salem Stamp Society (ATA Chapter No. 114), Salem, Ore.



Niuafou scrub fowl.
Tonga- Niuafo'ou
(Tin Can Island) 1992
(Scott 155).

Website: www.salemstampsociety.org

Newsletter: *Willamette Stamp & Tongs*, Lucien Klein, editor.

Newsletter topics: (February) One of the features of the monthly meeting is a “Frame of the Month.” Recent frames depicted “Great Britain’s Wedgwood Booklets” in January (George Struble); “Tonga’s Tin Can Island, Niuafo’ou, Mail History” in February (Karen Nurmi) and in March “Art & Stamps of Arthur Szyk” (Gary Tiffin). Gary also gave a presentation in March on Arthur Szyk (1894-1951), a graphic artist and cartoonist. Some of the exhibits shown at Stampex, the

Salem Stamp Society’s annual show, appear to be topical in nature: *Bayonet Baseball* and *Superheroes on Stamps*.

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

Website: www.toledostampclub.org

Newsletter: *Frogtown Philatelist*, John Mann, editor, email: john6125@earthlink.net

Newsletter topics: (February) The “Where in the World” column this month looks at “The Galapagos Islands,” an archipelago of volcanic islands that is part of the Republic of Ecuador. In the second voyage of HMS Beagle, Charles Darwin’s studies of the island’s species contributed to his theory of evolution by natural selection described in his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*. The article notes that the islands were used as a hideout by English pirates who preyed on Spanish ships carrying gold and silver. Interestingly, the first map of the islands was actually created by a pirate. A number of unique endemic species on the islands are listed in the ar-

ticle. [The stamp shown here is one of the 1957 Galapagos Islands airmail stamps (Scott LC2) overprinted in 1961 by Ecuador and issued as an Ecuadorean airmail (Scott C390). The English translation of the overprint is “Establishment of maritime biological stations on Galapagos Islands by UNESCO.”] The two dates highlighted in this issue are Feb. 1, 1791, the birthdate of Charles Joseph Sax, a Belgian musical instrument maker whose son Adolphe Sax invented the saxophone in 1842. The other date is Feb. 15, 1898, the date of the explosion and sinking of the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor. This disaster was a contributing cause of the short-lived Spanish-American-Cuban War later that year from April to August.



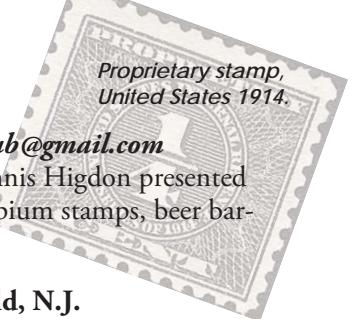
Map of Galapagos archipelago, Ecuador 1961 (Scott C390).

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

Website: www.stamps.org/venice-stamp-club

Newsletter editor: Lance Grandone, **Email:** venicestampclub@gmail.com

Newsletter topics: (February) At the February meeting Dennis Higdon presented “Tax Paid Revenues,” including revenues for cotton bales, opium stamps, beer barrel stamps and more.



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

Website: westfieldstampclub.org



Hermine Körner portraying Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Act II, scene ii, Germany 1976 (Scott 1228).

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

Email: fcskvara@optonline.net

Newsletter topics: (March/April) At the club's annual show in March there were a number of topical exhibits, including three by Allan Fisk: *Gettysburg – The Battle, The Address*; *I Bought the Brooklyn Bridge*; and *Jackie 42 – Jack Roosevelt Robinson*. There were four topical exhibits by Frederick C. Skvara: *William Shakespeare, Scouting Around the World, Albert Einstein and The Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II: 7 August 1942 – 9 February 1943*. Philip Poploski showed “Manila” John Basilone – *A History in Covers*. The theme of the show was the 75th anniversary of the Guadalcanal victory and a show cover was produced with a cachet and special cancel. The newsletter also contains a philatelic quiz and the answers to the previous quiz.

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

Website: www.thewssc.com

Newsletter: *Mayflower Minutes*, Doug Becker, editor.

Email: newsletter@thewssc.com

Newsletter topics: (April) The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library program “Scouts on Stamps” was presented at the April meeting.



