Important Checklist Information/Lists See Page 68

TOPICAL TIME

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September-October 2014 Vol. 65, No. 5 Whole Number 387

Ten Largest Castles: UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Page 22

World War I Commemoratives

Page 61

and MUCH more!

Journal of Thematic Philately

AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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

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September-October 2014 Vol. 65, No. 5 Whole Number 387

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TRUE STORY OF THE STAMP TRADE'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

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

Managing Director Andrew McGavin of Universal Philatelic Auctions explains:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Universal Unique Reducing Estimate lot system was born

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

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

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

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

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

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Please contribute to the 2014 ATA Boldly to the Future fund today...
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Jack's Journal

1,200 - 400,000 – 602,981

That's not a weird math problem. And it's not a new version of a song from the musical, *Rent*. These are key numbers associated with our new topical checklist database. It contains nearly 1,200 topics, almost 400,000 stamps and 602,981 topical listings.

WOW!

Karen Cartier did a tremendous job developing that database, over five years, with incredible patience and dogged perseverance. She turned each page of each volume of Scott and recorded the catalog description of the stamp, as well as what she was able to see in its illustration. She also imported many of our older lists, originally submitted by our members, and is currently adding items missed the first time around. We are indebted to Karen for this wonderful new ATA resource.

It is comprehensive. Recently a member expressed surprise that the "staid" ATA has a checklist for Tattoos! Other topics in the database may also surprise: Cockroaches, Death, Fingerprints, Hairstyles, Lizards/Geckos, Marbles, Optical Illusions, Skeletons, Smallpox, Social Security, Ventriloquism. Not your typical topicals! The world of topicals sure is diverse!

The checklists are phenomenal – but they're not perfect or complete. And by their very nature they never will be. They are living lists which will be updated regularly.

Karen did her job – now it's your turn! The checklists remain a member-to-member service. Here are ways you can help our new checklists become even better. Check the new lists against your own lists and please send to the ATA Office:

1. **Corrections.**

2. **Additions of older issues.** There are details on many stamps that show topics that we haven't caught, so we couldn't list them. And because Scott doesn't illustrate every stamp, topics on non-shown stamps have inevitably been missed. ***you*** know what stamps belong to your topics – please share them with us.

3. **Additions of new issues.** While the lists will be updated regularly by adding stamps from *Linn's/Scott Stamp Monthly's* new issue listings, again, because of the lack of illustrations, we will miss some specific listings – ***you*** can add those that show your topics.

4. **Lists of additional topics** (yes, there ***are*** more!). Maybe they are mini-lists of only a few items. By sending them, you could discover another collector of the same topic who can tell you about stamps that you don't know. And you help our lists grow.

5. Lists of Beyond the Catalog (BTC) items. These are basic types of common philatelic items issued by governments but not usually listed in the Scott *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, such as booklet covers, meter stamps, postal cards, postal stationery, postmarks and more. By sending lists of these often-hard-to-find-out-about items, you can make lists even more valuable.

To help you send lists in the preferred format, there is a checklist template on our website: ***americantopicalassn.org/checklists.shtml***.

Thanks for doing your share to help make the excellent lists even better!

About ATA

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

New on our Website: *www.americantopicalassn.org*

- Youth page: Sept-Oct issue – *Magic in Literature*
- Press releases: ATA *Insects Handbook* released

TopicalsOnLine

Attention bargain hunters! Have you checked out TopicalsOnLine? Well-priced stamps – by topic, country or Scott number – are for sale there. Go online and find your bargain: ***www.TopicalsOnLine.com***.

Many ATA members are taking advantage of the great new checklist service. With a checklist in hand, you can buy stamps for your topic at ***www.TopicalsOnLine***. You'll find well-priced stamps and enjoy an ATA member discount. All sales benefit the ATA.

Membership Directory

Although the ATA Office staff had originally planned for production and release of our next *Membership Directory* this fall, it will now be produced in 2015 and will be available by next summer. Most of the reason for the change is actually a good one: response to the new checklist database has been so positive that our small office staff has needed to devote its attention to that area. The *Membership Directory* questionnaire originally planned for September will now be distributed in January. Please keep your May-June, July-Aug. and Sept.-Oct. issues of *Topical Time* nearby so you'll have the new Topic listings available to complete your short questionnaire early next year.

Recent Shows and New Members

July 18-20: Minnesota Stamp Expo, Crystal, Minn. Ambassadors: **Beth Collins, Jean Stout.**

July 19-20: Evergreen Stamp Show, Kent, Wash., one new member. Ambassadors: **Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm.**

Aug. 9: Strait Stamp Show, Sequim, Wash. Ambassadors: **Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm**

Aug. 10: Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show, Renton, Wash. Ambassadors: **Keith Edholm, Carol Edholm.**

Aug. 9-10: Columbia Stamp and Postcard Show, Columbia, S.C. Ambassadors: **LeA Coe, Barbara Asher.**

Aug. 15-17: Americover, Somerset, N.J., three new members. Ambassadors: **Allan Fisk, Tony Curiale, Marion Rollings, Fred Skvara.**

Aug. 21-24: APS StampShow, Hartford, Conn., 18 new members. Ambassadors: **Vera Felts, Don Bailey-Francois, Dawn Hamman, Jeff Hayward, Jean Stout.**

Aug. 29-30: Merpex, Pennsauken, N.J., three new members. Ambassadors: **Allan Fisk, Fred Skvara**.

Aug. 29-31: Balpex, Hunt Valley, Md. 5 new members. Ambassadors: **Joe Sullivan, Harriet Epstein, Gerry Frazier, Doug Hadley, Don Neiman, Don Smith, Bill Thomas.**

Sept. 12-14: Seapex, Tukwila, Wash., 1 new member. Ambassadors: **Jack Congrove, Orlie Trier and Vera Felts.**

Ambassadors Will Represent ATA at These Upcoming Shows

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

Members may save postage by contacting the ATA Office to request that certain items (such as Topical Time archives, handbooks, membership directories, checklists, DVDs) be brought to these shows for them.

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

Sept. 19-21 Milcopex, Milwaukee, Wis.
Sept. 27-28 Indypex, Indianapolis, Ind.
(ATA table on Sat. and Sun. only)
Oct. 12 Fenwick Stamp & Coin Show, Renton, Wash.
Oct. 23-26 ASDA National Stamp Show, New York, N.Y.
Oct. 25-26 Cupex, Urbana, Ill.
Nov. 21-23 Chicagopex, Itasca, Ill.
Dec. 5-7 Florex, Orlando, Fla.

WANTED:

- Chapter Coordinator – Communicate with and support ATA chapters, receive chapter newsletters and summarize relevant info for inclusion in *Topical Time*. Job description available.

- Someone to search web for email addresses of 20-30 international philatelic publications.

Checklist Proofreaders - Compare old and new checklists and identify any entries not included in new lists. Scott catalog is NOT needed.

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Thank you

Our members continue to send unsolicited comments:

"I've been using the ATA Disney DVD/electronic handbook to copy graphics of issues up through 2011 and it works great. Able to copy the images without any problem. Also very easy to navigate from page to page and jump around. If I, who always has problems with electronics, thought it worked great, then it really does!"
- Carol Costa

"Received my checklist order today. The checklists are beautifully done. What an improvement over what they used to be; they are excellent! A job of revision well done. Many kudos. Many thanks as I have been awaiting the new format for quite a while."
- James Marlowe

"I've just spent a couple enjoyable hours going over the list of countries and frog stamps that you sent me – I didn't realize how enticing it would be until I really got going. The list is magnificent… I'm proud to continue the work of such a fantastic effort."
- Vic Eichler, who is writing an ATA Handbook on the topic of frog stamps in cultures of the world, due out early next year

Gifts to our BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE campaign help ATA keep our member services going and expanding. Please consider making your donation today. And thank you for any contributions you have made in the past!

2014 GOAL: $30,000 (update)

Given or pledged to date $26,477

Needed to reach goal $3,523

All Donors are helping the ATA go

BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE!

These are the ways you can send your BOLDLY TO THE FUTURE gift for 2014:

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

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

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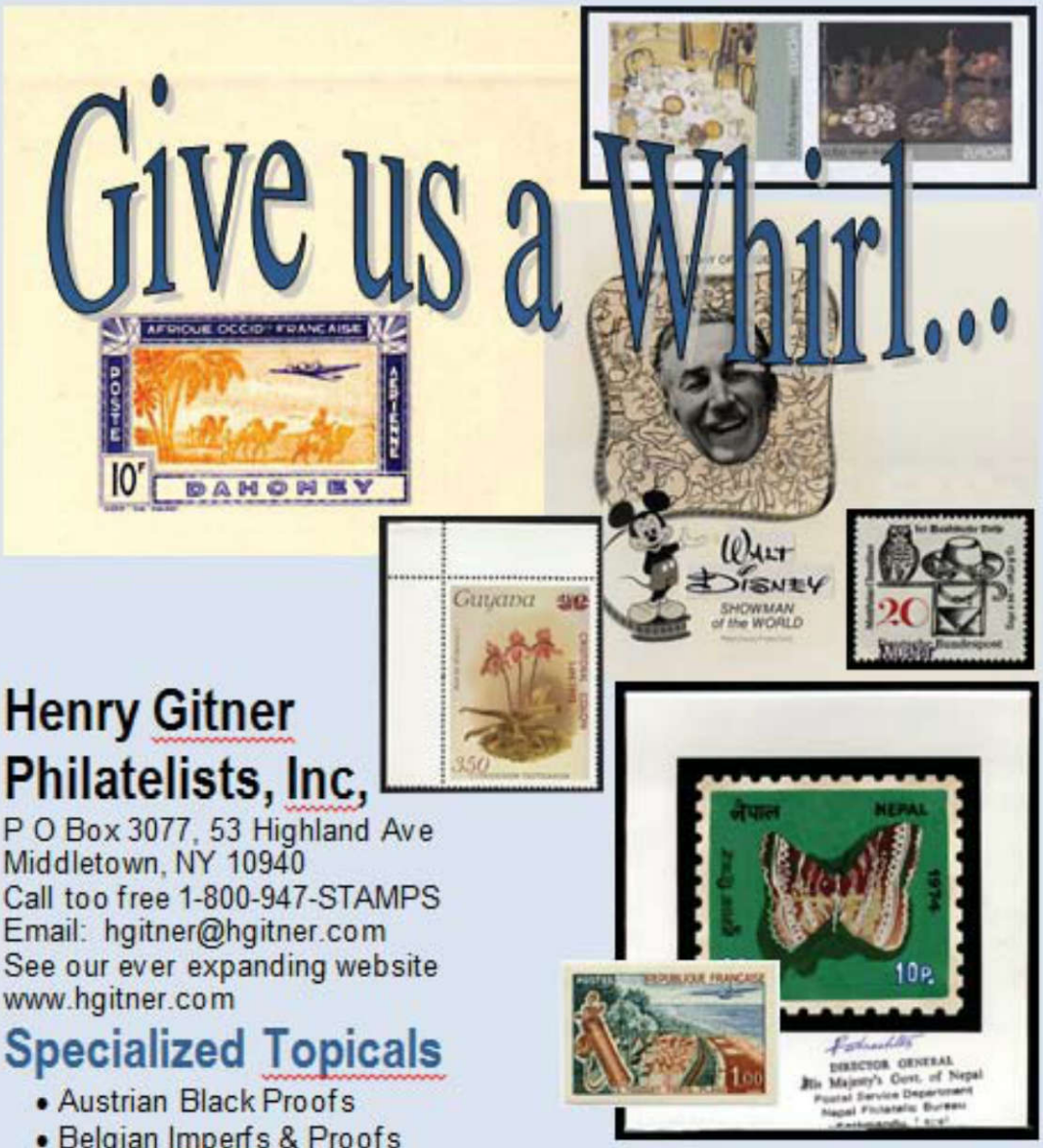

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***New*! Marshall Is. Imperfs** from the Press Sheets. New on the market, ask for your free price list!

Vera's Views

Ambassador Activities. Our ATA Ambassadors at stamp shows have had a very eventful summer! August was particularly busy—and fruitful—with 24 Ambassadors working seven events and 29 new members signed up. When Ambassadors represent us at stamp shows, they are listed in "About ATA" in this journal. Take a look and see how many shows have hosted ATA representatives!

Among the summer shows was APS StampShow in Hartford, Conn., where Don Bailey-Francois did yeoman duty as local liaison, airport transporter extraordinaire and all-around go-to guy who helped so many ATA members and others enjoy the show. Thanks, Don, for your gracious hospitality! Also during StampShow, a group of 10 ATA members enjoyed "ATA Night Out!" at a local restaurant.

Lucy Eyster staffs the ATA table at Balpex.

Ambassador Sue Jones recently spoke to two local groups, Sun City Stamp Club and Spring Hill Stamp Club in northern Illinois, sharing

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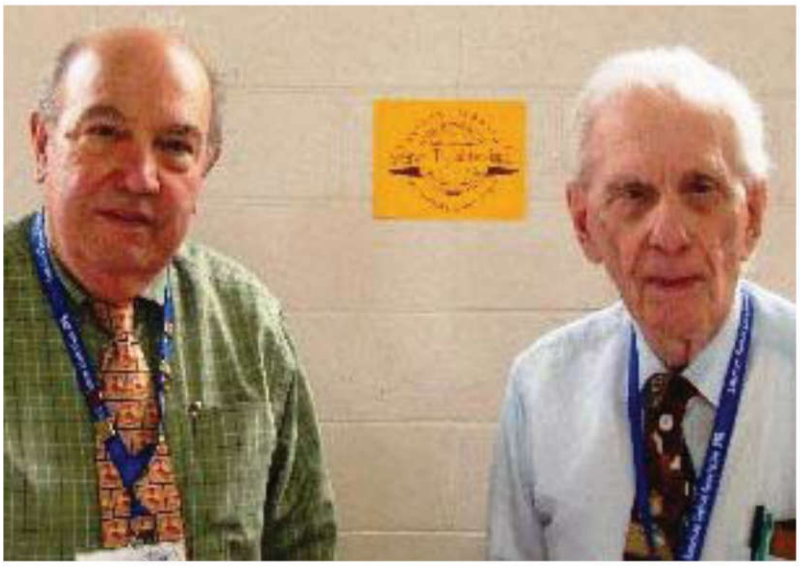
information about ATA with beginning collectors in one group and more advanced hobbyists in the other. If you would like to make a presentation to your stamp club about ATA, just contact the ATA Office and we'll mail you "goodies" to hand out to your fellow club members.



ATA Ambassadors Fred Skvara and Alan Fisk take a break during Merpex 2014.

Our Balpex crew went into fun mode again this year. At the show in late August, the group's ATA regional meeting featured five different presentations on various topics collected by members. Lunch together after the meeting at Balpex is an annual event. I am pleased that under the leadership of Joe Sullivan, many ATA members are carrying on our tradition of connecting with others and sharing information about ATA.

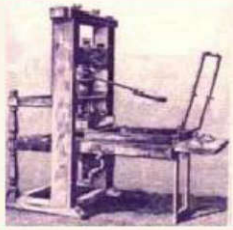
ATA is always interested in supporting new Ambassadors as well as providing items and current information to the 64 Ambassadors who are already helping in some way. We are particularly looking for Ambassadors from the northeast who could represent us at Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Mass., and others. Please contact the ATA Office to volunteer for an interesting experience that can be tailored to your time and talents!

Membership Directory. The preparation and release of ATA's next *Membership Directory* has been extended to early next year. Our office staff cannot complete the needed work for a quality directory during the few remaining months of 2014. I certainly regret this decision, as the directory is one of our best tools to help you connect with others who share your collecting interests. However, to maintain the quality and consistency you have come to expect from ATA products, it is necessary to publish it in 2015 instead.

If you returned the directory information slip on the back of a renewal reminder letter, be assured that we will retain the information and you will not need to submit it again. However, you may certainly amend the information should it change before the directory is issued.

ATA Office Staffing. We are sorry that we have not been able to return your phone calls and emails in as timely a fashion as we would like this past summer. Jane, one of our clerical workers, has now returned from maternity leave and Angela's time off due to family illness has decreased. And we now have a more user-friendly phone system so there is a better chance that your phone message will actually get through. All in all, we are pleased we will be able to respond to your requests sooner in the future.

Enjoy your stamps! Please check out ***www.TopicalsOnLine.com***!



Wayne's Impressions

A gentle reminder

As I write this column (acting in my professional capacity as vice president, Regency-Superior Auctions), I am locked in the middle of a two-day process of packing, moving and transporting the collection of the fifth friend of mine who has died in the past couple of years. His collection will be auctioned over the next few months. And, after his collection gets back to the office, my real work will begin, as I sort, organize and find the value that I know is there. But this somewhat bittersweet and reflective experience has placed me in a thoughtful mode over something we'll all have to face some day.

Our passion for the hobby is very real and, hopefully, will last as long as we live, with our ability to enjoy our stamps and covers until we are no longer able continuing undiminished. However, in the midst of that enthusiasm, we do need to be a bit cognizant of the needs of those who ultimately will dispose of our collections. When that inevitible day comes, they will be doing us a favor.

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We are members of ASDA, APS, ATA.

If you are at all like me, your collection no doubt includes elements that are highly organized and therefore easy for most anyone to understand, and then there are those parts that are, shall we say, a little "less organized."

In that spirit, I'd like to offer a few quick tips that cannot be expressed too frequently.

1. Select a philatelic executor. Chances are, no one in your immediate family knows much about your hobby or what you have in your collection. Therefore it is probably a good idea to select a trusted philatelic friend (and ask him or her) to act in your best interests when the time comes.

2. Leave a road map. Even if your friend understands your collecting interests, he or she will not necessarily know your filing systems or where (or how) you keep your "better" items. Leave a list of those things that should not be overlooked – and instructions of where to find them.

3. Mark better items in your collection for easier identification. If you are an exhibitor, part of this work is already done, as you no doubt have significant items in your exhibit marked as such. But if you don't exhibit (or have good items in other areas), it is important to somehow identify these stamps, covers or other material to those who are not familiar with them. Those who enter your "stamp den" for the first time have no idea where to start looking – or for what.

Even if you do nothing else, taking these few steps will help you, your executor and whoever ultimately purchases your material to treat your beloved possessions with the respect they deserve.

Call for Nominations: DTP 2015

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

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

The award will be presented at NTSS in Portland, Ore., July 31-Aug. 2, 2015.

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome (Jerry) Husak. Since then, 116 people have received the honor. Recipients have included residents of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Italy. Find a complete list of past winners at our website. The specific url is: ***americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml***.

The selection committee consists of Donald Smith (chair), Donald Beuthel, Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Dorothy C. Smith, Dalene Thomas and Mark H. Winnegrad. Deadline for nominating letters is Dec. 31, 2014. Send nominations to: Donald W. Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907.

Last year's winner was Jack André Denys, current ATA president, collector and longtime member.

Topics on Postmarks

George DeKornfeld

"Nature alone is antique, and the oldest art a mushroom."

Earthy. Loamy. These are two adjectives that suggest a distinct appearance with colors that infuse a singular texture and aroma. An art form that, as suggested in our title (a quote from Thomas Carlyle), enchants all the senses including, as we shall soon see, the sense of taste.

Figure 1.

Summer has started in earnest here in the Northeast so, sadly, morel season is now in our rear-view mirror, the last few remaining recently having been mixed into a "to-die-for" venison stew. So, with the passing of this spring's fungus-hunting season and in anticipation of the next, I thought in this issue of *Topical Time* we would take a brief look at your friend and mine, the mushroom – some edible, some not so much.

Our first example was used on the stamp in Figure 1 issued by Belgium in 1991 depicting a Blusher (*Amanita rubescens*), a mushroom genus so named for its tendency to turn red when bruised. These can be found throughout Europe and, although edible, many of their similar-looking kin are quite poisonous. Gathering these is best left to the more

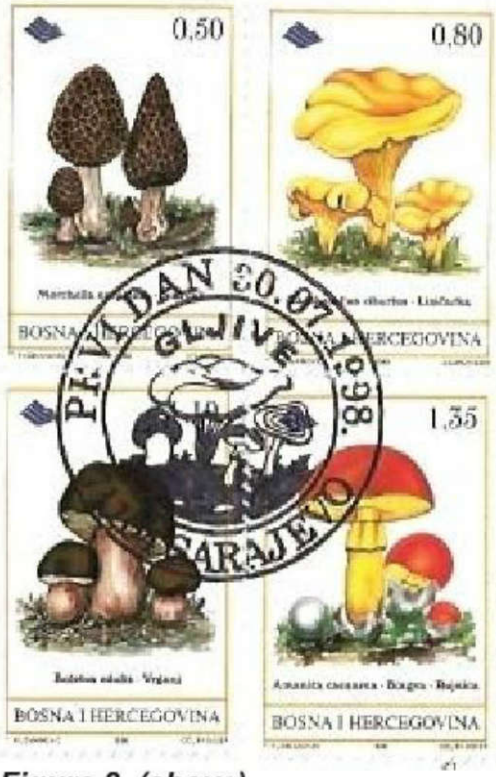

Figure 2. (above).