Scouts hiking. Denmark 2007 (Scott 1384).

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

Website: wfcstamps.org

Newsletter: *Across the Fence Post*, Ray Perry, editor, email: fiveperrys@athenet.net

Newsletter topics: (February) This issue leads off with WFSC President Karen Weigt's article describing "Airmail Etiquette Labels" that were manufactured by the Dennison Company. In the editor's column, Ray Perry describes his favorite airmail stamps, the 1926 set of four from Greece (Scott C1-C4); the 1928 United States Beacon on Rocky Mountains stamp (C11) and the United States 1938 Eagle Holding Shield, Olive Branch and Arrows stamp (C23). Continuing the airmail theme is Dave Devroy's (Green Bay Philatelic Society) article, "Up, Up and Away – United States Zeppelin Stamps," that tells the story of these airships depicted on the 1930 United States set of three stamps (Scott C13-C15). He also shows the Zeppelin stamps issued by Germany between 1928 and 1933. (March) Since this is the March issue of *ATFP*, the editor looks at some of the stamps of the Republic of Ireland. Clete Delvaux (Green Bay Philatelic Society) tells the story of "Antoine Saint-Exupery: French Pioneer Airmail Pilot and Writer." Saint-Exupery's most famous book, *The Little Prince* (1943), a children's fable for adults was adapted for a British-American film featuring Gene Wilder, Bob Fosse and Richard Kiley. Saint-Exupery's plane disappeared over the Mediterranean Sea in 1944 during World War II. The article, "In Flanders Fields," also by Clete Delvaux, relates the story of this famous poem. The poem was written by Major John McCrae (1872-1918), a Canadian physician, on May 3, 1915, following the death of a friend at the 2nd Battle of Ypres, Belgium, in World War I.



Flying Boat over map of Southern Europe, Greece 1926 (Scott C3).

(April) Since this is the April issue of *ATFP*, the editor looks at some of the stamps of the Republic of Ireland. Clete Delvaux (Green Bay Philatelic Society) tells the story of "Antoine Saint-Exupery: French Pioneer Airmail Pilot and Writer." Saint-Exupery's most famous book, *The Little Prince* (1943), a children's fable for adults was adapted for a British-American film featuring Gene Wilder, Bob Fosse and Richard Kiley. Saint-Exupery's plane disappeared over the Mediterranean Sea in 1944 during World War II. The article, "In Flanders Fields," also by Clete Delvaux, relates the story of this famous poem. The poem was written by Major John McCrae (1872-1918), a Canadian physician, on May 3, 1915, following the death of a friend at the 2nd Battle of Ypres, Belgium, in World War I.

Australia

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

Newsletter: *Thematically Speaking*, John Crowley, editor.

Email: jcrowley@primus.com.au

Newsletter topics: (November) This issue leads off with "Bird Flight," covering 'hovering,' 'takeoff and landing' and 'coordinated formation flight.' Each type is illustrated with a number of stamps of birds showing that particular form of flight. The article mentions that hummingbirds are the most accomplished hoverers of all birds. Joan Orr's col-

umn, "Appropriate Philatelic Material," this month looks at "Specimen Postal Stationery (Aerogrammes)" and shows examples of aerogrammes depicting kangaroos, planes and an Olympic stadium. There are several illustrated pages showing a number of items from a recent "Show & Tell." Accompanying this issue were photocopies of Vera Radnell's one-frame open-class exhibit, *Introducing Falconry*. It is a wonderful exhibit; an interesting aspect of the exhibit is its examples of falconers' special vocabulary and their modern adaptations. A falconer will keep the falcon from flying away with a leash held under his thumb or wrap it around his little finger (evolved into take control or manipulate). Another ex-



Hummingbird,
United States
2014 (Scott 4858).

ample is that falconers too old to hunt would carry the cadge, the wooden frame carrying the birds. They would be called cadgers (evolved into old codgers).

Canada

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

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

Email: opuntia57@yahoo.ca

Newsletter topics: (April) This issue includes photos of the first-day ceremony for Canada's set of four stamps honoring Women in Winter Sports. At the February meeting Ray Villeneuve gave the "Philatelic History of the Olympics: 1896:1928." Dale Speirs, in "Shipley Parcel Tags: Part 3," looks at parcel tags to the Shipley Photo Service in Calgary, Alberta. One of the tags has a strip of three stamps issued in 1955 for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan (Scott 355), showing pioneer settlers.



Pioneer
settlers with oil rigs
and wheat, Canada 1955
(Scott 355).

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

Newsletter: *Philajournal*, Susan Butler, editor, email: sbutler@ilap.com

Newsletter topics: (Spring 2018) Articles in this issue include Jerry Piotrowski's (Bramalea Stamp Club) "Poland Local Posts, 1915-1918: Sosnowiec." Sosnowiec is an industrial town in southern Poland. Ron Dell'Agnese looks at "Italian Libya" in his "Focus on Italy" column and mentions that it is made up of three major regions: Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan, each of which issued stamps. Also known as Italian North Africa, Libya also issued its own stamps.



Peace Substituting Spade for Sword, Tripolitania 1926.
(Scott B12).

Great Britain

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

Website: www.britishthematic.org.uk

Newsletter: *Themescene*, Wendy Buckle, editor

Newsletter topics: (March) In "Mythology 'Explains' Everything," Jeff Dugdale looks at how various ancient civilizations used mythology to explain the Creation, the Sun, thunder and lightning, earthquakes and more. Stamps illustrating the described phenomena accompany the article. Barry Floyd discusses the theme of Collecting "Art Stamps," stamps collected solely for their visual appeal irrespective of country, artist or style. The article outlines some steps to promote an interest of pretty stamps among people who enjoy the visual arts. At the BTA meeting at Spring Stampex, Sue Thatcher gave a very popular talk on "Early British History: Dinosaurs, Dynasties and Dark Ages." Her story started when dinosaurs roamed the British Isles, then moved on to when humans arrived, human development during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages, the effect of the Romans on British culture and the Viking invasion. She covered 1066 and the reigns of Henry I and II, the Plantagenet kings, the Hundred Years War,



John II, The Good of France was involved in the Hundred Years War, France 1964 (Scott 1084).

the House of Lancaster and disputes with the House of York, which led to the War of the Roses. She ends with the death of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field and the accession of Henry VII, the first Tudor king. Alastair Watson in “Leaping Dolphins: Postcard Picture Perfect,” describes postcards featuring dolphins that have a thematically related element on the address side, such as a dolphin stamp. In the “Just 4 Kids” column, “Our Truly Super Moon!,” Lise Whittle shows stamps depicting moons and lunar eclipses.

South Africa

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

Website: www.thematicsa.co.za

Newsletters: 1) *Thematics*, Robbie Harm, editor, email: robertharm9@gmail.com
2) *ThemNews*, email: wobbe.vegter@gmail.com

Newsletter topics: *Thematics* (February) A number of thematic exhibits from members of the Kwazulu-Natal Chapter were displayed at the Tatham Art Gallery including *Sport & Olympics, Rhinos, The Upside-down Tree, Beautiful Bodies, Horses and*

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Penguins. At the December meeting of the Western Cape Chapter, Marilyn Crawford showed several frames of her exhibit, *Tortoises, Turtles and Terrapins*. Editor Robert Harm includes another installment of “Philatelic Terms” in this issue, covering charity stamps to colored papers.

(March) At the February meeting of the Western Cape Chapter, several pages of a collection of “Lighthouses” were shown by one of the members. The “Philatelic Terms” compiled by Robert Harm in this issue covers collotype to compulsory postage

stamps. The “Timeline Photo” describes the United States 3¢ commemorative issued in 1945 (Scott 929) that depicts Joe Rosenthal’s photo of the United States Marines raising the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, in World War II. ■



Marines Raising American Flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima. United States 1945 (Scott 929).



YOUTH IN TOPICS

MaryAnn Bowman

Working with Youth at Stamp Shows

This month Barbara Asher will share with you (in her own words) some of the things used in the stamp show youth area where she volunteers. Barbara is a retired teacher and childcare center owner.