Figure 3. (left).

experienced mushroom hunter. Our pictorial postmark, in this instance applied at Vielsalm, a municipality in the province of Luxembourg, includes the name of the local philatelic society, while presumably also depicting one of our Blushers.

Next we'll visit Bosnia-Herzegovina for a pair of examples. Our Figure 2 pictorial was used in 1998 at Sarajevo and was applied to a pretty block of four stamps showing a colorful array of mushroom varieties that was mimicked, albeit in black, by the postmark that itself celebrates the "Day of the Mushroom," or Gljive in Croatian. In Figure 3 we have a pair of stamps issued in 2010, the one on the left showing an *Amanita muscaria*, commonly known as the Fly Agaric (Muhara in Croatian), the quintessential Toad Stool. Due to their psychoactive properties, some consider these mushrooms as poisonous, yet in Europe (as well as in Asia and North America) these are parboiled to remove the muscimol, their hallucinogenic component, and enjoyed. The other stamp depicts the Puffball (*Puhara*), a variety many of us have likely come across at one time or another. These mushrooms are distinct by not possessing an open cap with spore-bearing gills and, in general, are inedible. The postmark struck on these stamps is, in one sense, fairly simplistic, yet the way the lines are thickened in various spots on the outline brings to mind the shadows often seen on these fungi when one is walking through the damp woods where sunlight sneaks in wherever it can find an opening.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 4 takes us over to the Indian Ocean with a rather pedestrian first-day-of-issue

Figure 6.

☛

Figure 7.

pictorial postmark applied to a block of four stamps issued in 1984 depicting some of the local fungi found on Christmas Island. One can't help but wonder if the designer of this marking felt pressed to add the word "Fungi" to the picture so viewers weren't under the impression they were viewing a mushroom cloud!

In 1989 Czechoslovakia issued a set of five stamps depicting poisonous mushrooms and Figure 5 shows us three out of that set. Each of these mushrooms will most certainly kill you if ingested, but the one at left, illustrated on the 1k stamp, is the most highly toxic of the three and is appropriately commonly known as the Death Cap Toadstool (*Amanita phalloides*). The shape of the caps and stems in the Prague postmarks used here also warn us to keep well clear of these varieties.

Figure 8.

A pleasing concordance between the stamps issued by Denmark in 1978 and the postmark used on them can be seen in Figure 6. At left we have the delicious Morel (*genus Morchella*) and at right we have Satan's Mushroom (*Boletus satanas*), a mushroom that is somewhat poisonous but still occasionally eaten if cooked long enough to remove its toxins. The pictorial shows a mix of the two types illustrated on the stamps growing alongside each other.

Figure 9.

Our next stop is France, a country holding a time-honored tradition of creating and presenting all manner of culinary delights, many recipes which include our topic du jour. Figure 7 shows us a highly popular type used in the creation of many of these dishes, the Champignon (*Agaricus bisporus*), one of the most widely consumed mushrooms on the planet. These are native to the grasslands of both Europe and

Figure 10.

North America and are cultivated in more than 70 countries worldwide. Here, the postmark used at Paris also mimics the stamp (issued in 1987), but with a Morel thrown in for good measure. At left, are the immature Champignons, which can be found in either a white or a brown color. At right in both the stamp and the pictorial, is a mature Champignon, known as a Portobello, and now that summer is indeed upon us permit me to suggest that a marinated Portobello tossed onto a barbeque grill is a super treat.

Figure 11.

Our second French postmark was also applied at Paris and was used to commemorate the 1993 Tourism and Culture Exposition (Figure 8).

Figure 12.

Iceland's contribution can be seen in Figure 9. The Crab Brittlegill (*Russula xerampelina*) with its wine-red cap is a common mushroom found here; and, although edible, it tends to develop a rather fishy odor (especially when mature) giving rise to its common name, Herring Russula. The pictorial shown here and applied at Reykjavík in 2012, although somewhat simple, has lines that are quite pleasing to the eye.

Figure 13.

Italy is next with a pair of examples: Figure 10's pictorial commemorates the 1995 Mycological Exhibition held at Budoia, and Figure 11 commemorates the 2001 "Porcino d'Oro," a festival held each November (when mushroom season is in full swing) in Arzana, an area famous for the longevity of its inhabitants, many of whom live long enough to see 100 years of age. Hmmmm… ...could it be the mushrooms?

Figure 14.

Many of us have heard of or have even enjoyed the mildly-flavored Shitake (*Agaricus edodes*), a mushroom native to China, Japan and Korea that is commonly

☛

Figure 15.

cultivated on dead trees and one that can be found delicately floating atop that bowl of steaming hot miso soup served up at your favorite Japanese restaurant. In Figure 12 we have a pretty red-colored postmark applied at Hiroshima in 1992 that depicts Japanese culture and, not surprisingly, which includes a mushroom that I assume is a Shitake.

Let's close by moving onto our list format.

Figure 13: Latvia 2007.

Figure 14: Latvia 2008.

Figure 15: Latvia 2010.

All three of our Latvian examples commemorate Latvijas mezu bagatibas (Latvian timber resources) and appear as first-day cancels.

Figure 16: Moldova 2007, first-day pictorial.

Figure 17: Romania Protection of Forests, applied at Bucharest in 1993.

Figure 18: Romania 1998 also used at Bucharest.

Figure 19: Romania 2001, applied at Gilău.

Figure 20: Slovenia 1995.

Figure 21: Spain 1980 "Russula" pictorial applied at Vigo. Russula is a genus of mushrooms that comprises

Figure 16 (above).
Figure 17 (below).

Figure 18 (above).
Figure 19 (right).

more than 700 species of mushrooms that are typically large and brightly colored.

Figure 22: Yugoslavia 1987, applied at Ljubljana (capital of modern-day Slovenia), commemorating health and nature.

Figure 20 (above)

Figure 22 (below).

Figure 21.

Figure 23: Yugoslavia 1990.

Finally, we'll part ways for this installment with two items. First, the same mushroom we met earlier and now see again in the Figure 24 marking that originated in 1988 at Richmond, Mo., the Mushroom Capital of the World. Here, as you have by now gathered, is my all-time favorite fungi, the oh-so-scrumptious Morel. And, second, some words of wisdom: although I am unable to attribute this quote, truer words were never spoken, particularly for those aspiring to forage for their own "shrooms": "All mushrooms are edible…once!"

Figure 23.

Until next time, happy collecting!

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

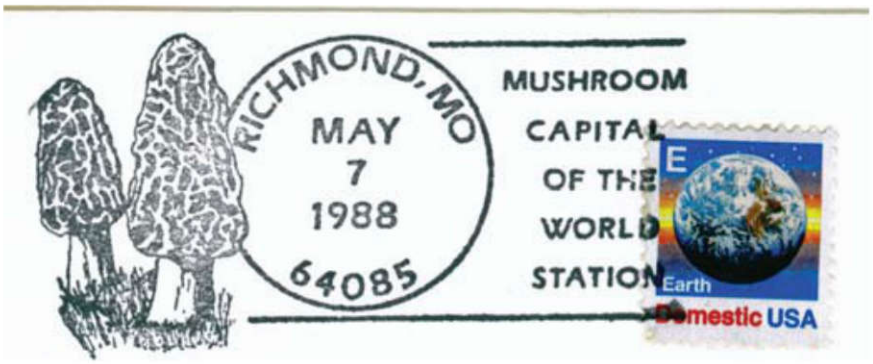

Figure 23.

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Ten Largest Castles in the World

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Vincent De Luca

Not surprisingly, seven of the 10 largest castles of the world are in Europe. This is a result of the continuous conflicts and invasions taking place in Europe through the centuries.

Castles became virtually ubiquitous in Europe during the frequent wars in the Middle Ages, but fortified structures have existed since prehistoric times. Since the beginning of civilization, man protected himself by constructing different types of fortified structures that served as places of refuge, defense and worship. Through the centuries, these fortified structures evolved into larger and more sophisticated residential castles, built for the comfort of kings and nobles, and as a symbols of their supremacy and power.

The following are the 10 largest castles in the world, according to the latest available data. A brief historic description for each one of them is here enhanced with illustrations of varied philatelic material

1. Malbork Castle, Poland

Figure 1.

The town of Malbork is located about 56 kilometers (35 miles) south-east of Gdansk, Poland (Figure 1, Poland 1954, Scott 640). The castle of Malbork (Figure 2, Poland 1977, postal card, Michel-P701) is the largest in the world, with a surface area of 143,591 square meters, and in 1997 it was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In 1225 the Teutonic Knights arrived in the Prussian region after an invitation by the Polish duke Conrad of Mazovia, to help with the conversion of pagans. The Order of the Teutonic Knights (Figure 3, Germany 1990, Scott 1595) originated in 1190 in the Holy Land, during the siege of Acre. They combined the Samaritan rules of the Hospitallers (later the Knights of the Order of

Figure 2.

Malta), and the military rules of the Knight Templars. By 1309 the Teutonic Knights conquered the whole area and made its headquarters at Marienburg (Figure 4, Germany 1924, Scott 339), which subsequently became the greater castle of the Order in the East. The red brick construction of Malbork/Marienburg (Figure 5, Poland 1954, Scott 642) began in 1275, and by 1280 it consisted of two main sections: the Hochschloss (High Castle) with the chapel, and the residential Mittelschloss (Middle Castle). Malbork has the main features of most Teutonic castles: the overall rectangular plan, often built on low grounds near a river (in this case the River Nogat), use of bricks for its construction and showing the characteristics of the Order being of religious nature and military power. In 1309 the Grand Master of the Order moved from Venice, Italy, to Malbork, and soon he undertook the expansion of the fortified-episcopal complex. Between 1335-41 a tower and a bridge over the River Nogat were added, the middle castle was greatly refurbished internally and, most importantly, a lower castle was built, thus reinforcing the defenses. The fortified complex is encircled by several defensive walls and moats, and has an innovative Dansker or privy tower, in front of the gate with two towers (shown on a Polish postal card of 1977). The castle was completed primarily between 1380-98. From 1457-1772, Malbork was held by the Polish and was greatly restored in later centuries. During World War II it was used by the Germans as a POW camp (Stalag XXB) and was badly damaged in 1945. After the war, Malbork (ex Marienburg) became part of Poland and, since then, it has been continuously restored.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

2. Mehrangarh Fort, India

With a surface area of 81,227 square meters, Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) (Figure 6, India 1984, Scott 1068), is considered the second largest castle in the world.

Figure 6.

Located on a high hill, 122 meters (400 feet) above the city of Jodhpur, in northwest India (Figure 7, India 1958-63, Scott 303), the castle is encircled by powerful 20-meter-wide (68 feet) defensive walls with seven gates, of which the most notable are: Jai Pol (Victory) dating from 1806, Fatehpol dating from 1707 (also meaning Victory Gate), and Lohapol (Iron Gate).

☛

Figure 7.

Within the 36-meter-high (118 feet) walls, Mehrangarh Fort encloses several palaces with intricate carvings and interesting courtyards. Phool Mahal or the Flower Palace, perhaps the most impressive of all, was built during the 18th century as a Hall for Private Audience. Jhanki Mahal or Palace of the Glimpses, is so named for the beautiful carved sandstone lattice windows. Sukh Mahal or Pleasure Palace, is a magnificent summer residence surrounded by luscious gardens. Moti Mahal or Pearl Palace, is a throne room dating from the late 16th century; this large and majestic palace was originally built as a Hall for Public Audience.

The Fort complex was first constructed in 1459 by Rao Jodha Singh (1416-89), and was enlarged over the centuries by successive maharajas. What we see today is mainly from 1638-78.

The original Jodha's fortress, also known as Chao Burja, is within the limit of the second gate; of it, very little remains. Mehrangarh's Museum is one of the finest in India, with its royal Palanquin section, the ornate Elephant howdahs (wooden seats), the Maan Vilas with a fine collection of weapons, and many other attractions. Indeed, the Citadel of the Sun, as the fort is known, is – without doubt – the finest extant example of a Hindu fortress.

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3 – Prague Castle, Czech Republic

At one point the Castle of Prague, with its 66,761 square meters of surface area, was considered the largest castle in the world, but further surveys confirmed that at least two castles are larger than the one in Prague. In the middle of the Hradčany (castle district), stands the Castle of Prague (Figure 8, Czechoslovakia 1968, Scott 1554), whose first nucleus dates from 870, when Prince Bořivoj of the Přemyslid dynasty, built it on the site of a fortified structure originally erected by Slav tribes. The castle, on a hill above the Vlatava River, stands isolated from the rest of the city of Prague (Figure 9, Czechoslovakia 1967, Scott 1446), protected only by an immense single blank wall. Originally a wooden structure, it was rebuilt in stone and enlarged during the 12th century and successive centuries, as shown on a block of four stamps (Figure 10, Czechoslovakia 1950, Scott 426-429), which depicts the castle's evolution in the 14th century, in 1493, in 1606 and in 1794. Within the wall is the Gothic structure of St. Vitus Cathedral (Figure 11, Bohemia & Moravia, Scott 89), begun in 1344 and completed in 1929, 1,000 years after the

Figure 8.

Figure 9.

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Figure 10.

death of Prince Václav (St. Wenceslas, c.907-35) (Figure 12, Czechoslovakia 1929, Scott 159), who was the first to build a church within the castle, and whose body was brought there after his death in 929. Next is the Royal Palace, home to the royals of Bohemia from the 11th to the 17th century. The original Romanesque structure, dating from the 12th century, and built by Soběslav I, was later transformed into a Gothic palace by Charles IV (1316-78) (Figure 13, Bohemia & Moravia, Scott B15). The main attraction of the palace is the great Vadislav Hall (Figure 14, Czechoslovakia 1967, Scott 1472), built by the Polish king Vladislav Jagellon between 1486-1502. Here the early kings were elected, and since 1918 every Czech president has been sworn into office there.

Figure 11 (top).

Figure 12 (center).

Figure 13 (above).

Figure 14 (above).

Figure 15 (below).

Not far from the Royal Palace is the Basilica of St. George. Dating from the 10th century (except the façade that dates from 1670), it is the oldest Romanesque structure in Prague. Next door to the Basilica stands the convent founded by Boleslav II in 973. It now houses the Czech National Gallery.

In 1541 the Castle of Prague was damaged heavily by a large fire, but was soon reconstructed. During the 17th and 18th centuries, it was transformed into a Renaissance style under the Hapsburgs and, finally, during the

reign of Empress Maria Theresa (1717-80) (Figure 15, Belgium 1972, Scott 835), between 1753-55, the castle was given its uniform appearance as a late Baroque palace. Today Prague Castle is the seat of the president of the Czech Republic.

4 – Burghausen Castle, Germany

This immense castle (Figure 16, Germany 2006, Scott 2386) in Southern Bavaria, is located above the town of Burghausen on a ridge between the Salzach River and the Wohrsee Lake, about 110 kilometers (66 miles) east of Munich, and 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Salzburg, Austria. The fortified complex extends for more than 1,000 meters (about 3,281 feet) along the ridge, divided by moats (ditches) into six enclosures with fortified gates. The origins of the castle are remote, dating from about 100 B.C., but nothing remains of it. The first wooden fortified structure was built in the year 600 by the dukes of Bavaria then, starting from 1020, a series of constructions took place over different periods by the counts of Burghausen. The first expansion was made in 1090 by count Sieghart X, but most of the buildings decayed and disappeared. In 1164 the castle became property of the dukes of Bavaria, who extended it further through the centuries until 1918. In 1255 Duke Heinrich XIII (1235-90) built the main castle, including the chapel, cellars and most of the wall, which are still standing. The present castle (Figure 17, Germany, pictorial cancel of 1997), is mainly the result of extensive reconstructions by Duke Georg der Reiche between 1479 and 1503, to protect the complex against Turkish invasions. Most of the outer defenses and the Pulverthurm (powder tower) date from this period. During the Middle Ages, Burghausen

Figure 16.

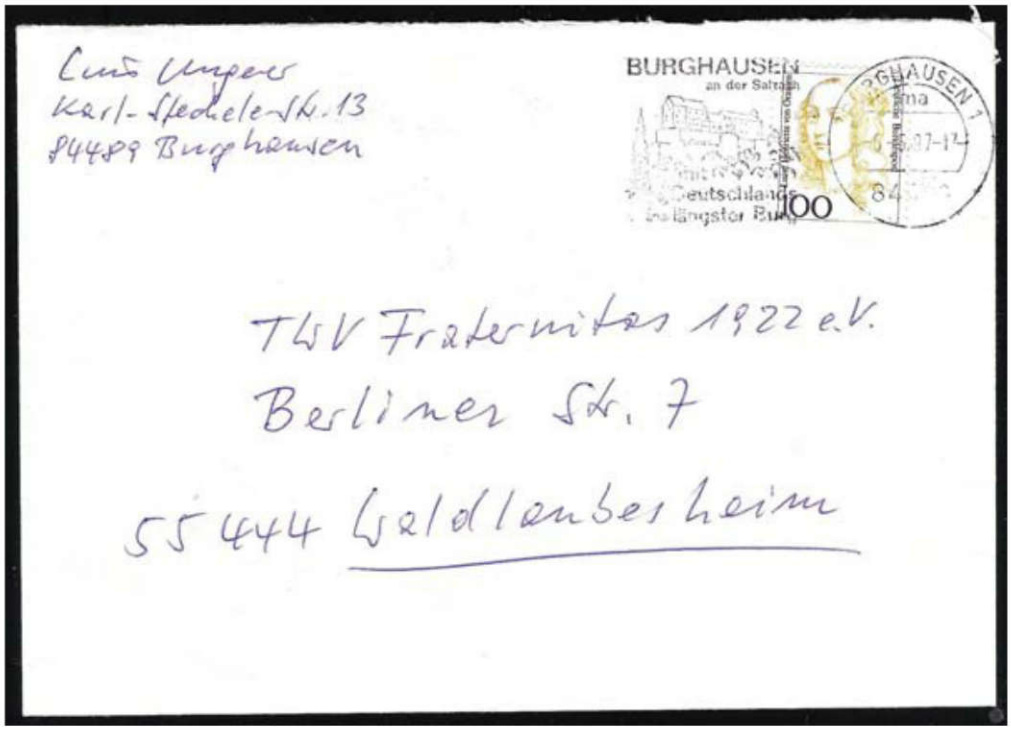

Figure 17.

Figure 18.

became one of the largest and most important castles in Germany, due to the salt trade. The dukes charged a toll whether the salt from Salzburg traveled on the Salzach River or by land.

In 1809 Napoleon Bonaparte (Figure 18, France 1951, Scott B263) declared the castle no longer suitable as a fortress, due to advanced military technologies available.

Renovation of the main castle has been in progress since 1960. With 56,810 square meters of surface, Burghausen is the fourth large castle in the world.

5 – Windsor Castle, England

After defeating the English at Hastings on Oct. 14, 1066, William I of Normandy (1027-87), also known as the Conqueror (Figure 19, France 1966, Scott 1160), ordered the construction of several motte-and-bailey castles (Figure 20, Great Britain 1986, Scott 1147) around the city of London, from whence he could control the occupied territories. The motte-and-bailey was a typical Norman castle formed by a large mound of earth with a wooden tower, courtyard and palisades. Windsor Castle was built by the Conqueror at Berkshire, near London, around 1070. Its original motte is still visible, while the double-shell flat Round Tower (Figure 21, Great Britain 1992, Scott 1448) with an open courtyard was added in 1170.

Figure 19.

Figure 20.

Henry I (1068-1135), the fourth son of William the Conqueror, was the first king to use Windsor Castle as a residence, and to have replaced the wooden structures with stones. Thereafter, Henry II (1133-89), the grandson of Henry I, rebuilt the defenses, added another bailey in 1175 and built the first royal apartments. During the reign of king John (1199-1218), Windsor Castle came under siege

Figure 21.

several times; the castle was damaged, but was restored between 1216-21.

Later additions and restorations during the reign of Edward III (1312-77) gave the castle its present appearance (Figure 22, Great Britain 1959, Scott 374). Another significant addition was the Chapel of St. George (Figure 23, Great Britain 1975, Scott 743), begun in 1474 by Edward IV (1442-83) and completed in 1528 by Henry VIII (1491-1547). The chapel, with its detailed stone vaulting, is a masterpiece of late "perpendicular" architecture, and is the burial place of several British kings.

Figure 22.

Figure 23.

Right after its foundation by William the Conqueror, and beginning with Henry I, Windsor Castle has been the main residence of almost every British monarch to the present. Besides being one of the most impressive residences in the world, Windsor Castle, with its 54,835 square meters of surface, is one of the largest in the world, one of the few that is still inhabited and represents every major stage in the history of English architecture.

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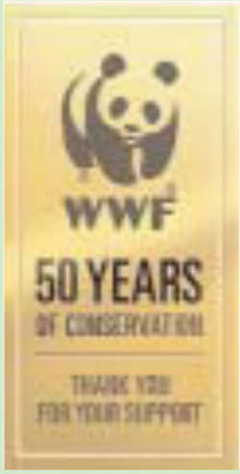

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6 – Hohensalzburg Fortress, Austria

Figure 24.

High on a rocky cliff above the Salzack River of the city of Salzburg, this fortress (Figure 24, Austria 1987, Scott 1392) is an extensive complex of several different periods, occupying the north end of the Mönschsberg ridge over a surface of 54,523 square meters. The oldest part of the castle rests partly on Romanesque foundations undertaken by Prince-Archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg in 1077, and completed by Archbishop Conrad I (1106-47).

During the 15th century the archiepiscopal fortress was continuously reconstructed and enlarged with the inclusion of the round towers of the outer curtain walls, to keep pace with technological military advances. A 2.50-shilling Austrian

Figure 35.

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postal card of 1974 (Figure 25, Michel P439) shows on the illustration side a view of the fortress with its round towers.

The residential living quarters were modernized by Archbishop Leonard von Keutschach (1495-1519), while outer bastions were added during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Figure 26.

Among the splendid rooms in the castle, the "Golden Room" is an exquisitely fine example of late Gothic architecture. One of the most popular features in the castle is a gigantic barrel organ dating from 1502, which is played during the summer from the KrautTower where it is housed.

During the Peasant's War of 1525, Hohensalzburg was attacked by groups of miners and townspeople who were trying to replace Archbishop Lang, but they failed. The following archbishop, Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau (Figure 26, Austria 1987, Scott1397), was deposed in 1612 and died there in prison.

Figure 27.

This largest, best-preserved medieval castle (Figure 27, Germany 1939, Scott B167) can be accessed by paths or by a funicular railway.

7 – Spiš Castle, Slovakia

With 49,485 square meters of surface, Spiš Castle or Spišský Hrad (Figure 28, Slovakia 1941, Scott 60) is the seventh largest castle in the world. It takes its name from the Spiš region in Eastern Slovakia, and is located on top of a limestone cliff 634 meters above the sea level, amid the scenery of the Tatra Mountains (Figure 29, Czechoslovakia 1968, Scott 1641).

Figure 28 (above).

Figure 30 (below).

Figure 29.

The present castle, dating from 1200, was built on the site of an early Slavic stronghold and served as a place of refuge for the local peasant population. In the early 13th century, the castle was strengthened with powerful walls, and a Romanesque palace was built. As a frontier fortress, it defended the northern borders of Hungary, and functioned as a fortified place of refuge for the Transylvania garrison.

☛

Figure 31.

In 1241 Spiš Castle was captured by the Tartars and, eight years later, upon their withdrawal, the Dean of Spiš received permission from King Bela IV of Hungary (1206-70, Figure 30, Hungary 1986, Scott 3045) to erect a keep and a palace on the fortified hilltop. Subsequently the fortress remained in the hands of Hungarian kings until 1465. Under the Hungarians, the castle was completely rebuilt with the addition of ramparts defended by two huge watchtowers, and the main Romanesque tower (keep) was restructured.

The castle was destroyed by fire in 1780, becoming a neglected pile of white-chalk ruins (Figure 31, Czechoslovakia 1964, Scott 1227). In 1961 it was declared by the state a National Cultural Monument, and Spiš ruins were scheduled for restoration as an important museum complex. In 1993 the castle and surrounding area were included in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

8 - Buda Castle, Hungary

Budapest is formed by the cities of Buda on the West bank of the Danube River, and Pest on the left bank. The castle or former royal palace of Buda (Figure 32, Hungary 1931, Scott 437), is situated on the summit of Castle Hill, a long narrow plateau with medieval cobblestone-covered streets, encircled by thick defensive walls.

Figure 32.

Figure 33.

In 1241, during the Tartar invasion of Hungary, Pest was destroyed and, in 1247, King Bela IV of Hungary (1206-70, Figure 33, Hungary 1942, Scott B153) repopulated it, and established the city of Buda, where he built a tower surrounded by walls on a site previously occupied by a community of farmers. From this single original tower, the town of Buda grew constantly until 1265.

With the end of the Arpad dynasty in 1301, Hungary was ruled by a series of foreign monarchs who continued enlarg-

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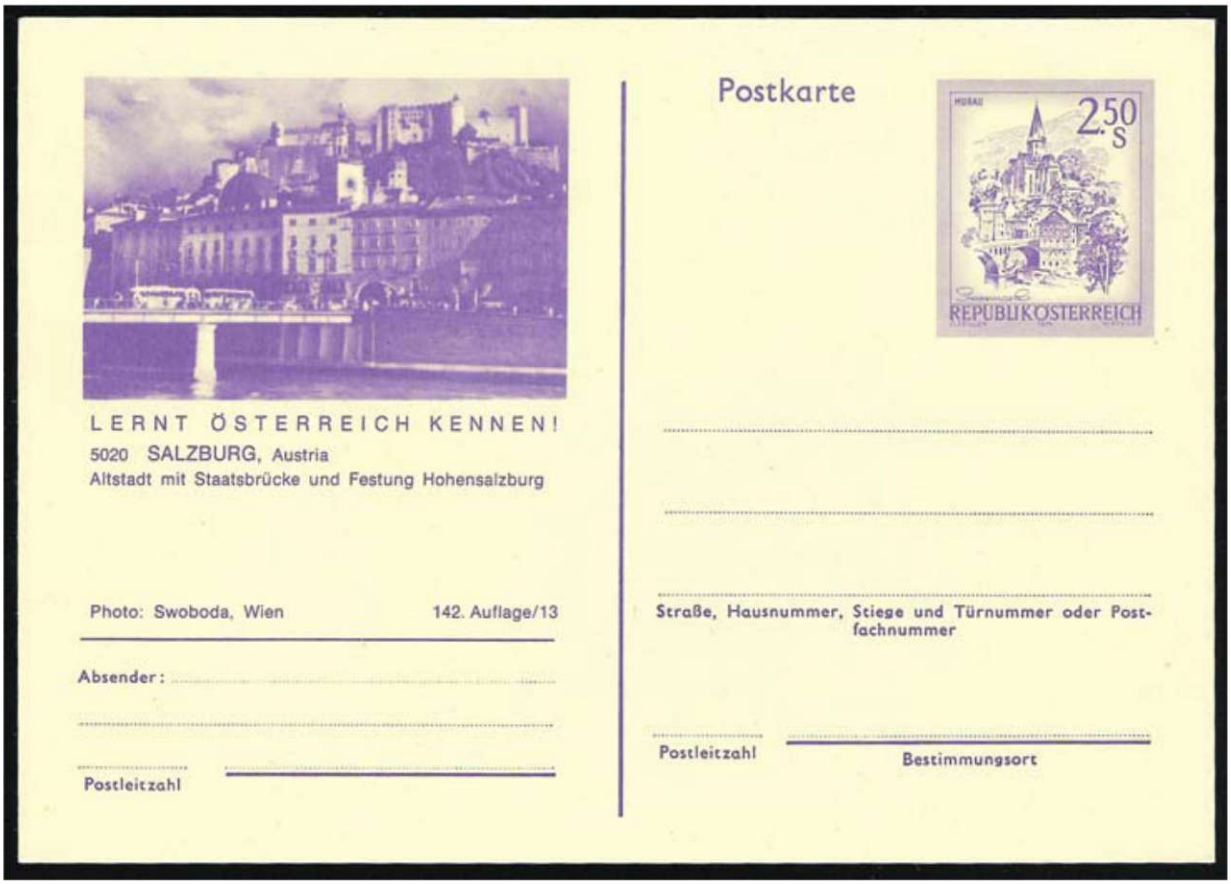

Figure 34.

Figure 35.

ing and strengthening the castle, resulting in one of the greatest strongholds in Europe. From 1458-90, the castle of Buda reached its maximum splendor under the reign of King Matthias Corvinus (1443-90, Figure 34, Hungary 1896, Michel P19-2 Kreuzer postal card issued for the country's first millennium, and picturing the proclamation of King Matthias I, and the Castle of Buda – *please see note at the end of this entry*), when it became a center of Renaissance culture. Unfortunately, with the capture of Budapest by the Turks, the castle was almost completely destroyed. The occupation of Hungary lasted from 1541-1686, when the Turks were finally expelled by the armies of allied Christian powers. A stamp issued in 1936 (Figure 35, Hungary Scott 498) for the 250th anniversary of the recapture of Budapest, shows a view of ancient Buda Castle.

Figure 36.

Thereafter, Hungary passed into the hands of the Habsburgs of Austria who held the country until the end of World War I in 1918.

However, under the Habsburgs, a new Baroque-style castle-palace was built between 1714-23, later enlarged by Empress Maria Theresa (1717-80, Figure 36, Austria 1980, Scott 1151). But the negative saga of Buda Castle continued, when it was burned by an attack of rising Hungarians in 1810, and during World War II in 1945,

Figure 37.

when the complex was severely damaged. Today, the Castle of Buda (Figure 37, Hungary 1967, Scott 1830), with 44,674 square meters of surface, has returned to its splendor after a complete restoration that began in the 1950s.

NOTE: A total of 62 postal cards were released in 1896 for Hungary's first millennium: 30 cards with the imprinted value of 2 Kreuzer and inscriptions in Hungarian were for domestic use. Another 30 cards with the imprinted value of 5 Kreuzer and inscriptions in Hungarian and French for foreign mail. The remaining two cards for domestic use had a value of 2 Kreuzer, with the inscriptions in Hungarian and Croat.

9 – Himeji Castle, Japan

Himeji Castle (Figure 38, Japan 1951, Scott 517a) is the oldest and finest feudal stronghold in Japan and, with its 41,468 square meters of surface, it is one of the largest in the world.

The pagoda-like shape of the popularly known castle of the white Heron, stands on a hill top of Himeji, between Kobe and Okayama on the island of

Honshu. The castle dates from 1333, but in 1346 it was dismantled by Akamatsu Norimura, and rebuilt as a fortress against local shoguns (military governors). Later, in 1581, it was converted into a castle with more than 30 towers by Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

From 1601-09, Himeji Castle (Figure 39, Japan 1969, Scott 1001) acquired its present form, when Ikeda Terumasa, feudal lord of the area, completely remodeled it into a large fortified complex, comprising two concentric enclosures protected by walls and moats, as well as a network of 83 fortified buildings and residences for his Samurai Warriors (Figure 40, Japan 1984-89, Scott 1629).

Figure 38.

Figure 39.

During the revolution of 1867-68, with the Shogunate suppressed and the Meji dynasty restored, many castles were demolished, but Himeji Castle was spared, retaining its original structure.

In 1945, toward the end of World War II, the surrounding areas of Himeji Castle were heavily bombed, but the castle was not damaged.

Figure 40.

Important restorations of the complex began in 1956 and were completed in 1964. For the occasion, Japan issued a stamp commemorating the event (Figure 41, Scott 815).

In October 2009, a full-scale renovation of the castle complex was approved by the authorities of Himeji City, with the works to be completed in 2014.

Figure 41.

10 – Citadel of Aleppo, Syria

The Citadel (Figure 42, Syria 1931, Scott C53), extending over 39,804 square meters of surface, is considered the 10th largest castle in the world. It is surrounded by a moat 20 meters deep and 30 meters wide, which is spanned by a bridge on the north side.

The access to the citadel is through a 12th-century gate, and behind this, there is a massive fortified main entrance (Figure 43, Syria 1931-33, Scott 217).

The origins of the citadel as a fortified structure date from the 9th century B.C., as asserted by uncovered archeological ruins from a neo-Hittite fortified acropolis.

Figure 42.

Figure 43.

The citadel-fortress, used strictly as a military center, was built during the 10th century by Sayf al-Dawla (916-967), first Hamdanid ruler of Aleppo. Further fortified structures, and the Small Mosque were added by Nur al-Din (1118-74) between 1147-74 before and after frequent attacks by the Crusaders.

Figure 44.

The present form of the Citadel's complex. With major rebuilding of all the fortified structures, took place between 1186-1216 under the reign of Sultan al-Zahir al Ghazi (1172-1216), who also incorporated in 1214 the Great Mosque located at the highest point of the Citadel (Figure 44, Syria 1952, Scott 167). Its 21-meter-high minaret permitted extended visibility to greater distances.

Figure 45.

A very clever addition was devised for the entrance to the complex: although nicely decorated on the outside, the inside is a succession of five right-angle turns, where three sets of solid steel-plated doors made a formidable barrier to any would-be attacker; some of the doors and a few rooms are still intact. The rest is a pile of ruins, as a result of many invasions and the devastating earthquake of 1822. Fortunately, a major restoration project is in progress.

A view of Aleppo and the Citadel is pictured on a 7.50-piaster Syrian stamp (Figure 45, Scott 225), part of a series of 24 values, issued in 1930-36 under the French Mandate. A single stamp, postmarked: Alep (Aleppo) on Nov. 10(?),1934, paid the surface mail rate to the United States. Inscriptions inside the rectangular box translate: "Buy commemorative postage stamps of the Syrian Republic."

Vincent De Luca, from Santa Clara, Calif., a longtime ATA member (also APS, AAPE, and CIFT [Italian Center of Thematic Philately]), is a thematic collector of European castles (several golds), Leonardo da Vinci (NTSS 2001 Grand Award) and The* Olive-Olea Europaea *(NTSS 2014 Grand Award). He has had many of his articles on different subjects, including Italian modern postal history, published in* Topical Time, American Philatelist, Scott Stamp Monthly, Il Tematico *(Italy) and* Notiziario Tematico *(CIFT/Italy).

Dawn Hamman

This is the sixth in a series of brief biographies of our Board of Directors.

Dawn Hamman was elected this spring as the newest member of the ATA Board. She serves as ATA Publicity Chair and, as an ambassador, has been one of the leading recruiters of new members the past two years. A member of the Biology Study Unit and board member of the Americana Study Unit, Dawn frequently contributes to its journal. Her exhibits have been on manatees, tomatoes, chickens and candy. Dawn developed the NTSS show program the last two years.

Dawn is also a member of AAPE, WE, Postal History Society and Florida Postal History Society. She is active in the Sarasota and Venice, Fla., stamp clubs and serves as newsletter editor for the Venice club, ATA Chapter No. 122.

Retired from a career as a journalist and then a health care marketing manager, Dawn has written and edited many publications, and has been actively involved in fundraising, both professionally and as a volunteer. As a board member, Dawn's particular interests are membership recruitment/retention and fundraising, as well as working to increase awareness of ATA in the world.

Youth in Topics

MaryAnn Bowman

Collectors often speak of wanting to work with young collectors but don't know what to do after they have taught the basics of the hobby. There are tons of ideas available if you search, starting with the many materials found on the ATA website.

A new mini-topical album has been added to the materials available for free downloads. The Youth in Topics column of the May-June 2014 issue of *Topical Time* included an activity to create a very small worldwide album for stamps. I am pleased to announce that another "tiny" mini-album has been created for topical stamps. The free album can be found at ***www.americantopicalassn.org***.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

National Topical Stamp Show in St. Louis is history now but it represents the challenges that shows and youth leaders across our country are facing. St. Louis Stamp Expo is well known for its successes in drawing exhibitors, dealers and youth to its shows. So it was with great expectation that I attended NTSS 2014.

For those unfamiliar with St. Louis Stamp Expo, one of its "claims to fame" is that it has one entire room devoted to youth and stamp collecting during the Expo, as well as a great deal of programming that is youth-specific. Classes of school children are bussed in and participate in a variety of hands-on and educational activities, and children are given personalized tours of the show and exhibit area. The Expo show has been doing this for a number of years, exposing many hundreds of children to stamps who might never otherwise have had the opportunity to learn about this great hobby of ours.

It was with this background and knowledge that I headed to NTSS with the anticipation of having a more interested and enthusiastic youth audience. But, alas, without significant advance preparation, the number of youth attending the show was underwhelming. There was exactly one girl on Friday with her grandmother. On Saturday there was a 14-year-old boy, who appeared bored and uninterested in stamp collecting but had come on this

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outing with his grandfather. The bright spot of the day was an eight-year-old girl who had previously attended stamp shows and looked forward to the activities in the youth area. She attended with her mother, although it was her father who was the collector. She completed several activities, picked out stamps for her collection as well as a few gift items and went home a happy camper.

But wait, there is more. Much to my surprise, the 14-year-old boy returned to the youth area later in the day. He and his grandfather had looked at some of the exhibits and visited dealers but he had not made any purchases or found anything to start his collection. The first time he stopped, I had engaged him in conversation and tried to learn of some of his interests. So, when he appeared again, I had a place to start the conversation. After briefly questioning him about the exhibits and what he had seen that he liked, I took him over to Joanne's Stamps where all of her covers were selling for $1 each. We each grabbed a box and started looking. When he stopped to examine a cover more closely, I questioned him about what it was that he was looking at and why he liked the cover. He asked some questions but chose no covers for himself. Along the way, I had learned that he had an interest in wars; so I returned to the youth area where among the things that had been brought along were some of those large commemorative panels from the likes of Fleetwood and the Postal Commemorative Society. There he showed interest and picked out items related to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, as well as World War I. I would have been happy to give him all of the items with the hopes that it would "spark" a future interest. But his grandfather, who likely has a different approach, intervened. The boy had picked out about 15 items, but the grandfather took the pile and separated it into the various wars and told the boy to choose one pile and narrow his collecting interest. I politely tried to explain that the boy could take all of the items home, but he still was not allowed to keep them. I offered to mail him additional material on the Revolutionary War, his chosen topic. Understandably, he was not allowed to share his address, so I gave him my address and hope that perhaps I hear from him in the future. (That is, assuming kids still know how to write a letter, address an envelope and find a stamp.) Keep your fingers crossed!

That was not the only instance. On Friday, a grandmother had a young girl return some of the items that she had chosen to take home. I am not sure why adults are imposing their values on young collectors.

By the way, total youth attendance for

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NTSS from Friday through noon on Sunday, when I had to leave, was six.

So what was the problem at NTSS? Where were the kids? Several theories were advanced. Did an admission fee discourage families (although kids were free)? Was there adequate publicity given to the show? Had an advertising flyer promoting the show gone home with youth and collectors attending the Expo? Was weather a factor? Did the timing of the show and being just prior to the July 4th weekend affect attendance? And so on....

Stamp shows want to promote the hobby and WSP shows in particular are urged to have interactive youth and beginner areas. But with so few youth attending shows, it is hard for some shows to justify the rental cost of tables for youth areas. One table is not large enough to do much, two tables (depending upon the size) can be doable. Preference would be for a larger area or room devoted to a variety of interactive activities (such as St. Louis Expo), but renting a room for the duration of a show can be an expense that committees are not willing to absorb.

Getting youth to a show can also be a problem. There needs to be an adult who sees the value of collecting and provides the necessary transportation to the show. Then there are financial situations with families, given the economic conditions of the day. For some, there are no "extras" for hobbies, and for others there is no perceived need to support a hobby that might be just a passing fancy.