"I started collecting worldwide stamps as a child. I quit as a teenager, but always saved commemorative stamps, which I stored in a bowl. When my oldest two daughters were in elementary school I decided it was time to get them started in stamp collecting. I used the stamps from that bowl as a starting point."

"Since most were U.S., that is what I got them started on, buying each an album and using the stamps as rewards. Not only did they enjoy it but I also got the stamp collecting bug again, collecting U.S. stamps this time."

"When my youngest was old enough to collect, she decided she didn't want to collect U.S. stamps. She always loved dogs, so I decided to get her started collecting dog stamps, which she did until her teenage years. I ended up taking over her collection, which started me on topical collecting and the ATA."



"I am a member of the Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club and a number of years ago our club was asked to help with the youth area at the Southeastern Stamp Expo held annually in Atlanta. A fellow club member, LeA Coe, also a topical collector and ATA member, and I ended up being in charge of the youth area referred to as the Stamp Explorers area."

"Neither of us had ever run the youth area before and really had nothing to go by. We got many of our ideas from the Youth in Topics articles in Topical Time – thank you MaryAnn. We try to have activities for all age groups and as many different activities as we can come up with."

"The Southeastern Stamp Expo advertises about the show and youth area in a number of Atlanta area newspapers and magazines, homeschool websites and more to bring in the youth. We get children who know nothing about stamp collecting to some who come with a family member who collects."

"As the children walk in and go to the registration table at the show, they are given a packet containing foreign and U.S. stamps and first day covers with a sticker saying 'Please visit us at the youth area.' As the children come over they see a number of games set up at the table. I Spy is the most popular. We have different levels depending on their age and capabilities from finding a stamp with a seashell to finding a stamp from a certain country. Design-your-own-stamp is another activity which is popular."

"It seems that all of the youth at some point enjoy going through our totes of stamps – both U.S. and foreign. The children are given a number of choices of how to collect their



stamps: in albums, such as the mini album holding a stamp from each country; in old albums donated to us by collectors; on pages we have printed from the ATA site; on stock sheets or some just choose to put them in a glassine envelope.

“Someone donated to us a collection of U.S. stamps in glassine envelopes arranged in Scott order from No. 65 to the 3000s. We also were given a worldwide collection stored in glassine envelopes by country. These have been very helpful for the children collecting U.S. stamps or for those interested in a particular country.

“We had one girl at our last show who was looking for stamps from Peru because her best friend was from there and she wanted to get some stamps from there to give her. After searching through our tote of foreign stamps and not finding any, she asked us for help. We were able to let her go through a large glassine envelope of Peru stamps taking whichever ones she wanted. It was wonderful to see how excited she was.

“Since LeA and I are topical collectors, we came up with the idea of setting up something for children interested in topical collecting. We picked 30 or so different topics that interest children: animals, flowers, planes, cars, space, sports and more, and found as many stamps of these topics as we could. We placed each topic’s stamps in stock sheets and filed them in folders. Then when a child came and was interested in a particular topic we could give them the folder on that topic and they could go through, taking out whichever stamps they wanted. It was a huge hit!

“We have made copies of some of the free APS albums including Black Heritage, Space, Women and Georgia. (Georgia is a big hit with the homeschoilers). We put the pages in a binder or large zipper type plastic bag with a glassine of as many stamps for the album as we can find, hinges and a how-to of stamp collecting sheet. Each child can pick an album to take home and work on at his or her own pace.

“The nice thing is that we have had quite a number of children coming back year after year. One girl had no clue about stamp collecting when she came last year, but this year came with a whole list of topics she wanted stamps for. We have also had one girl who has been coming to the



shows every year. She is now a teenager and moved up from “one of the kids” to one of our volunteers. She is wonderful with the children and we love having her there! (Her mother volunteers with us, too).

“It has been very rewarding working the youth area and I guess we are doing something right because LeA and I are also doing the youth table at the Button Gwinnett bourse and will be heading up the youth area at Americover 2018 in August. I would encourage everyone to at least volunteer at the youth area at the shows you attend. The children are well behaved and it is wonderful to see their faces light up as they discover the hobby we enjoy so much.”