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Promoters of stamp shows have many ideas that they would like to implement but often are unable to follow through due to lack of money, volunteers and time. I attended an ASDA seminar about putting on a stamp show. The examples used were of large shows, such as some of the California shows, as well as the St. Louis Stamp Expo. But those are the exceptions. Smaller WSP shows, as well as local shows, are unable to provide those services. Yes, it is wonderful that there are groups of people (or in some cases the U.S. Postal Service) that are willing to foot the cost of bringing youth to the show. Bussing kids even a short distance is expensive. Then, too, today's teachers need to justify field trips, their educational impact and the relationship to their curriculum.

In retrospect, for the St. Louis NTSS, it might have been better if the youth area had been in the hallway leading to the show. At least hotel guests would have been able to allow their children to experience a little of what stamp collecting is all about without the adult having to pay an admission fee.

[Editor's Note (as a member of St. Louis Expo board): Like NTSS, St. Louis Stamp Expo also charges admission, and schools are responsible for the cost of bussing students to the show. Neither is a significant obstacle to the success of the program. The consistently large youth attendence and participation at SLSE has been built over a period of time, due to the commitment of the committee and a large, dedicated stable of volunteers, some of whom work with and within the schools year-round. These kids do not just "meet" stamps during the show. "Roving" shows, such as NTSS can piggy-back with the youth success of SLSE and some of the more successful shows, provided there is advance coordination with local committees. But, in general, WSP shows will need to make a commitment to an active youth program and have the patience to build it over a period of several years. — WLY]

RSVP Program

Perhaps some of you are familiar with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In my area, one of the projects of this group is to go into schools approximately once a month and display and demonstrate various hobbies, collections and interests of the volunteers. One of our members, a former postal worker, likes to share his stamp collecting hobby with youth. He has interesting displays and allows children to select stamps that interest them so they can start their own collections. He used to rely on the U.S. Postal Service for give-away materials and literature, but no longer has that resource available. Both APS and ATA have free downloadable information sheets that cover basics of the hobby.

Something that would be relatively easy to create is a bookmark that could be given to youth. Using a stamp as an illustration, the various websites that have youth-friendly materials could be listed. Youth tend to collect by stamp subject or topic, so be sure to list the ATA as one of the web addresses. Two often overlooked websites are ***www.learnaboutstamps.org*** and ***www.arago.si.edu***. Websites for the American Philatelic Society and the American First Day Cover Society should also be considered.

As youth leaders and volunteers, we need to keep ever mindful that these new and eager young collectors are bringing a game change to the hobby. They may not be ready for some of the more sophisticated philatelic skills, their collecting

☛

interests may reflect more current cultural trends having lived in a different time period and their ways of accessing information tend to involve more technology.

Thank you, donors!

Several ATA members stopped by the youth tables at NTSS to deliver materials that can be used with ATA outreach programs. Thank you!

Philatelic Zoo

The July-August 2014 issue of *Topical Tidbits* had Philatelic Zoo as a topic. Within the issue was an activity where youth were challenged to use their critical thinking skills to plan and design a layout for a zoo based on certain given criteria. Photocopies of the various animal stamps needed for the project were part of the packet. The stamps were cut out and taped to toothpicks. I varied the activity a little from the directions using corrugated cardboard for the background. This allowed the toothpick stamp zoo animals to stand upright without the use of the clay to hold the stamps in place.

The activity took a good 45 minutes. This is an activity that youth could do as a group, with partners or would even make a nice intergenerational project for kids to work on with their parents.

FREE Australian Stamps

A recently received and very large donation of Australian stamps bundled in quantities of 100 each allows me to offer these stamps for use in your youth and community outreach programs. I will send a small flat-rate Priority Mail box filled with bundles of these stamps for the cost of postage. A check payable to MaryAnn Bowman for $6 (postage) will get you thousands of stamps. Please mail your request to PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187.

Let me know about projects and activities that you do with your youth groups. I would be happy to report them here and give your club credit and publicity. I look forward to hearing from you.

MaryAnn Bowman is a youth activist, director of ATA Youth Activities, was named as the 2005 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist and currently serves on the Smithsonian's Council of Philatelists. Her mailing address is PO Box 1451, Waukesha WI 53187 USA.

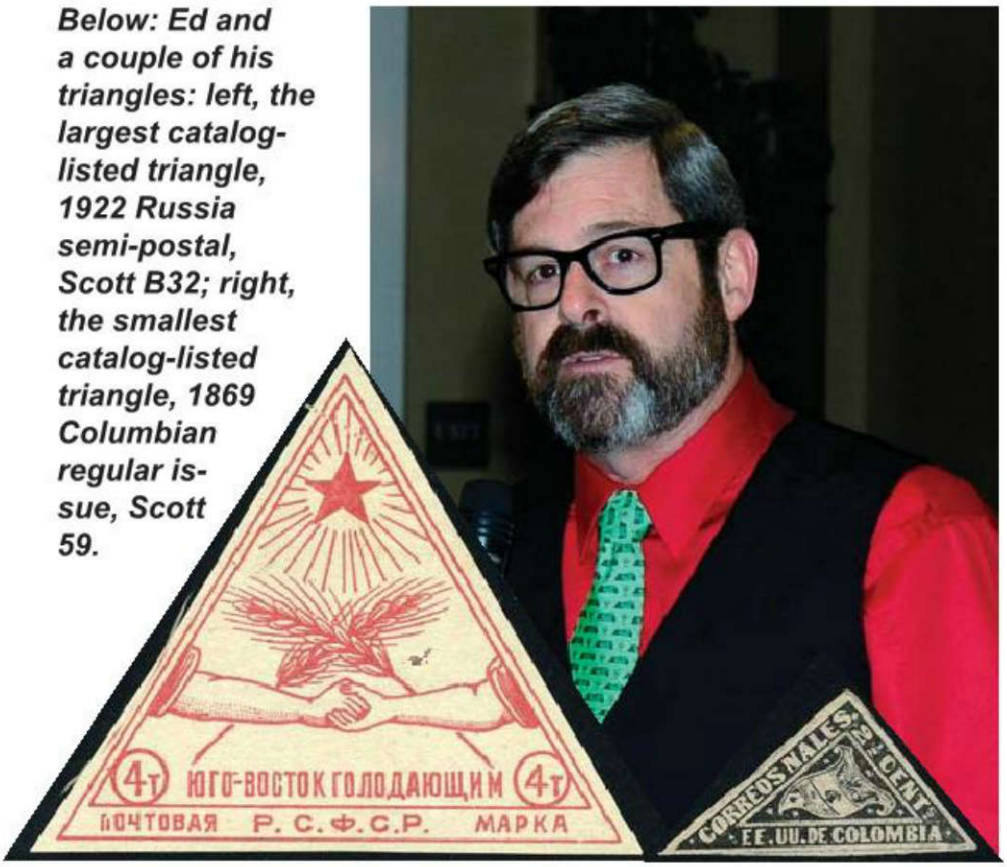
Edward Cahoon

Dawn Hamman

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

Edward Cahoon's stamp collecting began in the early 1980s, when he was stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. He chose to collect triangular-shaped stamps.

"I recall that the unconventionality of the triangle shape appealed to me, and I thought it would be a more limited effort than any country or other topical pursuit," he noted. "As it turns out, I was pleasantly wrong on the latter."



Below: Ed and a couple of his triangles: left, the largest catalog-listed triangle, 1922 Russia semi-postal, Scott B32; right, the smallest catalog-listed triangle, 1869 Columbian regular issue, Scott 59.

Through the years, he has enjoyed the hunt, and developed a checklist of nearly 2,000 stamps from more than 100 countries. He has generously shared that list with the ATA, and members can now purchase it.

But Ed didn't stop with triangular stamps. He has gone "far afield" with other triangular items that have philatelic relationships: 17th-century penny post handstamps, locals, revenues, Cinderellas, COD labels, censor marks, cancels and more.

"I currently communicate with just three other 'triangulatelists,'" said Ed, "I hope the checklist encourages others to begin this fascinating topic."

Help us continue to "Buck the Trend!"

Cinderella Corner

Arthur H. Groten

Typewriters

The typewriter is a fairly unlikely item for a topical exhibit, but certainly would be of value in any number of thematic ones. There are literally hundreds of poster stamps depicting typewriters or accessories, particularly from Germany.

These five U.S. stamps and a cover depict typewriters under the names of Remington, Smith Premier and Monarch. All three of these brands were part of the Union Typewriter Company, a huge trust that resulted from the mergers of these three and a number of other brands.

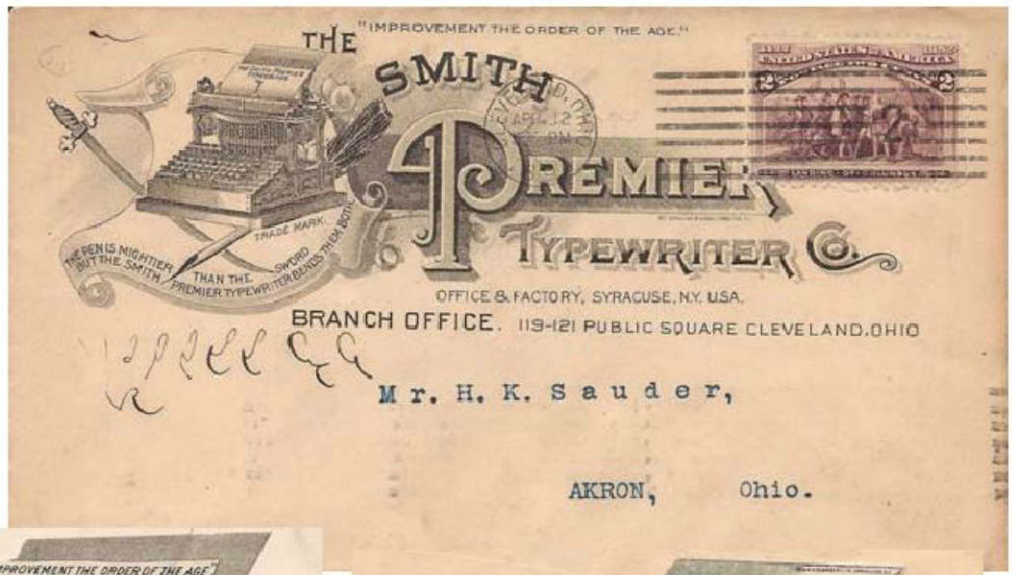
E. Remington and Sons, makers of the epony-

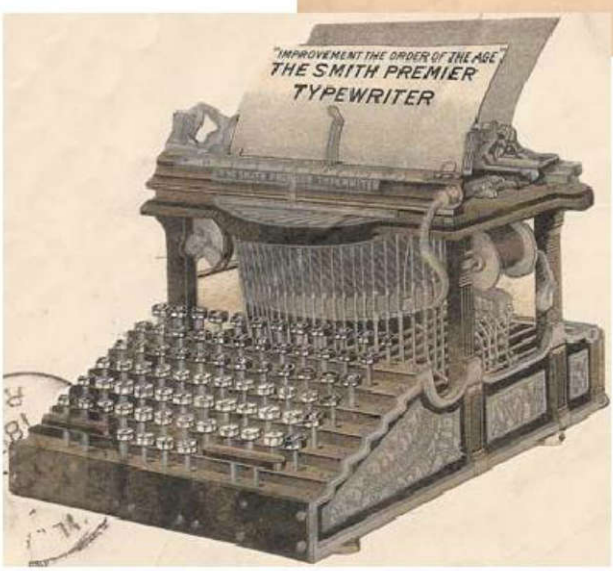
Figure 1 (above).

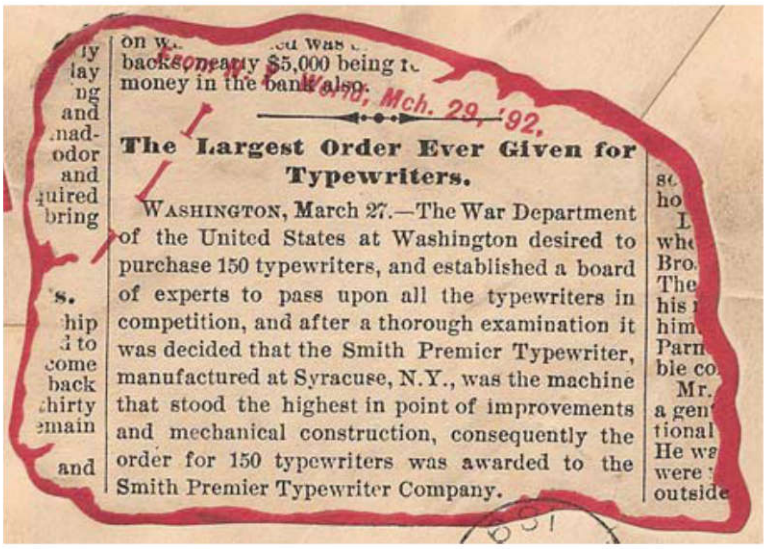
Figure 2 (right).

Figure 3 (below).

Figure 4 (below right).







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back nearly $5,000 being ...
money in the bank also.

World, Mch. 29, '92.

The Largest Order Ever Given for Typewriters.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The War Department of the United States at Washington desired to purchase 150 typewriters, and established a board of experts to pass upon all the typewriters in competition, and after a thorough examination it was decided that the Smith Premier Typewriter, manufactured at Syracuse, N.Y., was the machine that stood the highest in point of improvements and mechanical construction, consequently the order for 150 typewriters was awarded to the Smith Premier Typewriter Company.

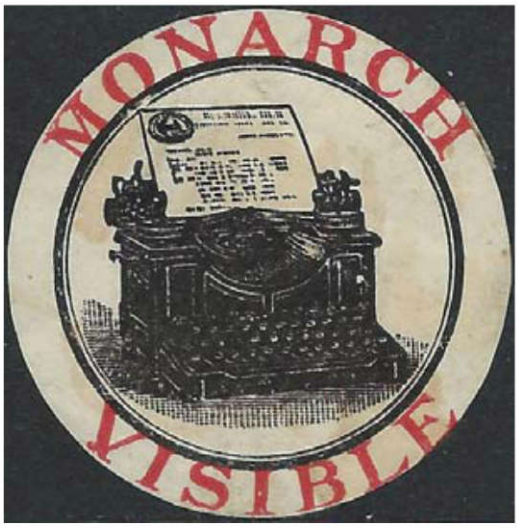


Figure 5 (above); Figure 6 (above right); Figure 7 Below).

mous rifle, marketed the first commercial typewriter in 1873. It was the principal investor of the Union Trust formed in 1893 (Figure 1).

The Smith Premier Typewriter Company joined the Trust when it was created in 1893 as well, but by 1903 it split off to form its own company to market its own design. Premier advertising covers are often seen (Figure 2). The three wonderful labels shown may occasionally be found on the reverse (Figures 3-5).

The poster stamp for the Monarch Visible No. 1 is replicated on the carriage's paper support and clearly indicates, at the lower right, that it is Model 1 as noted in the accompanying photo.

It first appeared in 1904. (Figures 6 and 7).

By 1913, the Trust was in the first stages of dissolution and eventually became, once again, the Remington Typewriter Company. The full story of the Trust is rather complex but it is interesting to see the Cinderella evidence of its existence.

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

Casey Jones Railroad Unit

[Editor's Note: This is the 24th 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 "Tiny Trains," reprinted with permission from The Dispatcher*, July-Aug 2014, Vol. 61, No. 14-4. To be considered for "Study Unit Spotlight," please select what you feel may be the finest article appearing in your journal during the past year or so and submit it to the* Topical Time *editor* ***(wystamps@gmail.com)****, or Study Unit Coordinator Jeff Hayward* ***(stamps@jeffhayward.com)****. We hope you enjoy this fine feature.* ***[Submissions of Spotlight features are earnestly solicited!]***

Tiny Trains

Florence Wright

Back when my husband, Norm, retired, he took up sorting stamps for a local dealer. His job was to set up a topicals department, so he sifted through acres of stamps dividing them into birds, ships, flowers – and trains! Usually the subject was pretty obvious, but often close scrutiny was needed to find an item needed to include it in a particular topic.

Above: Peru No. 1 from 1871, and its "tiny train" reproduction on Peru 1204, 1999.

"Can I help?" I said. So, armed with a magnifier, I got the job of finding tiny subjects, especially trains. Often my "finds" were rejected: "That's a fence, not a train in the distance!" But overall, I did pretty well, and in the process became quite interested in finding tiny trains.

I located a few of these to share, and *The Dispatcher* would welcome any others you may find and share with us. It is just a fun activity within the larger hobby!

Let's begin at the beginning: Peru, Scott No. 19, April 1871. Generally acknowledged as the world's first commemorative train stamp, the train – an 0-6-0 locomotive – is not nearly as tiny as some others, but the stamp is pretty small to start with. It was issued for the 20th anniversary of the first railway in South America, linking Lima & Callao. There are a number of varieties of color shade and printing. Portions are embossed.

The stamp was printed by the Lecoq machine only in

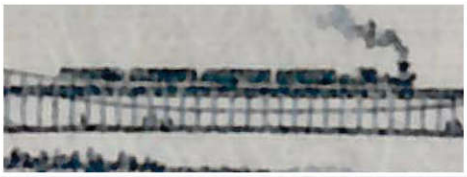
Although the junk is the predominant design element on this stamp, a tiny train can be seen steaming away near the center right of the design.

Dozens of varieties of the basic design shown on the stamps at left exist, all showing the tiny train between the cliffs.

horizontal strips; the ends of the strips were joined by overlapping so that pairs may be found printed on parts of two strips.

Of course, the really tiny train here is on Peru 1204, Stamp-(No. 19)-on-stamp of Jan. 10, 1999, issued for the 50th anniversary of the Philatelic Association of Peru.

Possibly two of the most famous really tiny trains are found on the Chinese junk and the Greece Corinth Canal stamps.



On the left-facing page (near the bottom) is an example of the Chinese junk stamp, second Peking printing from 1923. In 1913, China Post came out with three new stamp designs: the ship and steam train depicting Communications; a farmer reaping rice, representing Agriculture; and the Hall of Classics at Peking, representing Literature.

A tiny train can be steaming across the U.S.-Canada bridge on this 1948 issue, marking a century of friendship between the two countries.

These basic stamp designs were used until the 1930s. There were dozens of reprints and varieties! The listing of the junk/train stamps takes up nearly two full pages in the handbook, *World Railways Philatelic!* They were issued at three different times: the first, or London Printing in 1913 (Scott 202-211b); the First Peking Printing (Scott 221-230a, 240, 247 and 247a) and the Second Peking Printing in 1923 (Scott 248-258b, 274-5, 288-9, 311, 324-5, 330).

The Greek stamps shown at top represent a variety of issues showing the famous Corinth Canal, with a steam train crossing a bridge in the background. The Corinthian Canal, built

The artwork for the 1950 Bankers Association stamp shows a train making its way across the landscape, near the center of the design.

during the late 19th century, connected the Gulf of Corinth with the Aegean Sea. It is only four miles in length and 23 meters (about 25 feet) wide. It was completed between 1882-93.

The Great Seal of Nebraska (above) is shown on both U.S. stamps depicting the Nebraska flag above left and left). The seal contains a tiny train crossing the landscape in the background.

The Greek Corinth canal is a stepchild of the Panama and Suez Canals. Earth cliffs flanking either side of the canal reach a maximum height of 63 meters. Aside from a few modest-sized cruise ships, the Corinth Canal is unserviceable to most modern ships, although it has served many cargo ships in the past, providing a shorter route than traversing the Peloponese.

Today, there are two road bridges, two railway bridges and two submersible bridges at both ends of the canal. A new rail bridge was built about 10 years ago.

Scott numbers for the stamp design A36 include 321, 326, 327 and 354. The same design is used on several postal tax stamps (RA 55, RA57, RA66, RA70) overprinted in red or green. Shown is one surcharged for the benefit of tubercular postal clerks and officials.

U. S. stamps with "tiny trains" start with one from 1948 (shown on the previous page). Issued Aug. 2, 1948, it commemorated a century of friendship between the United States and Canada. It is significant to note that the 3,000-mile border between the two countries is the longest non-fortified border in the world. The central design of the stamp is the old bridge known as the Niagara Railway Suspension Bridge, completed in 1855. On March 18 that year a fully loaded passenger train traversed the span at five miles an hour – perhaps the one pictured here.

This bridge itself was special in a great many ways – but that is for another story! It was demolished and replaced in 1897 with a steel arch bridge. The friendship between the two countries, however, continues. The Scott catalog number for this 3¢ commemorative stamp is 961.