I asked Barbara about the amount of space they had for their youth area. She stated that they used to have two tables next to each other in the exhibit/dealer room. Then it was decided by those in charge that the space could be used for another dealer and so the youth area was put out in the hallway along with the society tables. An arrangement was made; they started with two tables in an L shape but at times they didn't have room for all the children. Someone felt sorry for them and found a third table. Sometimes they even had children working on the floor.

First-Day Cover Mini-Exhibit Activity

Youth collectors have an opportunity to participate in an activity offered by the American First Day Cover Society – specifically, creating a mini-exhibit using first-day covers.

The idea is to have young cover lovers create a four-page mini-exhibit using covers, primarily. The display is to be arranged around a specific theme or topic. Requests sent to me via email or snail mail will receive approximately 12 FDCs related to a topic or theme of their choosing.

Although I have a fair number of covers available for this project, I am suggesting that each interested youth list three possible topics or themes that would spark their interest. In the event that I don't have sufficient material for their first request, I should be able to provide material for one of the other topics.

One of the requirements will be to embellish one of the first-day covers sent by either coloring the line-drawn cachet or by adding a cachet to a non-cacheted cover. At least one of these self-created covers must be included in the final project.

The child will need to select and use at least six of the covers (five of their choice plus the one self-created cover) to create an exhibit. The exhibit must have a title on the first page. There should be additional text on each of the pages.

The text accompanying the covers can tell a story, give factual information or show knowledge of the topic or theme. The text can be handwritten or computer generated. Standard 8½- by 11-inch paper should be used.

Finished entries can be submitted electronically or a colored photocopy can be sent. All completed entries will be acknowledged and prizes will be awarded. ☐

MaryAnn Bowman is a youth activist, director of ATA Youth Activities, was named as the 2005 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist and previously served on the Smithsonian's Council of Philatelists.

Membership

New Members and Reinstatements

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Connections between ATA members, especially among those with similar collecting interests, are encouraged. The contents of the ATA Membership Listing are the property of the American Topical Association, Inc. Any commercial use, including use for mailing lists or for any other commercial purpose, is prohibited. **This list includes new membership numbers 57941-57973 and recent reinstatements (membership through March 31, 2018).**

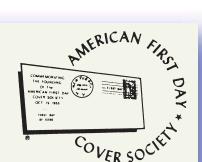
46924	ADAMS, Jerry, farmerguy890@yahoo.com	State Ducks, Birds of Prey, Farm Related
57941	AHMAD, Shakeel, shakeel@shaknack.com	Pakistan, Afghanistan, Middle East, Birds, Eid
	91 Churchill Ave, Staten Island NY 10309-1921	
57952	ARNOLD, William, wfa1972@aol.com	Trains, Nuclear Energy, Science
	PO Box 20233, Cheyenne WY 82003-7005	
57954	BRANDON, Frank, fbrand5@aol.com	Patriotic, Inaugurals, Religious, Military, Ronald Reagan, Ephemera and Esoteric
	973 Buck Mountain Rd Apt 24, Bentonville VA 22610-2901	
57973	BREW, John, brewbooks@yahoo.com	Engineering, Physics, Space
57971	BUCHHOLZ, George, gucky1965@sbcglobal.net	Endangered Species
57959	COTTER, Chris	
57967	DAY, John	
56013	DEDIVITIS, Rogério, dedivitis.hns@uol.com.br	Hearts, Fire
	Av Bartolomeu de Gusmao, 135 Ap. 52 Bloco A, Santos, 11030-500 São Paulo, Brazil	
57944	DIPAOLI, Bill, billdip1@gmail.com	Banjos
	7110 Marston Ct, University Park FL 34201-2330	
57966-YM	ESBECK, Christina	
57946	GROHMANN, Andreas	Chemistry, Alchemy
57957	HEIN, Henry	
57963	JOHNSON, Bobby, bobby.b.johnson@gmail.com	Christmas, Kennedy, Space, Lighthouses, Seashells, American Revolution Bicentennial, Trains
55082	KECK, Richard L	
57968	KEFERL, Eugene	
57964	LARSEN, Debra A., cavy4deb@gmail.com	

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afdc@afdc.org



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57972	MAIERS, Larry, <i>lry39@aol.com</i>	Motorcycles
57969	MARTELL, Dana, <i>danaadm@yahoo.com</i>	Astronomy, Nature
57955	MILLER, Mark PO Box 39, Walnut Creek OH 44687-0039	Golf, John F Kennedy
57965	MORGAN, Pat	
57962	O'HARA, Daniel	
57970	OLIVER, Larry, <i>stamper707@gmail.com</i>	Playing Cards
57960	PADDOCK, David, <i>dnpaddock@yahoo.com</i>	Archaeology/PreColumbian Cultures
57949	PEREZ FOLCH, Felix, <i>boricua@iboricua.com</i>	Puerto Rico
57943	PETTETT, Gary, <i>gpettett45@gmail.com</i>	Medicine, Scientists, Physicians, Revolutionary War, U.S. History
57953	PISANI, Saviour	
57956	POLLARD, Thomas	Chess, Baseball, Medicine
57950	ROBERTS, Bruce, <i>bruceroberts@arkph.com</i>	
57945	ROSE, Stephen	
54332	TARR, Verna, <i>myverna1@comcast.net</i>	Holy Family, JFKennedy, Americana on Foreign Stamps, Santa Claus
57958	TURGEON, William	Maps, Meteorology
57948	WALCOTT, Katherine	
57947	WALKER, Larry, <i>lawalked@mail.com</i> 30 S 680 W, Mapleton UT 84664-4512	Space, Stamps on Stamps, Ducks, Cinderellas/Locals, Private Die Proprietary Medicine, Maps
53707	WEBB, Benton Paul, <i>benton-webb@hotmail.com</i>	Red Cross, Chemistry, Domestic Cats
57951	WILKES, Bruce	Historic Individuals, Scouting, Bicycling
57942	ZELESKI, Sam, <i>zeleskisam@gmail.com</i> PO Box 1321, Hastings NE 68902-1321	Solar Eclipse Covers, Nebraska Postal History

Deceased

53885	CONWAY, Michael J (Conn.)	04877	SOANES, Sidney V (Ontario, Canada)
55688	EVANS, William L (Md.)	46812	TRIGGLE, Ann (N.Y./Fla.)

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ATA Membership Recruiters

The following ATA members have recruited these new members from Jan. 1 through March 31, 2018. Individual members receive \$5 in ATA Bucks credit for each new member recruited. We hope your name will appear here soon!

ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows shown in green.

2018 Recruiters: ATA Dealer Members shown in red.

Hamman, Dawn & John	5	Smith, Dale	1
Bruce, Sue	2	Stanton, Loraine	1
Winnegrad, Mark	2	Ward, Scott	1
Cartier, Karen	1		
Chun, Steve	1		
Colasanti, John	1	Wilderness, Robin	1
Edholm, Keith & Carol	1	American Philatelic Society	1
Fisk, Allan	1	Chemistry & Physics Study Unit	1
Homel, Mike	1	ESPER	1
Pettway, Jim	1	Mekeel's & Stamps	1
		Thematics Queensland	1

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(408)

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.

ATA Mission Statement

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

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

Editorial Content

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

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

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Membership Information

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

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

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

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

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

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



Philatelic Journals

(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

American Philatelist: Martin Kent Miller, editor
 American Philatelic Society
 100 Match Factory Pl
 Bellefonte PA 16823-1367 USA
www.stamps.org

American Stamp Dealer & Collector:
 Wayne Youngblood, editor
 ASDA, PO Box 692, Leesport PA 19533-0692 USA
editor@americanstampdealer.com

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

Canadian Stamp News:
 PO 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: Dean Shepherd, editor, 5 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SH, United Kingdom
www.stanleygibbons.com

Israel Philatelist: Donald A. Chafetz, editor, 1943 Altozano 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: Jay Bigalke, editor-in-chief, PO Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
jaybigalke@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, PO Box 8512, Shawnee Mission KS 66208-8512 USA
randyneill1941@gmail.com

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www.philatelica.ro

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

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

Stamp Insider: Albert W. Starkweather, editor, 5668 Tranquility Oaks Dr Unit 208, Tampa FL 33624-5849 USA
astarkweather@stampinsider.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
guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com
www.stampmagazine.co.uk

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

U.S. Stamp News: John Hotchner, editor, PO Box 1125, Falls Church VA 22041-0125 USA
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Show Calendar

June 1-3, 2018, Illinois. Compex '18, sponsored by the Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland, Guerin College Prep, 8001 W. Belmont Ave, River Grove, Ill. Contact Charles Berg, (773) 775-2100.