The Post Office Department issued a 3¢ stamp at the Saratoga Springs, N.Y., post office Jan. 3, 1950, to mark the 75th anniversary of the American Bankers Association. That stamp, along with its tiny train, is shown on page 47.

Created by Charles R. Chickering, the stamp's central design portrays a home, farm, a train and factory or mill, the group symbolizing the important fields that

the American Bankers Association has served in this country. The various motifs are enclosed in an arch with milled edge suggesting a coin. (Information from the *Postal Bulletin* of December 1949). The Scott catalog number is 987.

A small train on a viaduct is found on this 1948 stamp from Spain, Scott 759.

Possibly the tiniest philatelic trains are on the two U.S. Nebraska flag stamps, and they are buried on the images of the great seal of the state – which is the essential design of the state flag. (opposite page). The themes of transportation, industry, settlement, and agriculture are depicted on Nebraska's seal. A railroad train steams across the background, with mountains in the distance. A steamboat plies the waters of the Missouri River. A simple cabin and sheaves of harvested wheat portray the importance of settlers and agriculture. A blacksmith works at his anvil in the foreground.

The 13¢ stamp, left, Scott 1669, was issued in the 50 State Flags pane on Feb. 23, 1976, as part of the bicentennial observations. U.S. state flags showed up again in 2010 on various dates in the form of coil stamps. The 44¢ stamp on the right came along in a strip with eight other states and an American flag. The Scott number is 4305, issued April 16, 2010

The trains-on-stamps collectors were quite excited over this last issue of a train on a stamp, however small. It was the first one on a United States stamp since 2002. More about it can be found in *The Dispatcher* No. 10-3, May-June 2010.

Back to trains on bridges – shown above is Spain, Scott 759 from 1948. A steam train with passenger cars crosses the Garganta de Pancorbo Viaduct to commemorate the Centenary of Spanish railways.

Described as an "electric engine with freight cars on a bridge" is the tiny train at right on the Russia stamp (Scott 4437), issued in 1976. The emblem refers to the Bicentenary anniversary of the city of Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine, and the bridge design is that of the Dnieper Bridge.

An "electric" train is shown crossing the Dnieper Bridge on this 1976 stamp from Russia, Scott 4437.

Tanzania's stamp, Scott 374 of July 27, 1987, honors "Ten Years of Communication & Transport in Tanzania" with emblems of the Tanzania Posts & Telecommunications on the right and the Tanzania Railways Corp. at the left with a very small locomotive and rail cars. That stamp is shown on the following page.

Below is a 1961 issue by Hungary (Scott 1389) with various means of transportation scattered across the design. A steam locomotive can be seen at the left, headed down. The design points to air, land and sea methods of carrying the mail. This particular stamp was issued for the Conference of Postal Ministers of Communist Countries meeting at Warsaw.

The image of a train is prominent on the seal shown on this 1987 stamp from Tanzania.

So, there is a sampling of tiny transportation – trains particularly. Doubtless there are many more. We invite you to write in with other stamps that might qualify in this category. It is all for fun!

Here is an idea for a summer activity for your kids, or grandkids. Let them look through your collection of train stamps to see which ones are the smallest – suggest a prize for a list of five or more. Maybe ice cream, or pizza!

A tiny train makes its way down a steep incline on this 1961 stamp from Hungary depicting various modes of mail transportation.

[The stamp images here are not in scale with each other and have been randomly enlarged to make it easier to detect the tiny trains. Also, our appreciation to Scott publishing and various internet sites and authors for providing a wealth of assorted information on these stamps and their subjects.]

Casey Jones Railroad Unit

The Casey Jones Railroad Unit is ATA's oldest and very first study unit. The unit was officially formed at the "Casey Jones" U.S. stamp first-day ceremony on April 29, 1950, by D.D. Crocker and Charles J. Keenan. Members of this study unit collect railroadiana and everything on rail such as steam & diesel engines, funiculars, rail bridges, streetcars, subways and trolleys. The study unit has published its bimonthly newsletter, *The Dispatcher*, continuously since 1954 and has also produced several handbooks related to railroads and railway stamps.

The cost of membership in the United States is $15, $17 in Canada & Mexico, and $20 elsewhere. For membership information, contact: Roy W. Menninger MD, PO Box 5511, Topeka KS 66605-5511. He may be reached via email at: ***roymenn@sbcglobal.net***. The study group's website is found at: ***www.uqp.de/cjr***.

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[redacted]

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

A new study unit is forming for collectors of the topic of Halloween. If you are interested in becoming a member of this new study unit or want more information about this topic, please contact Denise Lazaroff, PO Box 624, Simpsonville SC 29681; email: ***deniselazaroff@gmail.com***.

Americana Study Unit

David Kent explores "What is Americana?" in *Americana Philatelic News*, April-June 2014. Kent found that some members want to include only stamps showing Americana on foreign stamps and that to be classified as Americana, the theme of the stamp issue had to also be related to that Americana subject. The author then shows several stamp issues with themes that were not issued specifically to be related to a particular Americana theme and how they might be collected as part of an Americana topic.

Dues are $6 in the United States, $12 elsewhere. Contact: Dennis Dengel, 17 Peckham Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603-2018.
Email: ***dennisdengel@verizon.net***
Website: ***www.americanaunit.org***

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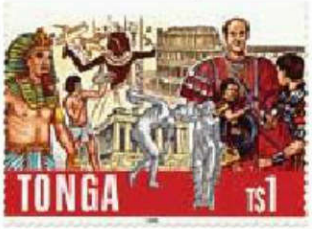
Archaeological (Old World) Study Unit

In the July 2014 issue of *Old World Archaeologist*, Caroline Scannell writes about Viking Rune stones found throughout Scandinavia, Faroes and Great Britain. Twenty-two new issues appear in color, along with informative descriptions in the New Digs section.



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)

The feature article in the *Armenica Quarterly Journal*, June 2014 issue, is "Commercial Covers of Armenian Stamp Dealers: A Spotlight on Vahan Mozian (1872-1945)." Born in Constantinople, Vahan Mozian was a stamp collector and dealer who settled in Rutherford, N.J., in 1893. Sixteen different covers that Vahan sent as a dealer are shown in this article. One of the covers shown was transported on the German ocean liner *S.S. Bremen* and then later by seaplane to land.

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

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

Books and Printing (Graphics Philately Association)

Martha Jane Zachert asks why no stamp issues had been issued by Great Britain to commemorate Eric Gill's contributions to graphics, printing and philately in "Why Not Eric Gill?" in the July 2014 *Philateli-Graphics*. In 1937 Eric Gill designed the lettering for the King George VI low-value definitive. A stamp was issued by Great Britain in 2004 to recognize him and a famous typeface he created.

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

Email: ***lr@gbstamps.com***
Website: ***www.graphics-stamps.org***

Canadiana Study Unit

Stamp and banknote engraver Czeslaw Slania, as reported in *The Canadian Connection*, was a boxing fan and engraved a series of 23 cinderellas showing heavyweight champions of the world from 1889-1964. Tommy Burns, also known as "The Little Giant of Hanover," was Canadian and became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion in 1906. Burns was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in 1955 and the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996.

Dues are CA$15 in Canada, US$18 in the United States, $25 elsewhere. Contact John G. Peebles, Box 3262, Station A, London, Ontario N6A 4K3 Canada.

Email: ***john.peebles@sympatico.ca***

Christmas Philatelic Club

Part one of "A Philatelic Window into Santa's Evolution," in *Yule Log*, shows the American version of Santa Claus on various philatelic items in different countries and how this most recognized symbol of Christmas has changed over time.

The Christmas Philatelic Club is looking for a webmaster. If you have any web design experience and can help the CPC please contact the group.

Dues are $20 in the United States and Canada, $30 elsewhere. Contact Jim Balog, PO Box 744, Geneva OH 44041-0744.

Email: ***jpb4stamps@windstream.ne***
Website: ***www.web.295.ca/cpc/***

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www.catsonstamps.org
Contact:
mabrown@nc.rr.com

Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society

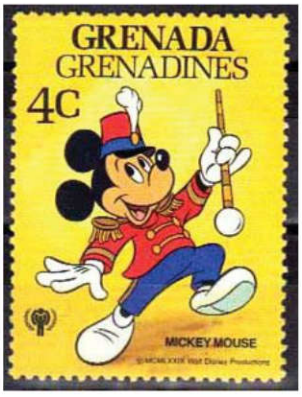
Covers from the *USS Columbus* are highlighted in the July 2014 *Discovery*. Commissioned as a Baltimore Class heavy cruiser at the end of WWII, the *USS Columbus* then converted into a missile cruiser in 1959. The *USS Columbus* was decommissioned in December 1962.

Dues are $15 in the United States and $20 elsewhere. Contact Leslie Seff, 3750 Hudson Manor, Terrace E, Bronx NY 10463-1126.

Email: ***mr.columbus1492@gmail.com***
Website: ***www.ccps.maphist.nl***

Disneyana on Stamps Society

For someone just starting to collect the Disney topic who might feel overwhelmed by the large number of stamp issues, "Disney/Pixar" might be an easier way to start collecting this topic. Only a few countries have issued stamps with Pixar characters on them. These include Nemo from *Finding Nemo*, the robot WALL-E and Lightning McQueen from *Cars 2*.



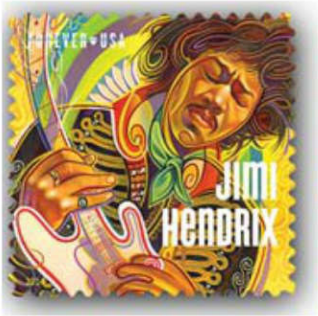
Membership is free. Members receive *Disnemation* online six times a year; site access is password controlled.

Email: ***disnemation@yahoo.ca***
Web: ***disnemation.8m.com/HOME.htm***

Please keep your Study Unit coordinator up to date with what's happening in your group: ***stamps@jeffhayward.com***

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

A biography of Jimi Hendrix, along with a checklist of Jimi Hendrix stamps appears in *Reflections*, April 2014. Don Neal provides an interesting piece of trivia about Hendrix and his appearance at Woodstock. Most of the people who attended Woodstock did not see him perform, since his contract stated that no other performer could perform after he did. Hendrix performed at 9 a.m. Monday morning, when the majority of people had left the festival.



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

In the Jan-March 2014 issue of *The EFO Collector*, John Ryskamp explains how easily errors can be created at Automated Postal Centers when U.S. Postal Service employees insert labels incorrectly into

APC kiosks. Examples of an error that occurred with Reindeer APC labels in November 2013 appear in this article.

Dues are $17 in the United States and Canada, $34 elsewhere. Contact David Hunt, 45 Fairway Dr, Denver PA 17517.
Email: ***dhhunt@ptdprolog.net***
Website: ***www.efocc.org***

Europa Study Unit

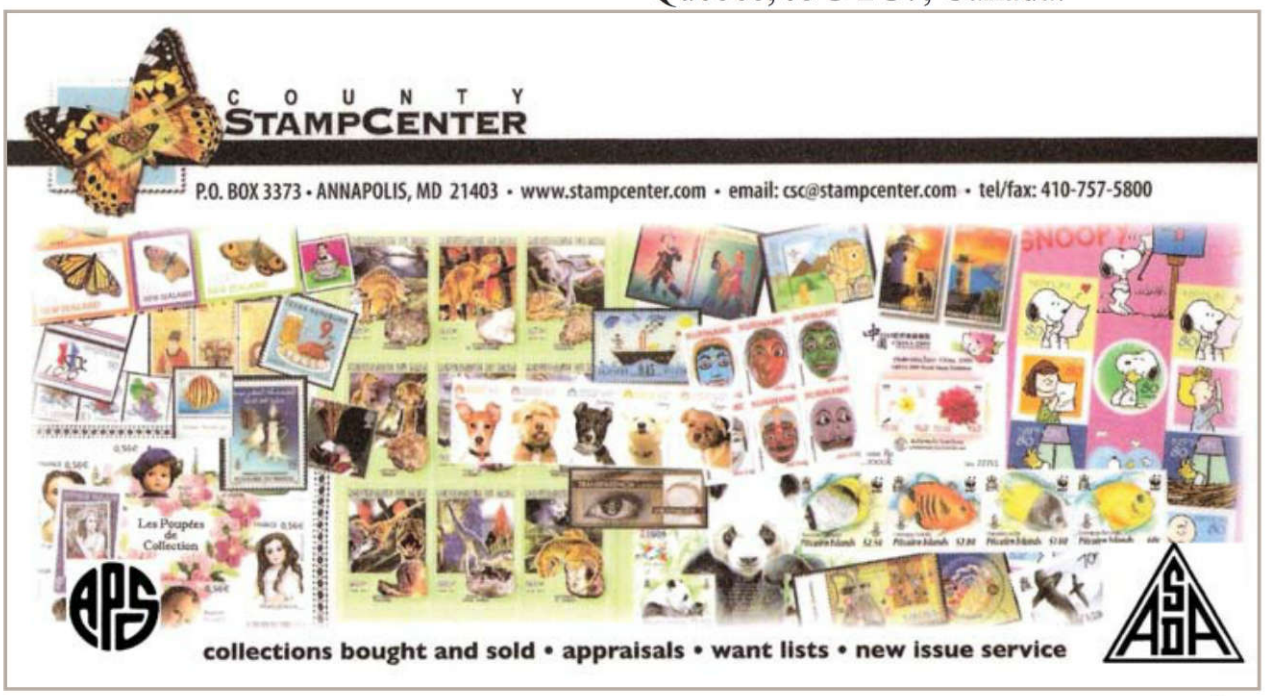
In Europa News, Emile Bayle writes about EuroAfrique stamps issued to recognize the association between the European Economic Community and developing African countries. One of the first stamps was a previous issue from Mauritania that was reissued with two varieties of an overprint publicizing the approval of the EEC-MIFERMA. Mauritania then released two more airmail stamps showing mining operations at Fort Gourand and Port Etienne.

Dues are $20 in the United States and Canada, $25 elsewhere and $10 for an electronic version worldwide. Contact Tonny Van Loij, 3002 S Xanthia St, Denver CO 80231-4237.
Email: ***tvanloij@gmail.com***
Website: ***www.europastudyunit.org***

Gems, Minerals and Jewelry Study Unit

Stamps and cancels related to "Pyrite, Marcasite, Pyrrhottite" and descriptions of these minerals and their properties are in the April-Jun 2014 issue of *Philagems International*. Pyrite, also known as "fools gold," is commonly found in the shape of yellow cubes. It is both lighter in color and lighter in weight than gold. Marcasite is usually a very light yellow and sometimes replaces organic matter during fossilization. Pyrrhottite is bronze in color and also magnetic. There has been only one stamp issued showing pyrrhottite crystals and it was issued by Yugoslavia.

Dues are $15 in North America, and $20 elsewhere. Contact Gilberte Proteau, 138 Rue Lafontaine, Beloeil, Quebec, J3G 2G7, Canada.



Email: ***gilberte.ferland@sympatico.ca***
or, Alan Dean, Pres., 108 Newton Sq, Pointe-Claire, Dorval, Quebec H9R 1H8, Canada.
Email: ***norma.al@sympatico.ca***

Journalists, Authors, & Poets on Stamps (JAPOS)

More than 40 stamps are used to help illustrate the story of J.RR. Tolkien's trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* in the *JAPOS Bulletin* Summer 2014. Congratulations to JAPOS as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary! JAPOS became an ATA Study Unit July 16, 1974.

Dues are $9 in the United States, and $12 elsewhere. Contact Clete Delvaux, 800 E River Dr, Unit B, De Pere WI 54115-4159.
Email: ***cdelvaux@msn.com***
or, Mark Winnegrad, 1450 Parkchester Rd, Bronx NY 10462-7622

Judaica Thematic Society

"Theodor Herzl – Zionist Visionary" is considered the father and founder of the political Zionist movement. A journalist and playwright, Herzl wrote *The Jewish State*, in which he outlined the reason Jewish people should leave Europe and form their own homeland in *Judaica News*, July 2014.

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

Several pages of new issues and information about the depicted lighthouses are in *The Philatelic Beacon*, July-August 2014. One set of these lighthouse stamps has been issued by Croatia showing the Palagruza lighthouse built in 1875, the Lastovo lighthouse built in 1839 and the Susac lighthouse built in 1878. Some Croatian lighthouses are now used as rentals.

Dues are $12 in the United States, $15 in Canada and Mexico and $20 elsewhere. An electronic version of *The Philatelic Beacon* is available for $10. Contact Dalene Thomas, 8612 W Warren Ln, Lakewood CO 80227-2352.
Email: ***dalene@lighthousestampsociety.org***
Web: ***www.lighthousestampsociety.org***

Masonic Study Unit

Several biographies appear in the July-August 2014 *Philatelic Freemason.* One of the biographies is for Pierre Brossolette. Brossolette was a journalist until WWII, when he joined the army. After the fall of France Brossolette helped form resistance

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groups until his capture by the Germans in 1944. Rather than reveal secrets he kept, he jumped from the 5th or 6th floor of Gestapo headquarters on March 22, 1944, and later died that day.

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.
Email: ***radpm67@gmail.com***
or, Gene Fricks
Email: ***genefricks@comcast.net***

Mathematical Study Unit

Part one of "Primes," which shows stamps depicting prime numbers and also the many mathematicians who have worked with prime numbers, appears in the July 2014 *Philamath.* Congratulations to the Mathematical Study Unit as it celebrates its 36th anniversary with this issue!

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

In the April-June 2014 issue of *Scalpel & Tongs*, Leprosy stamps issued by Vatican City for "World Leprosy Day," along with information about the disease is detailed. Leprosy is a disease cause by the *Mycobacterium leprae* and is still common in the tropics and subtropics. Leprosy is often spread in Latin America and the United States by the nine-banded armadillo. It is the only other mammal in which the Leprosy bacterium can grow.

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

Napoléonic Age Philatelists

"Napoleon – Sovereign of Elba" is the lead article in *Campaign*, July-September 2014. Once connected to Corsica and Sardinia, Elba is the largest island in the Tuscan Archipelago. Napoleon was given sovereignty over Elba after his abdication in 1814.

Dues are $15 in North America, $20 elsewhere. Contact Ken Berry, 7513 Clayton Dr, Oklahoma City OK 73132-5636.
Email: ***krb2@earthlink.net***
or, Donald W. Smith, PO Box 576, Johnstown PA 15907-0576.
Email: ***donsmith32@atlanticbb.net***
Website: ***www.nap-stamps.org***

Petroleum Philatelic Society International

In *Petro-Philatelist*, Summer 2014, "The Chilean 2010 Copianó Mining Accident and Rescue," Hugo Vargas explains how 33 miners survived after a cave-in at the Copianó mine and the rescue plan executed by authorities that led to the miners being rescued 69 days after the accident. Three years after the

☛

successful rescue of the miners, Chile issued a numbered block of six stamps to commemorate the event.

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

Plate Number Collectors Club (PNC³)

A PNC³ member reports a new plate number for the recent 3¢ Hummingbird coil in July 2014 *Coil Line*. The new number is P22222. It was discovered that its tagging glows much lighter than the first number, P11111, for this issue.

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

Polar Philatelists, American Society of

Sixteen covers, all with cachets and also with mission details are shown in the April 2014 *Ice Cap News*. Resupply missions for Antarctic bases are sent in one of two ways, by ship or by aircraft. New Zealand resupplies its New Zealand Scott base by aircraft and these covers are from some of those missions.

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

Railroad Unit, Casey Jones

Florence Wright, armed with a magnifying glass, reveals her finds after searching for "Tiny Trains" in *The Dispatcher*, July-August 2014 *[Editor's note: See page 46.]*. Wright's goal was to find trains on stamps where the train was not the primary subject of the stamp. The tiniest trains Wright found were on two U.S. stamps showing the Nebraska State Flag and state seal. The Nebraska State Seal has a tiny train in the background.

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

Religion on Stamps, Collectors of (COROS)

The Rev. Joseph F. McDonald III shows examples of U.S. stamps that are religious in nature in "Insights Into the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Faith as Found on U.S. Postage Stamps and Postal Cards," in *The COROS Chronicle* May 2014 issue. Stamps and stationery items issued by the USPS may not be issued to honor religious institutions or individuals whose principal achievements are religious in nature. One example is Zion National Park, which has appeared

on one stamp and one postal card. Zion is defined in LDS scriptures as "pure of heart." Zion is also used to represent God's followers or where they live.