Email: stampkingchicago@hotmail.com

Website: www.compexstampshow.org

June 16-17, 2018, Alabama. Huntspex 2018, sponsored by the Huntsville Philatelic Club, **new location**, Calhoun Community College, Huntsville Campus, Sparkman Building 1, 102 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, Ala. Contact: Michael O'Reilly (256) 527-4601.

Email: mcoreilly@att.net

Website: www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html

July 20-22, 2018, Minnesota. Minnesota Stamp Expo, sponsored by the Twin City Philatelic Society and various local clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis, Minn.

Contact Randy A. Smith, (952) 431-3273.

Email: rasmay4@frontiernet.net

Website: www.stampsmnnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm



To receive a listing in this column, send details to Wayne L. Youngblood, 705 Forest Glen Cir, Prairie du Sac WI 53578-1077, or by email to: wystamps@gmail.com. Please submit show dates at least four months prior to the show if at all possible.

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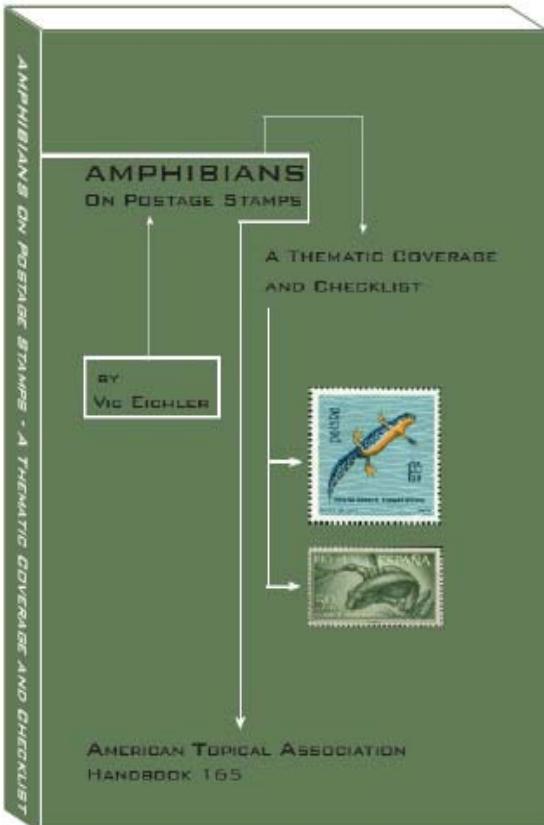
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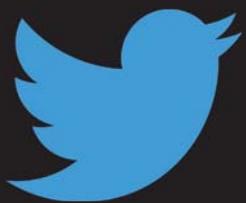
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To maximize your membership connections, release of your name, collecting interests and email address is recommended.

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May-June 2018 Vol. 69, No. 3 Whole Number 409

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Dear ATA Family Members,

In the weeks since the death of ATA founder Jerry Husak, many of you have asked about contributing to a fund in his honor. All of us who enjoy this collecting area appreciate the vision and leadership he provided back in 1949, and for many years after that.

We have a fitting occasion to honor and celebrate the life of our founder: May 25, his birthday. We have observed his birthday as ATA Day for years. This year we hope to recognize his legacy with an ATA Day of Giving.

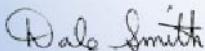
Please make a contribution to a special fund on May 25, if your schedule permits. Otherwise, a donation may be designated, "ATA Day of Giving," at any time during the month. Write on your check or PayPal payment (in the notes section).

Our goal in this observance will be to have as many ATA members participate as possible, at any level. Our plans call for using funds raised that day to upgrade the ATA's nine-year-old computer system.

We will be sure to report our results to you promptly.

Thank you for your membership and interest in the most fun aspect of philately: topical collecting.

Warm regards,



Dale Smith, President
American Topical Association