Dues are $22 in the United States, $27 in Canada and Mexico and $32 elsewhere. Contact James F. Bailey, PO Box 937, Brownwood TX 76804-0937.
Email: ***corosec@wildblue.net***
Website: ***www.coros-society.org***

Rotary on Stamps Fellowship

The ROS Study Unit announced two administrative changes in *The ROS Bulletin*, August 2014. Gerhard Peters will take over as the new chairman and Dick Dickson will serve as the new interim editor. Eight new issues were reported, along with descriptions for each issue. Two of those issues were from Japan and show the Rotary International theme logo.

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

Ships on Stamps Unit

The May-June 2014 issue of *Watercraft Philately* has several pages of new issues and new watercraft listings. The *Royal Princess* cruise ship is among the new listings. This ship's keel was laid in 2011 and the cruise ship was delivered to Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd., in 2013. This cruise ship can accommodate 4,380 passengers and 1,346 crew members. The *Royal Princess* appears on a souvenir sheet issued by Central African Republic in 2013.

Dues are $15 in North America, $22 elsewhere and $9 for a PDF electronic version worldwide. Contact Myron P. Molnau, 1616 E 32nd Ct, Spokane WA 99203-3918.
Email: ***hobbies@turbonet.com***
Website: ***www.shipsonstamps.org***

Penguins on Stamps Study Unit

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

Website: ***http://http.penguinstamps.org***

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

Email: ***possumember@yahoo.com***

Sports Philatelists International

Patricia Loehr presents "Warren Harding, A Golfing United States President," in the Summer 2014 *Journal of Sports Philately.* President Harding developed his enjoyment for golf while serving as an Ohio state senator from 1914-20. After casting his ballot for president in November 1920, Harding went on to play golf in Columbus, Ohio. Harding won the election that day by an overwhelming margin and would become the 29th president of the United States.

Dues are $29 in the United States and Canada, and $39 elsewhere. An electronic version is available for $15, worldwide. Contact Mark C. Maestrone, 2824 Curie Pl, San Diego CA 92122.
Email: ***markspi@prodigy.net***
Web: ***www.sportstamps.org***

United Nations Philatelists

Jim Matyasovich reports in the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, June 2014, that the U.N. 2014 Year of the

Horse personalized sheets were recalled in January 2014 during the Orcoexpo show. Matyasovich purchased two of these sheets on Jan. 27, 2014, and later that day noticed the black ink was flaking off the sheet. After informing the UNPA about the ink issue, all of the sheets were recalled for destruction.

Dues are $24 in the United States, $26 in Canada and $40 elsewhere. Contact Blanton Clement, Jr., PO Box 146, Morrisville PA 19067-0146.
Email: ***bclemjr@yahoo.com***
or, Larry Fillion, 18 Arlington St, Acton MA 01720.
Email: ***malariastamps@yahoo.com***
Website: ***www.unpi.com***

Windmill Study Unit

The Windmill Study Unit is celebrating its 40th anniversary. To commemorate its anniversary, the study unit has had personalized stamps from the Netherlands (the Cornmill De Vriendschap at Veenendaal) made and distributed to members. In addition, there are 10 pages of new issues in the New Discoveries section of *Windmill Whispers*, April-June 2014. Congratulations to the study unit on its 40th anniversary!

Dues are $12 in the United States. Contact Orville Tysseling, 9740 Washington Church Rd, Miamisburg OH 45342-4510.
Email: ***otyssel@aol.com***

Dues are £7.50 (payable by check) in the United Kingdom (or €10 payable in cash). Contact Fred Atkins, 35 Laxton Way, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2QL, United Kingdom.
Email: ***fred.atkins@blueyonder.co.uk***
Website: ***www.wsuweb.eu***

Wine on Stamps Study Unit

In *Enophilatelica*, August 2014, Bruce Johnson explains the various wine grapes and growing regions that are depicted on a souvenir sheet with 15 stamps issued by Italy in "Italian DOCG Wines 2012."

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

John Seidl introduces a new serialized column, "Gone but Not Forgotten" in *The Circuit*, May-June 2014 issue. This column features "dead" countries that no longer issue postage stamps under those countries' names or that no longer exist. Abu Dhabi, now the capital of the United Arab Emirates, is the first country to appear in the new column.

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

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World War I Commemoratives

Barry N. Floyd

World War I was truly a cataclysmic event in world history. It began in August 1914 and, by the end of the year, fighting had spread across the globe. After appalling violence, a million men lay dead. The total number of military and civilian casualties in the conflict was over 36 million, of which 16 million were killed and 20 million wounded, averaging 6,500 deaths per day. It was the deadliest war in the story of mankind, the after effects of which are still being felt.

A number of European countries have chosen to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I this year with commemorative stamps. Austria noted its first victims, the assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie, the Duchess of Hohenburg, with a miniature sheet. Belgium has begun a series, which will continue until 2018, showing evocative scenes featured in old photos of the countryside, devastated by the German invasion. Serbia has recalled the disastrous, if heroic, retreat of its troops when faced with the formidable forces of Austro-Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria.

But perhaps the most colorful and poignant WWI commemorative issues thus far have come from Great Britain and the associated state of Jersey in the Channel Islands. It is these stamps that are the focus of this article.

From July 23 to Aug. 4, 1914, Britain was transformed from a country willing to watch a European war from the sidelines to a determined combatant. Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was inclined to obfuscate and delay decision-making, in the knowledge that most political crises blew over in a short time. His foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, was similarly inclined. Only when the Germans invaded Belgium – intent on attacking France – could they reluctantly acknowledge that Britain must act in support of its continental allies. It was Grey who memorably observed that "the lamps are going out all over Europe and we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." Meanwhile, the German kaiser declared: "we draw the sword with a clear conscience and clean hands," while his chancellor queried: "just for a scrap of paper, Great Britain is going to make war on a kindred nation?"

The stamps featured with this article's opening represent the first part of an epic five-year series that will commemorate each year of WWI, from its outbreak to the ultimate armistice. The issue pays tribute to all those who died for their country, both in WWI and in subsequent wars. The set will comprise 30 stamps in

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total, exploring every aspect of the conflict, from the determinism of the armed forces to the fortitude of those who served on the home front.

The first stamp in the first set shows a specially commissioned painting of a poppy. The artist was Fiona Strickand and it illustrates the fine texture and translucence of a poppy's petals. Previously associated with the powerful effects of opium – and detested by farmers as a stubborn weed – the pretty flower now served as a poignant symbol of "Remembrance." The bright red color of the flower appeared to evoke the blood of wounded men, offering an iconic representation of the bitter struggles taking place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France.

> *"The significance of poppies in Remembrance… is largely attributed to Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a doctor serving those regions with the Canadian Armed Forces. The churned up soil, warmed by the spring sun, encouraged clusters of poppies to grow in the aftermath of the complete destruction of the battlefield. McCrae was deeply inspired and moved by what he saw and wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields.'"*[1]

When WWI was finally over, the British Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance in 1921, and the first Poppy Appeal was born. It is now the most recognizable charity appeal in the United Kingdom. A team of 50 people, most of them disabled and connected to the Armed Forces, produce the poppies. Contributions to the Appeal go towards helping veteran families and their descendants suffering from the conflicts of war. The Appeal continues annually and takes into account those requiring assistance from the more recent (and equally tragic) WWII.

Since 1919, and every year since, at 11:00 am on Nov. 11 (marking the time when the guns fell silent in 1918), a remembrance service is held at the Cenotaph War Memorial in Whitehall. Wreaths are laid and war veterans march in a poignant gesture of respect for their fallen comrades in all wars. The Cenotaph (meaning "Empty Tomb" in Greek) reads simply: "The Glorious Dead."

The second First Class stamp bears a fragment of a poem, carved in stone, by Laurence Binyon. He was a senior curator at the British Museum and was too old to enlist in the army, but he had published poems from an early age. In September 1914, the *London Times* published his seven-stanza poem, *For the Fallen*. At this time the British Expeditionary Force was in retreat, having suffered heavy losses at the Battle of Mons. Binyon's poem is still well known and, as an "Ode to Remembrance," its touching words are repeated orally by ex-servicemen across the country when attending comradely social gatherings.

The third First Class stamp features a touching portrait of Private William Cecil Tickle, an underage soldier who enlisted at the height of the recruiting rush on Sept. 7, 1914. At that time, Marshall Lord Kitchener's call to arms had met with an overwhelming response. While the pre-war British Army needed 30,000 recruits a year, at the peak of the recruiting rush this number enlisted in a single day.

Despite being underaged, Tickle managed to join the 9th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and, after training, he was deployed to France to join in the Battle of the Somme. Private Tickle and his comrades were hit by machine-gun fire and suffered heavy casualties. Among the dead was William Tickle. With no known grave, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in Northern France. In the stamp his smiling face reflects the youthful enthusiasm of the young man before he was sacrificed to the bitter reality of the war.

The first of the £1.47 stamps reproduces a painting, *A Star Shell*, by artist C.R.W. Nevinson. He saw service in France as a Red Cross orderly before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps. Invalided out, Nevinson became an official war artist. In *A Star Shell* he depicts the strange, unearthly light of an illuminating artillery flare by night. The shell's bright glow reveals a weird landscape of broken ground and barbed wire, capturing the disorienting alien nature of the battlefield.

By day, the scene was little different.

> *"All along the Western Front, faced by the lethal firepower of modern artillery, rifles and machine guns, soldiers dug trenches. These trenches, intended to provide temporary shelter from murderous shrapnel, high explosives and bullets, gave many advantages to the defence. Quickly shrouded in thickets of barbed wire and covered by the interlocking fire of machine guns and artillery, trenches became extremely difficult to attack successfully."*[2]

The next £1.47 stamp shows *The Response*, otherwise known as the Renwick Memorial, serving as a monument to the volunteers of the Northumberland Fusiliers. It portrays the men marching to Newcastle railway station on their way to France. Led by drummers, they walk resolutely, some parting from sweethearts for, probably, the last time.

The third high-value stamp features Princess Mary's Gift Fund box. The Princess was the 17-year-old daughter of King George V. It was

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she who promoted the fund to cover the cost of 426,724 boxes to be given to British Service personnel on Christmas Day 1914. According to recipients, the embossed brass box contained items important to soldiers, such as a pipe, tobacco and cigarettes, chocolate and sweets, a Christmas card and a picture of Her Royal Highness. Many boxes have survived and have become distinctive mementos of the war's first Christmas.

Six Stamps of Jersey & Miniature Sheet, 2014

The set of six Jersey stamps and miniature sheet all contain artistic representations of poppies as the symbols of Remembrance. A novel feature is the inclusion on each of the two lower value stamps (46p and 56p) of actual poppy seeds. This is the first time that this print technique had been used on British stamps. The seeds have been sealed behind a thin, transparent, biodegradable plastic cover on the face of the stamps, which can be planted, and will gradually decompose as the seeds start to grow. The mature plant will eventually produce the striking red flowers so strongly associated with WWI.

From sales of this issue, Jersey Post makes a donation to the island's branch of the British Legion. And, for collectors unwilling to break up their commemorative set, it is possible to purchase a special seed set packet for planting with, again, Jersey Post donating 75p per packet to the Legion.

The 46p stamp shows, in the background, a group of soldiers in close touch – shoulder to shoulder – suffering the aftermath of being gassed by the Germans. The 62p stamp features the eternal flame at a monument to an unknown warrior. Westminister Abbey, London, contains the grave of an unidentified British

soldier, chosen from unknown servicemen exhumed from four WWI battle areas: the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres. The 70p stamp depicts a rifleman at the center of a poppy, preparing to charge with fixed bayonet, while the 82p stamp shows the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest military decoration awarded for valor "in the face of the enemy" to members of the armed forces of Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries. The high value 91p stamp illustrates three soldiers charging towards the enemy having cut through barbed wire obstacles in the foreground.

The £3.00 Miniature Sheet

The £3 miniature sheet presents an artistic representation of the poem by John McCrae, the previously mentioned *Flanders Fields*. Its verses are both moving and memorable:

"In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That marks our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' Fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields."

We trust this short article on commemorative stamps marking WWI will encourage other collectors to pursue the topic or, if already dedicated to the

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theme, to add the British and other contemporary European issues to their sets, thus enlarging and enhancing their philatelic coverage of the most momentous event in human history.

Endnotes:

(1) Jersey Stamp Bulletin. Spring 2014, p. 8.
(2) Royal Mail Presentation Pack, July, 2014.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for information relating to the featured stamps which appears in presentation packs for Great Britain and Jersey WWI commemoratives.

This article is dedicated to the memory of my father, L.G. Floyd, who served with the British Army as a sapper in the trenches of Belgium and Northern France throughout WWI. He rose from the ranks to become a Second Lieutenant and, due to his training as an electrical engineer before enlistment, he was able to assist in maintaining communications between the front line and rear H.Q., while also fusing mines beneath enemy lines. His survival among the fearful casualties of the war was a matter of utmost good fortune and of particular importance to his subsequent offspring.

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

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More and more ATA members are discovering the good things to be found within the checklist dATAbase developed by Karen Cartier. In fact, 157 members have ordered 544 checklists since the first of May when the dATAbase went "live." The orders have kept the office staff quite busy this summer, but most checklists have gone out within 24 hours of receipt of the order.

As mentioned in last month's column, some of the new checklists have missing items that were included in our older checklists. ATA members who have ordered checklists – and others who have simply volunteered to assist – have been most helpful in providing the information needed so the missing items can be added quickly. Everyone who assists will, of course, receive the newly expanded list at no additional cost.

Karen and Michael Cartier designed the new checklist dATAbase with one most helpful and interesting feature: that is the ability to easily create a checklist on any topic by typing in a "key word" or "key words." The resulting list consists of every dATAbase item that contains the word or words in its description. More than 50 customized checklists have already been created for ATA members, and rave reviews have resulted.

Here are some random examples of customized checklists that the ATA Office has created for our members, along with the number of items in the resulting lists: 2012 London Olympics (364), amateur radio (28), Apollo XII (55), Atlantis (24), Bible (199), Black Forest (7), Boer War (9), campfire (29), cancer (169), cassia (105), commiphora (6), diphtheria (2), Douglas Fir/fir trees (30), Escher (12), fairies (15), fever (24), frankincense (5), Gerald Ford (15), Goofy (63), John Wayne (17), Les Demoiselles d'Avignon (11), plague (16), Roy Lichtenstein (6), Rudyard Kipling (27), Saint Rose of Lima (4), salmon (60), saxophone (25), slave/slavery (56), sphinx (130), trout (108), witches (102), Yosemite (19).

The cost of a customized checklist is the same as a regular list: 50¢ for lists of fewer than 50 items and a penny per listing for lists of more than 50 items, with a $50 cap for lists containing thousands of items.

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New ATA Checklists—Nature Categories

This listing includes all of the nature-related checklists in the new ATA offerings. The checklists are divided into categories, then listed alphabetically. The number shown after each checklist title is the number of stamps or other philatelic items in the list.

Note: If a checklist title includes the wording "misc/other," that list includes items that are not included in the other checklists in the category. For instance, the Artists (misc/other) list contains only items not related to the individual artists in the category.

(CULTURE and TECHNOLOGY lists also available) Date compiled: Aug. 24, 2014.

Policy for checklist use. All American Topical Association (ATA) checklists are the property of the ATA, intended for use by members and to promote topical collecting. These checklists are copyrighted and are ***not*** to be copied except by the ATA for distribution to its members. Portions of a checklist may be used as part of a philatelic article or column if credit is given to the American Topical Association.

While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely checklists, the ATA cannot guarantee that these checklists are complete or error free. Questions on the use of a checklist should be directed to the ATA Office. Members finding errors or omissions are encouraged to send amending information to the ATA Office to improve upon this members-only service. Please use the Stamp ID number in the first column of each list to reference suggested changes.

The number in parentheses after the checklist title is the number of stamp issues that appears in the checklist. Costs for the checklists are:

Emailed (Excel file, or .pdf file if requested): A penny per issue. Thus, a checklist with 195 stamp listings costs $1.95.
Mini-topics (less than 50 items) cost 50¢.
Maxi-topics (more than 5,000 items) cost $50 flat fee.
Mailed: For every 500 listings, please add $2 for printing/postage.
Checklist Updates: Always available for 50¢-$1/list as long as ATA membership is maintained.

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Nature Checklists:

ANIMALS-LAND
- Amphibians/Reptiles
- Domesticated Animals
- Mammals

ANIMALS-AIR
- Birds
- Butterflies/Insects

ANIMALS-WATER

MINERALS/EARTH

PLANTS
- Flowers
- Other Plants/Fungi
- Trees

ANIMALS-LAND

Animals (misc/other) (201)
Endangered Species (7190)
Wildlife Conservation (210)
World Wildlife Fund (822)
Zoos / Zoology (351)

Amphibians/Reptiles

Reptiles (misc/other) (28)
Frogs / Toads (640)
Crocodiles / Alligators (368)
Dinosaurs / Fossils (3499)
Lizards / Geckos (1017)
Snakes (1038)
Turtles / Tortoises (645)

Domesticated Animals

Cats, Domestic (2200)
Cattle - Oxen - Bovine - Cows (1408)
Dogs (3311)
Donkeys (886)
Goats (301)
Horses (3572)
Pigs - Hogs - Boars (513)
Rabbits / Hares (519)
Sheep -incl. Shepherds- (1227)

Mammals

Mammals (misc/other) (239)
Anteaters - Pangolins - Sloths (186)
Antelopes (126)
Badgers (73)
Bats (344)
Bearcats - Civets - Genets (58)
Bears (503)
Beavers (44)
Bison / Buffalo (386)
Camels / Dromedaries (702)
Cats, Wild (625)
Deer / Related (1976)
Dogs, Wild (163)
Elephants (944)
Foxes (291)
Giraffes (261)
Hedgehogs (74)
Hippopotamuses (200)
Hyenas (103)
Jaguars (animal) (102)
Kangaroos / Wallabies (175)
Koalas (76)
Leopards / Ocelots (493)
Lions (893)
Lynxes (126)
Marsupials (231)
Mice - Rats - Rodents (607)
Pandas (163)
Porcupines (58)
Primates (1488)
Raccoons (41)
Rhinoceros (327)
Squirrels (185)
Tamarins (45)
Tapirs (56)
Tigers (472)
Tigers, Sabre Tooth (22)
Weasel Family (Mustelidae) (364)
Wolves (195)
Zebras (234)

ANIMALS-AIR

Birds

Birds (misc/other) (3641)
Albatrosses (157)
Anhingsa / Darters (32)
Avosets / Stilts (66)
Bananaquits (62)
Barbets / Toucans / Woodpeckers (478)
Bee/eaters (199)
Birds of Paradise (96)

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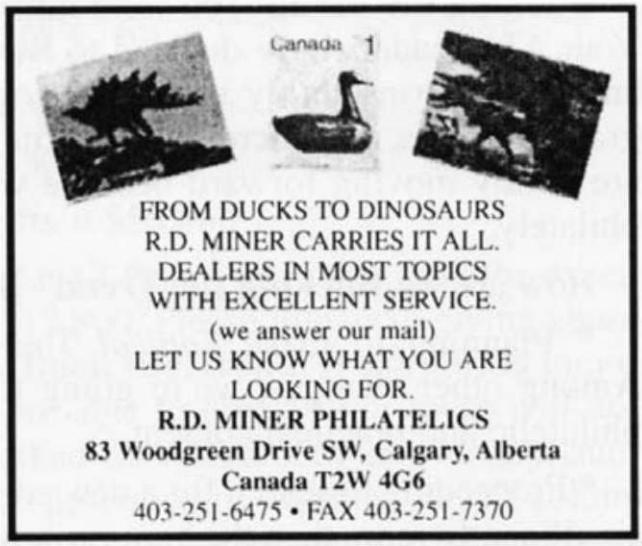
Bishops / Widowbirds (51)
Blackbirds / Ravens (80)
Boobies / Gannets (211)
Buntings (102)
Bustards / Korhaans (129)
Canaries (30)
Capercaille / Grouse / Ptarmigan (138)
Cardinals / Grosbeaks / Tanagers (251)
Chats / Nightingales (81)
Chickadees / Titmice / Tits (117)
Cormorants / Shags (125)
Cranes (359)
Crossbill / Finches / Weavers (509)
Cuckoos / Roadrunners / Turacos (171)
Curlews / Whimbrels (66)
Dollarbirds / Rollers (117)
Doves (1452)
Ducks / Geese (2781)
Fantails / Wagtails (87)
Flamingos (236)
Flycatchers / Kingbirds / Wheatears (218)
Francolins (31)
Frigatebirds (141)
Gallinules / Swamphens / Moorhens / Rails (197)
Grebes (78)
Guinea Fowl (48)
Gulls / Kittiwakes (287)
Herons / Egrets / Bitterns (652)
Hoopoes (140)
Hornbills (181)
Hummingbirds (475)
Ibis / Spoonbills (224)
Jacanas (52)
Jays / Magpies / Crows (178)
Kingfishers / Kookaburras / Motmots (502)
Larks (77)
Loons (30)
Martins / Swallows (166)
Mockingbirds / Thrashers (62)
Mynas / Starlings (145)
Meadowlarks / Orioles / Blackbirds (180)

Oystercatchers (37)
Parrots / Cockatoos / Lories (1428)
Partridges / Quail / Pheasant / Tragopans (369)
Peacocks (84)
Pelicans (258)
Petrels / Shearwaters (235)
Pigeons (452)
Pipers (41)
Plovers / Dotterels / Killdeers / Lapwings (233)
Puffins (79)
Quetzals / Trogons (151)
Redstarts / Warblers (266)
Robins (109)
Roosters / Chickens (606)
Shrikes (166)
Skua / Jaegers (41)
Snipes (34)
Sparrows (129)
Storks (330)
Sunbirds (198)
Swans (160)
Swifts (33)
Terns / Noddies (406)
Thrushes (187)
Tropicbirds (145)
Turkeys (62)
Waxwings (50)
White/Eyes (62)
Whydahs (46)
Wrens (74)

Birds of Prey

Birds of Prey (misc/other) (291)
Condors (85)



Eagles (1280)
Falcons / Kestrels (444)
Hawks (265)
Ospreys (89)
Owls (822)
Secretary Birds (53)
Vultures (230)

Flightless Birds

Ostriches / Emus (134)
Penguins (available from Study Unit, ***penguinstamps.org***)

Insects/Butterflies

Insects (misc/other) (227)
Ants / Termites (82)
Bees / Beekeeping (725)
Beetles (994)
Butterflies / Moths (8689)
Cockroaches (15)
Crickets (79)
Dragonflies (362)
Flies (142)
Grasshoppers - Cicada - Locusts - Katydids (224)
Ladybugs (138)
Mites / Ticks (14)
Mosquitoes (180)
Praying Mantis (105)
Scorpions / Centipedes (26)
Spiders / Arachnids (168)
Wasps / Hornets (107)

ANIMALS-WATER

Marine Life (misc/other) (883)
Corals (915)
Crabs (585)
Dolphins / Porpoises (752)
Fish / Fishing (8808)
Lobsters (195)
Manatees - Dugongs - Sea Cows (135)
Marine Gastropods / Nudibranchs (106)
Narwhals (22)
Octopus / Squid (195)
Sea Horses (174)
Sea Shells (2176)
Sea Stars (146)
Sea Turtles
Green Sea Turtles (216)

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Hawksbill Sea Turtles (165)
Leatherback Sea Turtles (92)
Loggerhead Sea Turtles (89)
Ridley Sea Turtles (53)
Seals - Walrus - Sea Lions (486)
Sharks (523)
Shrimp / Prawns (125)
Snails / Mollusks (144)
Sponges (Marine) (57)
Sting Rays / Manta Rays (273)
Whales (1032)

MINERALS/EARTH

Beaches / Coastlines (494)
Beaches / Coastlines (498)
Bodies of Water (1855)
Conservation / Ecology (367)
Diamonds (116)
Earthquakes (52)
Gems (195)
Glaciers / Icebergs (147)
Grand Canyon (USA) (23)
Hurricanes - Cyclones - Tornados (156)
Minerals (911)
Mountains (1927)
Mount Everest (Nepal) (51)
Mount Fuji (Japan) (105)
Pearls (44)
Rainbows (376)
Snow / Snowmen (310)
Volcanoes (324)
Waterfalls / Cascades (1173)
Niagara Falls (USA / Canada) (22)
Victoria Falls (Zambia) (45)

PLANTS

Agriculture / Horticulture (426)
Botanical Gardens (424)

Flowers

Flowers (misc/other) (4063)
Anemones (61)
Anthurium (44)
Asters (47)
Begonias (37)
Bellflowers (106)
Birds-of Paradise (89)
Black-eyed Susans (34)
Bougainvillea (80)
Buttercups / Clematis (78)
Camelias (94)
Carnations/Pinks/Jonquils (139)
Columbines (42)
Cornflowers (23)
Crocus (63)
Chrysanthemums (108)
Cyclamens (32)
Dahlias (69)
Daisies (160)
Dandelions (29)
Edelweiss (34)
Forget-me-nots (22)
Frangipani (127)
Freesias (23)
Fuchsia (46)
Gardenias (46)
Gentians (94)
Geraniums (66)
Gladiola (42)
Heliconias (74)
Hibiscus (524)
Honeysuckles (21)
Hyacinths (47)
Hydrangeas (25)
Impatiens (18)
Iris (263)
Jasmine (63)
Lantanas (22)
Lilacs (26)
Lilies (756)
Lotus (143)
Magnolias (60)
Marigolds (58)
Morning Glories (127)
Narcissus, Daffodils, Amaryllis (168)
Oleanders (72)
Orchids (4456)
Pansies (44)
Pasqueflowers (30)
Passion Flowers (64)
Peacock Flowers (19)
Pea Plants (51)
Peonies (144)
Periwinkles (51)
Plumbagos (20)
Poincianas (16)
Poinsettias (151)

Poppies (194)
Primroses (60)
Protea/Sugarbushes (51)
Rhododendron/Azaleas (182)
Roses (1270)
Snowdrops (22)
Sunflowers (173)
Thistles (93)
Trumpet Plants (106)
Tulips (210)
Violets (128)
Zinnias (27)

Other Plants/Fungi

Bamboo (120)
Bonsai (88)
Cactus / Succulents (697)
Caper Bushes (14)
Carnivorous Plants / Fungi (156)
Clover (42)
Cotton (226)
Ferns (122)
Ginger (86)
Grasses (67)
Holly (46)
Mushrooms / Fungi (3449)
Weeds (106)

Trees

Trees / Forestry (4459)
Flamboyant Tree (49)
Palm Trees (768)
Rubber Trees / Industry (41)

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They are updated regularly by adding the newly catalogued stamps listed in *Linn's Stamp News* and changes/updates suggested by ATA members.

Updates of lists you purchase will be available at minimal cost from ATA.

Members are encouraged to supply amending information to the ATA Office, to help improve the checklist service

If you collect stamps in the Nature category, please keep this list nearby. You may want to refer to it when submitting your topical collecting interests for the *ATA Membership Directory* early next year.

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Obituary: Ann Shoemake

Ann Shoemake, second editor of *Topical Time*, died in Albuquerque, N.M., on March 28. A life member of the ATA since 1970, Ann served as editor 1977-81, succeeding ATA founder Jerry Husak, with whom she had worked closely in the preparation of cachets, special cancels and numerous ATA publications. She brought to the editorship a college major in advertising design and many years experience in publication, graphic art and printing. Ann's topical interests included astronomy, overprints and surcharges. She was named Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 1981.

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NY 2016 Updated Information

New information about World Stamp Show-NY 2016 recently appeared with the publication of its fifth quarterly newsletter, timed to coincide with APS StampShow 2014, which took place in Hartford, Conn.

America's next once-a-decade international philatelic exhibition is only 21 months away, a point noted by show President Wade Saadi, who mentioned that much continues behind the scenes, including negotiations regarding FIP patronage. These negotiations have taken much longer than expected.

Executive Director Donna Richardson reports the first public news about hotel discounts arranged through the show's accommodation agent, Experient. Prices range from $139-$425 per night for the properties under consideration at this point, all either near the convention center or within walking distance of public transportation to the venue.

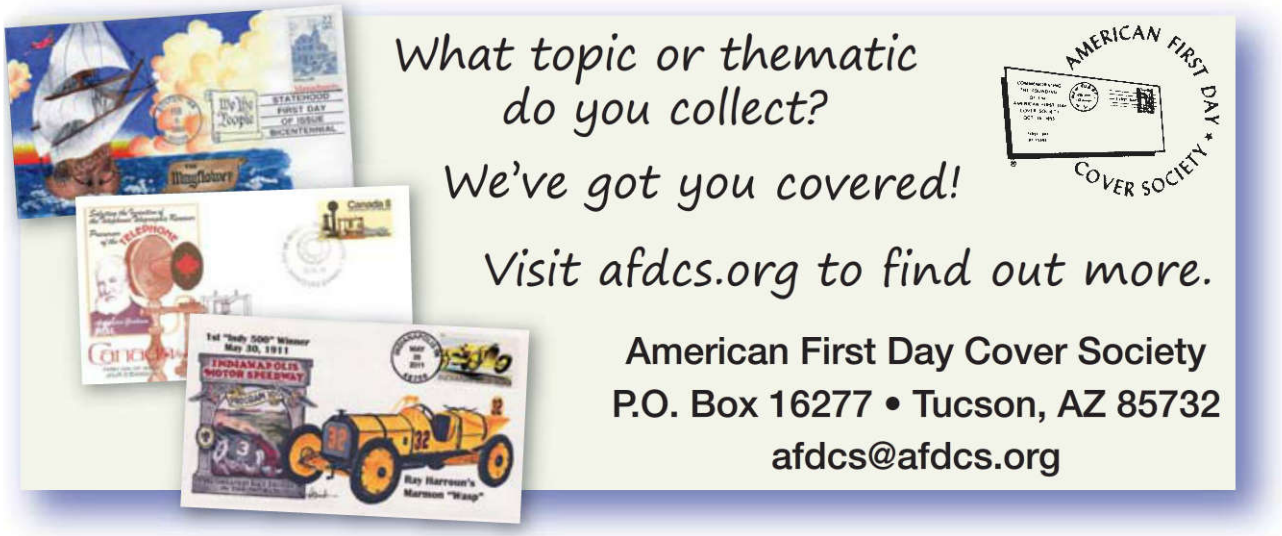
The show currently has 121 dealers signed up from 17 countries around the world. Additional dealers are being sought to provide additional balance to the show's bourse. Invitations to international postal administrations and their agents will be sent soon.

Also announced are the initial three firms that plan to hold major auctions during World Stamp Show-NY 2016. These include Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries and Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions of the United States, and Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner of Germany.

The four-page newsletter also includes articles about the show's web site facelift, June's New York City auction of the famous 1856 1¢ British Guiana Penny Magenta, the Philatelic Foundation's "New York City on Stamps" publication, a historical look back at the first U.S. international exhibition in 1913 and a public "thank you" to those websites, publications and show listings that are currently promoting the impending international eight-day event.

A direct link to WSS-NY 2016 Newsletter 5 in PDF format may be found at: ***www.ny2016.org/images/ny2016newsletters/2014-08-newsletter5.pdf***.

The exhibition will take place May 28-June 4, 2016, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. For more information, visit the show's web site at ***www.ny2016.org*** and on Facebook: ***www.facebook.com/ny2016***.



Chapter Chatter

By Tonny van Loij

Ann Arbor Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 98) in Ann Arbor, Mich.: The May *AASC* reported on upcoming meetings and the minutes of the April meeting. The first auction of the year was scheduled for the May 19 meeting. The program was to be by Mike Miley Jr. – "The First U.S. Issues." Editor Harry Winter reported in the June issue that the program would be "Stamp Papers," by Gene Stutzenstein.

The August meeting was to be a planning session for the AAPEX '14 show.

ATA Chapter No. 5 in Wisconsin: Upcoming meetings were to include a program by Stan Ewert, "Ephemera," and discussion of upcoming Wiscopex 2014.

Editor Robert Mather also reminded members to attend Tripex in June. He continued with a short history of "The Star Spangled Banner," showed some stamps and the poem by Francis Scott Key that became the national anthem of the United States. Other articles included "The Penny Magenta of British Guiana," (which was be auctioned in June), "The Minuteman War Savings Stamps" and a report of the April meeting. According to the editor, Ann Selzer agreed to give a program titled "New Zealand: Sights, Sounds and

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Stories." A short story was printed about "The Stamps Made from Stolen Maps" during World War I. Next appeared an article about "Reperforation," copied from the *Philatelic Foundation Quarterly*, followed by a page from the upcoming Spink Auction about the sale of one of the Inverted Jenny stamps.

Battle Creek Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 119) in Battle Creek, Mich.: Editor Steve Sherman reminded members of the May 8 meeting and had several short stories and an observation about "Spring is Crawling" – starting with a mystery about a New Zealand stamp, Scott 107, from 1902-07 issues. This followed with the idea of collecting tractors and some substitutes used in other parts of the globe.

According to the editor, the May meeting was a great success with 20 members in attendance.

Lee Nelson wrote about "A Cover Story from the Past." This is about the story behind a very old Michigan cover that was carried "outside of the mail," probably as a favor by the captain of the steamer *Julius Morton*. Steve Sherman wrote about his way of collecting, for nearly 50 years, and how he stored his stamps and cataloged them before the use of the computer.

Greater Mound City Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 115) in St. Louis, Mo.: The April *Perf-Dispatch* reminded members about a program by Guy Gasser, "Is It Sound: how to use the right tools of the hobby." A list of upcoming programs for 2014 was published. The St. Charles Spring Stamp Show was held at the end of May. On a sad note, three long-time members had passed away in recent months.

Alan Barasch tested his presentation for the Penguins on Stamps Study Group at NTSS at the May meeting. It was thought this should be interesting, since Alan does not collect nor know the nuances of penguins (the topic was assigned). The June edition of *Perf-Dispatch* continued with a reminder of meetings and programs.

Johnstown Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 4) in Johnstown, Pa.: Editor Don Smith reminded members that the June meeting would be the annual "Club Members as Dealers" - a great opportunity to dispose of your excess holdings. The March meeting had a fascinating program by Mary Anne Bell on the lighthouse stamps of the "Life Insurance" agency of the New Zealand government. The "Silent Auction" during the April meeting was handled by Mike Buben. More than $200 worth of materials changed hands. A list of upcoming shows was published and information on upcoming new U.S. issues. Editor Don also had a short article about U.S. No. 1 and No. 2.

Knoxville Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 121) in Knoxville, Tenn.: Editor Tom Broadhead started with an observation of "Will common U.S. stamps play hard to get?" He discussed the newly issued fern coil stamps that are only available in coils of 3,000. This was followed by the President's Column (Tom Ringenbach) about the upcoming elections. Tom looked back over the past two years that he was president and the enjoyment of doing so. Tom, as acting secretary, published the minutes of the April meeting. Several small notes and an article by Steve Swain about "Postal Artifacts of the 1910 Knoxville Appalachian Exposition" followed. The June edition of *Knoxville Philatelic Society News* started with the question to members: "What will be the KnoxPex 2015 Theme?" Two possibilities were given: 1815 – The Battle of New Orleans and 1915 – National Advisory Committee

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for Aeronautics (Later NASA). Newly elected president Barbara Steverson introduced herself in the President's Column. A copy of the May meeting minutes was published together with several small announcements and upcoming events/meetings. Tom Ringebach wrote about "Collecting stamps in Cleveland."

Mid-Cities Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 90) in Arlington, Texas: Editor Peter Elias started the May issue of *Stamping Around*, writing about the Automated Postal Center stamp for Spiderman and the first-day ceremony in Dallas for the Songbirds stamp issue. Benedict A. Termini, M.D., followed with an article about cinderellas and revenue material, "The Townsend Plan." This was followed with minutes and announcements from the Arlington, Irving and Lake Grandbury meetings. Ray Cartier touched on National Parks Centennial Issue City of Refuge, Hawaii, and about "The First Home-Built Aircraft to fly around the World." The June issue of *Stamping Around* began with an article by Peter Elias about Internet market make-up rate stamps from Germany. He also wrote about a Nigerian youth stamp club and, no, not part of the famous Nigerian mail fraud scams. President Mike Smith followed with his usual "President's Letter." Ben Termini closed with a fine write-up about the Swedish booklet issue for the "Disaster at Sea."

Milwaukee Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 112) in Wisconsin: The May *Milwaukee Philatelist* began with an acknowledgement by editor Carol Schutta that an error had occurred in the MPS meeting. The program for this month will be by Art Schmitz about "The Dead Country Syndrome." This was followed by another article about the newly issued songbirds. The May issue closed with a photo gallery of the newly elected officers. The June program was a PowerPoint program by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, *Dragon Lore on Stamps*. Secretary MaryAnn Bowman published the MPS Executive Board Meeting minutes and newly elected president Carol Schutta gave her view for the upcoming year. Short articles followed; "Vintage Circus Posters" (newly issued stamps) and Milwaukee's "Maverick Aviator."

Motor City Stamp and Cover Club (ATA Chapter No. 95) in Detroit, Mich.: Editor Bob Quintero reminded members that April is the month for

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the annual "Cover Scramble." The rest of the April issue of *On Cover* was devoted to announcements, upcoming programs and past meeting minutes. The May issue of *On Cover* mentioned the club's 57th birthday and the controversial activity, "Members' Clothesline Exhibit." The May speaker was to be Paul Stanton, collector and dealer and Motomoney auctioneer. A list of meetings and programs for the 2014 was published.

In the June issue of *On Cover,* editor Bob Quintero, reminded members that June is the traditional auction time for the club and that Paul Stanton is the host auctioneer. July will be the annual picnic. A list of programs for the rest of the year was published and many birthdays were remembered. At the May meeting, member Fred Levantrosser showed a cover that made a miraculous journey from Canada to Europe. It was carried aboard a small sailboat on a solo trip to England, which blew off course to Portugal where it was stamped and canceled with an explanation of the adventure.

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (ATA Chapter No. 118) in Lancaster, Pa.: President Len Kasper opened the newsletter with his monthly comment. This was followed by an article, "Rogue River Boat," by Bob and Barb Brown and a short biography of club member Mark Hollister. The May minutes and treasury report by Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice followed. Editor Paul Petersen commented more on the 2013 Harry Potter issues. It was announced that the annual club trip 2014 will be a visit to the National Postage Stamp Show in New York. Carol Peterson closed the newsletter with "Guest Musings: Return to the '64 Fair."

Robert C. Graebner Chapter No. 17, AFCDS (ATA Chapter No. 93) in Washington, D.C.: May Day Taylor started off the *Graebner Gazette* commenting on the club's visit to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum for the May 2, 1840, Penny Black remembrance. The June meeting featured a program presented by Rick Gibson and Otto Thamasett on "Revisiting Staehle Covers." Some nice copies are printed in this issue. A press release followed about the new upcoming exhibit at the National Postal Museum, *Behind the Badge*. Foster Miller discussed the newly issued 70¢ C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson definitive stamp ("Chief Anderson takes flight"). This dedication was held at the McPherson Auditorium of Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. A schedule was published about Napex 2014 and the attending societies. Short announcements and comments followed about upcoming shows, AFDCS auctions at Americover 2014 and upcoming cachets. The *Graebner Gazette* closed with the announcement that ATA president Jack Denys will receive the highest ATA Award at this year's NTSS show.

Rochester Philatelic Association (ATA Chapter No. 84) in Rochester, N.Y.: The April-June issue of *Hinges & Tongs* included an update on Ropex 2014. Larry Rausch wrote about "Hand Cancel Dies," with many examples shown. Club president Rich Spinelli was the featured speaker at the February meeting and "Revisited Exhibiting Basics." Rich also had his monthly President's message which, again, touched upon the upcoming show. This was followed by an overview of RPA meetings and dates. Several letters to the club were published from other organizations and club members, with thank you notes or acknowledgements to the Rochester Stamp Club. A presentation by Mark Scheuer was

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enjoyed about "Year Dating 1847 Issue Covers." This year's Ropex featured an exhibit from Charles Lawlor, Australia, about *Western Australia: Use & Abuse of the Post, 1831-1912*. The newsletter closed with the announcement of U.S. and Canada new issues.

Salem Stamp Society (ATA Chapter No. 114) in Salem, Ore.: The April meeting of the Salem Stamp Society attracted many members with the topic "how to attend a stamp show." The May meeting is dedicated to members who are encouraged to bring some of their materials and doubles and be a dealer for one night. President Lisa Janz's column touched on Pipex 2014. Other small tidbits included vice president Alan Maul announcing a second club stamp workshop on how to sell your stamps. The June meeting was a big club auction night. President Lisa Janz had her usual messages to the members. Alan Maul published his "Stamp Workshop No. 2."

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Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo (ATA Chapter No. 66) in Toledo, Ohio: The April edition of *Frogtown Philatelist* contained notes from recent meetings, local shows and an upcoming event.

Members are encouraged to attend a workshop regarding exhibit frames. The annual picnic was scheduled for June 19. The May 15 meeting had 27 members in attendance; there was no program due to miscommunication, but the June 5 meeting was a Mega Auction.

Topical Philatelists in Colorado (ATA Chapter No. 78) in Denver, Colo.: The May edition of *TOPIC* commented on the April meeting motion to disband the club due to lack of attendance and participation. There was a lengthy and heated discussion on the subject. After a long discussion, it was decided to put the vote to the entire membership with a final vote being taken at the May meeting. The May meeting was to be held during the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. The program, "The European Union," was be presented by Tonny Van Loij. The June *Topic* published the results of the vote to disband: six for and six against. It was decided at the May meeting that the club would continue with those members who are still interested. At the June meeting officers will be nominated and elections will be held in September if interest in the organization continuous.

Venice Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 122) in Venice, Fla.: The May *Newsletter* started with a reply by John

Hamman about the many favorable comments he received about last month's article, "Prexie Post." The May 20 meeting was dedicated to "Conservation and Rationing during the World Wars," by Dawn Hamman. Secretary Lance S. Grandone published the April meeting minutes and Jim Garard reported on the treasury. Upcoming shows and meetings were listed as well as the planning of a youth program. John Hamman continued his article about "Prexie Post." June 17 was scheduled for an auction. An overview was published with upcoming meetings, shows and programs.

West Suburban Stamp Club (ATA Chapter No. 44) in Plymouth, Mich.: Editor Sandy Strzalkowski started the May issue of *Mayflower Minutes* calling out the 12 remaining club members who not have paid 2014 dues. Debbie Chapman is recovering from knee replacement and will have a second done later in the month. Jeff Cole also is recuperating from surgery. Best wishes to all. A call was made for nominations for upcoming officer elections. Thanks went out to Kim Kellerman of Rasdale Stamp Co. for a donation to the club. Doug Becker presented the April program, "Jenny Past and Present." The June issue of *Mayflower Minutes* reported that dues season is over and the club has a total of 114 members. Two new members joined during the Plymouth Show.

Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs (ATA Chapter No. 107) in Wisconsin: The May/June issue of *Across the Fence Post* started with the president's message by WFSC president Karen Weigt. Part of her column was about the first-day ceremony for the Wisconsin Statehood stamp in 1998. The featured article by Robert R. Henak was "Waukesha Moor (MUD) Bath Company." He showed pictures of an advertising corner card for the company and a picture postcard of the main building. Maurice Wozniak had a column, "Clubs are Trump." On a sad note, collector, exhibitor and philatelic judge Bernard A. "Bud" Hennig (1917-2014) of Chicago died March 30 at age 97. The newsletter ended with a list of announcements and an advertisement for the upcoming Tripex Stamp Fair 2014.

Canada

Calgary Philatelic Society (ATA Chapter No. 91) in Calgary, Alberta: The front page of the June *Calgary Philatelist* showed a commemorative envelope issued by Canada Post to mark the centennial of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Brigade. The regiment was stationed in Calgary for many decades. The third part of Donald Wilson's "A Philatelist's Journey in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan," appeared, with many stamps and covers. Dale Spiers continued his publication (part 30) about Calgary postmarks.

Leanteri Polvikoski followed with part two of her "Fake Covers in Hollywood." Editor Dale Spiers wrote about the recent decision by Canada Post to allow pictorial designs on addressed Admail permits. This brought many new designs. New by-laws are to be voted on at the June meeting and a report was given on the Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (CAPE). The newsletter ended with a large overview of upcoming meetings, programs and shows.

Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance (ATA Chapter No. 109) in Toronto, Ont.: Editor Susan Butler opened the spring edition of *Philajournal* with encouraging members to get out and attend some shows. Larry Friend, in his "President's Viewpoint," touched on

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"Selling Your Stamps." Peter Butler, FRPSC, looked back on an article that appeared in *Topical Time* Nov-Dec 2013, about stamp collecting, "Time and Patience." Dave Moss had his recurring "MACHIN Corner: Royal Mail Security Features." Jerry Piotrowski wrote about "Unusual Postage Stamps, from Pop-Ups to Magnets!" Member of Scarborough Stamp Club, Ron Dell'Agnese, presented an article, "The Stamps of Trieste 1943-1954" and Lloyd Yamada wrote about "Cinderella Philately, Exploring Revenues." Larry Friend contributed "British Locals – a fascinating collecting interest" and Tony Manson followed with "Scouts on Stamps: A Scouting Centennial Project." Ingo Nessel is the recipient of the 2013 Howard Bryce Memorial Trophy. The *Philajournal* ended with two more articles: "Philatelic Elements: Mosaic Block or Strip," by Frank Alusio, and "FRPSC and Coveting Covers, Postal Expediency after the Coup," by John Wilson.

Great Britain

British Thematic Association (ATA Chapter No. 100) in Great Britain: The June issue of *Themescene* started with an editorial by editor Wendy Buckle. This was followed by Steven Cross with "A History of the Fictional Detective." Jeff Dugdale looked behind the words of an iconic song by Julia Ward Howe. John Hayward's article, "Back to Basics," discussed the basics of philately and thematic collecting. The annual general meeting of the British Thematic Association was to be held June 14. Jim Etherington wrote about how he moved from traditional to thematic collecting – slowly. There was an extensive list of upcoming shows and meetings, as well as special hand stamps. A book review was done by Ken Norris and Stanley Brown while Lisa Whittle wrote about JUST4KIDS.The annual British Thematic Association 2014 competitions will be held at The South England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention on Oct. 11.

South Africa

Thematics South Africa (ATA Chapter No. 103) in South Africa: Contributors to *ThemNews* are many. President Robert Harm started with his President's View, followed by comments of Vice-President/Acting Editor Wobbe Vegter. Tony Evans wrote about "*Diceros bicornis* – the Black Rhino." Henk Geertsema followed with "*Lepidopterous* philately: Butterflies and Moths of South Africa." Stan Rowland presented an article, "The Sea Eagle," with many copies of stamps. Henk van Zutphen wrote, "ROYGRBLIV – fantastic rainbows on stamps," and Gina Wilgenbus finished with "Points to Ponder when Exhibiting."

Tonny van Loij, retired, is ATA Chapter Coordinator, president of the Aurora Stamp Club, executive secretary of the Europa Study Unit and secretary of Rompex. His mailing address is 3002 S. Xanthia St, Denver CO 80231. His email address is ***tvanloij@gmail.com****.*

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

Poitiers 2014 (Birdpex, FerPhilex, French Open/Display Class Exhibition), French Championship 2014

Foreign Thematic Exhibits

Larry E. Davidson

In this column, we will review the thematic exhibits shown at Poitiers 2014 (Birdpex, FerPhilex and French Open/Display Class Exhibition) and French Championship 2014. Only those exhibits with a score of 70 or higher are listed.

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

Poiters 2014

This exhibition was held May 1-4, 2014 in Poitiers, France, under the patronage of the French Federation of Philatelic Associations (FFAP). It consisted of several exhibitions of which three were adult exhibitions: Birdpex, FerPhilex and French Open/Display Class Exhibition.

Birdpex 2014

Birdpex 2014 was the seventh "bird-only" stamp show. It is an international stamp exhibition that is held every four years. Previous shows were held in New Zealand, Germany, London, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Lutz König (Germany)	*Pigeons – Great Diversity in the Wild – Domesticated and Admired by Man*	97, LG
Peter Van Nies (Netherlands)	*The Family Life of Birds*	91, G
Michel Pedero (France)	*Birds: How to Identify Them*	90, G
Hans Van der Sanden (Netherlands)	*Kruui krro, kruui krro … Cranes*	88, LV
Nöel Pattyn (Belgium)	*Raptors: Elegant Aerial Hunters*	83, V
Jacques Rothenburg (France)	*I, Eagle!*	83, V
***Roger Van Laere** (Belgium)	*Atlantic Puffin: Clown of the Ocean*	78, LS
Michel Lambert (Belgium)	*Winged Migration*	77, LS
Dieter Warnke (Germany)	*New Guinea – Region of the Birds of Paradise*	77, LS
Jacqeline Rica (France)	*Raptors*	73, S
Bo Lundquist (Sweden)	*Penguins of the World*	70, S

One-frame Exhibits

Peter Van Nies (Netherlands)	*Magpies: Black and White but Colorful*	88. LV
Niko Van Wassenhove (Belgium)	*Falconry*	86, LV
Niko Van Wassenhove (Belgium)	*The Grouse Family*	85, LV
Niko Van Wassenhove (Belgium)	*Flamingos*	85, LV

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Niko Van Wassenhove (Belgium)	*Terns*	80, V
Danny De Smedt (Belgium)	*Nesting Birds*	75, LS
Klaus Thormann (Germany)	*Nestling Periods, from Out of the Egg to Out of the Nest*	75, LS

Open/Display Exhibits

Sylvain Charpentier (France)	*Owl Passion*	83, V
Tom Loorji (Netherlands)	*The Stork: Pure Nature and Full of Symbolism*	80, V

FerPhilex 2014

This European Railways Stamp Exhibition was organized by the Poitiers Association of Railway Philatelists, under the patronage of the International Federation of Artistic and Intellectual Societies of Railway Workers (FISAIC).

Multi-frame Exhibits

Werner Myland (Germany)	*Munich and Suburbs*	G
Marcel Tschumi (Switzerland)	*Pro Juventute (Swiss charitable foundation) 1912-1953*	G
Marcel Tschumi (Switzerland)	*Bridges: Marvels of Technology from Four Perspective Views*	G
François Debray (France)	*Look at the Train Station in France*	G
Daniel Vanderbrouck (Belgium)	*Belgian Birds by Buzin (Belgian artist)*	G
Jean-Claude Bardet (France)	*Mail of Indre-et-Loire (French region)*	S
Horst Niedermeier (Germany)	*The History of Railway Lines and the Fixed Systems of the Railroads*	S
Jean Jacques Serini (France)	*New Caledonia*	S

French Open/Display Class Exhibition

This open (display) class exhibition was organized by the Poitevine Philatelic Association, and held under the patronage of the French Federation of Philatelic Associations (FFAP). The exhibition allowed adult exhibits of 4-5 frames. All exhibitors were from France.

Open/Display Exhibits

Françoise Cohen	*Hooves in the Head (about horses)*	86, LV
Henri Aronis	*My teeth… Al Dente!*	85, LV
Jacques Bonnet	*Louis Pasteur (1823-1895)*	81, V
Guy Bardin	*Mexican legend told by the U.S. fancy cancels*	80, V
Jean-Luc Flaccus	*An Approach to Freemasonry*	80, V
Pascale Aubry	*Discovering Lace*	78, LS
Gérard Gangloff	*Orchids and Man*	78, LS
Hervé Douarec	*French Ships of the North Atlantic in the Twentieth Century*	77, LS

Danielle Jonquet	*Advocacy of Elephants*	76, LS
Paulette Boudon	*The Lighthouse… Sentinel of the Sea*	75, LS
Claude Cozzolino	*The Magical World of Chocolate*	75, LS
Bernard Nortier	*Roosters*	75, LS
Françoise Semat	*What a Circus then!!!*	72, S
Fabien Fernbach	Graf Zeppelin *LZ127 – Its History and Journeys*	71, S
Anne-Marie Forestier	*Joan of Arc*	70, S
Jean-Louis Grossi	*Illustrated Chronicle of the Heraldic Lion in France*	70, S
Marie-Chantel Serre	*In the Land of Sugar and Sweets*	70, S
Alberty Vignaud	*Pigeons and Doves*	70, S

French Championship 2014

The French Championship is a national exhibition held every year in a different location in France. This year it was held in Paris, France, June 14-21. The exhibition was held in conjunction with the 87th National Congress of the French Federation of Philatelic Associations (FFAP). All exhibitors were from France.

Multi-frame Exhibits

Jean-Claude Roussel	*Earth… Earth… Earth…*	91, G
Jean-Louis Araignon	*Of Clippers to Steamers*	83, V
Alain Auriau	*The Foot of Man*	80, V
Claude Vernette	*World War II*	80, V
Didier Andrivon	*Potatoes from Yesterday to Tomorrow*	80, V
Jean-Claude Hitz	*History of Life*	78, LS
Claude Troboë	*Routes and Signaling*	75, LS
Robert Boussard	*Beautiful, Beautiful, Beautiful…*	74, S
Christophe Damiens	*The Lighthouse*	73, S
Günther Paulsen	*Golf*	72, S
René Charlier	*We Owls*	72, S

I wish to thank Koenraad Bracke of Belgium for providing several translations of exhibit titles for Poitiers 2014.

Larry E. Davidson, a current member of the ATA board, is a retired university mathematics lecturer. He has been collecting stamps for 55 years and exhibiting for 29 years. His display/thematic exhibit "Beavers: Nature's Engineers" has won several vermeil, gold and "most popular exhibit" awards. His mailing address is PO Box 154, 86 Big Tub Road, Tobermory, Ontario N0H 2R0, Canada. His e-mail address is **lawrencedavidson@gmail.com**.

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New Members and Reinstatements

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57037 BILSKI, John
57032 BLOCH, Mark
56305 BURGOS, Kleber, ***kleberburgos@hotmail.com*** **Ducks, Geese, Swans**
Rua Visconde de Ouro Preto, 79, Recife, Pernambuco, 52061-430, Brazil
57044 CASTLEMAN, Rocky **Religion, Space Exploration**
57039 CRAIN, LeRoy
57040 DEBOSEK, Chris
57055-EM DAVIS, Gene (Rusty)
37263 EVERETT, John **Rowing**
57034 FINCH, Robert, ***bob@kunacrest.com*** **Van Gogh, Mountains, Ballet, Monet**
57051 GOSMAN, David, ***siriusscope@gmail.com*** **Islands, Telescopes, Chess, Stamps on Stamps**
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57045-EM GOYCOOLEA, Ricardo
57035 HATCHER, Mary, ***mlsadlertof@bellsouth.net*** **Biology**
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57043 HULL, David, ***davehull@hullstamps.com*** **George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Maps/Globes**
57061 JAVIER, Maria C., 7243 Lawford Rd, Knoxville TN 37919-7478 **Medical**
57006 KAMINSKI, Ellen, ***ekaminski24@gmail.com*** **International Year of Women Stamps, American Women on First Day Covers**
57050 McCULLOCH, Bruce **Art, History, Plants, Animals, Birds, Fish**
57031 McMURPHY, Ann
55843 MEYERSON, Lawrence **Stamps on Stamps, WW II, Literature, Theater**
57056 NICHOLS, Kathy,13 Cedar Dr, Macomb, IL 61455-1247 **Plants, Orchids, Art, Astronomy**
57046-EM NOAD, Jon, ***jonnoad@hotmail.com*** **Dinosaurs**
57036-EM O'CONNOR, Catherine, ***eoconn@gmail.com*** **Ice Hockey Worldwide, Ice Hockey Olympic, FDCS, 2006 Torino Olympics**
57057-DM O'HAGAN, Thomas, ***tohagan4@comcast.net*** **St. Patrick, Sherlock Holmes**
PO Box 32, Lewes DE 19968-0032
57047-EM PINET, Robert, ***pinet.robert@gmail.com*** **Opera, Myths, Explorers, Archaelogy, Cetaceans**
400 Slaterm #1605 Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7S7, Canada
57059 PROKOP, Michael
57009 PRATUCH, Thomas **Vatican City, North American Hummingbirds, Atlantic Puffin**
57060-EM RUIZ, Thomas, ***thomasa48@comcast.net*** **Disney**
54716 SCARBOROUGH, Laurence, ***lozlinna@gmail.com*** **Archaeology**
30 Wyuna Walk, Mooroolbark, Victoria 3138, Australia
57041-EM STURGEON, Frank, ***norazeaia@aol.com*** **Architecture**
57049-EM TUTTEROW, Robin **Owls, Space Exploration**
57057 VAN CAMP, Keith, ***keith@kgvancamp.com*** **Christmas**

57038-EM VINCENT, Michael, ***favacpac@hotmail.com*** **Botany**
57048-EM WAGNER, STEPHANIE **Paleontology, Archaelogy, Folktales, Darwin**
57042 WALKER, James, PO Box 689, Mawson, ACT 2607, Australia **Military, Nudes, Sherlock Holmes**
57054 WELLS, Michael, ***michaelwells1956@mac.com*** **Lost City of Atlantis, Archaeology/ Underwater Archaeology**
57033 WHEELER, Frank, ***fwheel@sbcglobal.ent*** **Astronomy**
57052 YOH, William, ***pamcomom@aol.com*** **Motorcycles, Dentists, Martin Luther King**

Change of Address

55360 McCLARREN, Robert, 29610 Gleneagle Dr., Perrysburg OH 43551-3517

Deceased Members

32207 NORRIS, L. Boyd (CA)
39850 SHACKLETON, Verna (WI)
48876 KLEIN, John D (IN)

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

ATA Membership Recruiters 2014

The following ATA members have recruited a total of 47 new members up to Aug. 15 of this year. They 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.

ATA Dealer Members shown in red.

New Members

Dawn Hamman (Fla.)	11
Frederick Skvara (N.J.)	3
Stephen Chun (Ala.)	2
Jack Congrove (Wash.)	2
Janice and David Erbach (Ky.)	2
Allan Fisk (N.Y.)	2
Bruce Johnson (Calif.)	2
Robert Sazama (Fla.)	2
Jean Stout (Miss.)	2
Gertrude Bernstein (Fla.)	1
Charles Brown (Mo.)	1
Louise Chouinard (Ga.)	1
LeA Coe (Ga.)	1
Tony Curiale (N.J.)	1
Ed Dimmick (Calif.)	1
Keith Edholm (Wash.)	1
Roger Grider (Mo.)	1
Robert E Juceam (N.Y.)	1
Jack Ott (Md.)	1
Jim Pettway (Tenn.)	1
Patricia Prevey (Alberta, Canada)	1
Marion Rollings (N.J.)	1
Caroline Scannell (N.Y.)	1
Jack Swafford (Kan.)	1
Bill Vance (Tenn.)	1
Lynn Vernon (Ind.)	1
Wayne Youngblood (Mo.)	1

Also:

Topical Philatelists in Colorado (TOPIC)	1

Publication Reviews

George B. Griffenhagen

Once again, due to lack of material, Publication Reviews will not appear in this issue. Please look for it in the November-December *Topical Time*.

Readers of Topical Time *who know of other topical articles published in less well-known periodicals are urged to send photocopies or tear sheets of the article to George Griffenhagen, 12226 Cathedral Dr, Woodbridge VA 22192-2232, or via email:* ***gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com****, for mention in future "Publication Reviews" columns.*

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

Please make it a goal to recruit at least one new member this year...

Help us go "Boldly to the Future!"

Editorial Content

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

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

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Membership Information

For ATA membership information, change of address, ATA publication orders, back issues of *Topical Time* or ATA handbooks, contact the ATA Office. All copies of the *2011-13 ATA Membership Directory* have been sold; the *2014-16 ATA Membership Directory* should be published later this year and available from the ATA Office.

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

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

ATA Membership Dues

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

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

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

Advertising

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

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

Philatelic Journals

(Routinely mentioned in *Topical Time*)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Linn's Stamp News: Michael Baadke, editor, P.O. Box 29, Sidney OH 45365-0029 USA
mbaadke@amospress.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
www.stanleygibbons.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stamp Magazine: Guy Thomas and Julia Lee, editors, Hadlow House, 9 High Street, Green Street Green, Kent BR6 6BG, United Kingdom.
julia.lee@mytimemedia.com
www.stampmagazine.co.uk

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

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

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NTSS in Potland, Ore.
July 31-Aug 2, 2015

Oct. 18-19, 2014, New Mexico. NewMexPex 2014, Sponsored by Albuquerque Philatelic Society, Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho, N.M. Contact: Paul L. Morton (505) 867-9664.
Email: ***p.morton@att.net***
Website: ***http://madjac.com/stamps.htm***

Oct. 25-26, 2014, Ohio. Cuy-LorPex 2014, 56th annual show, sponsored by Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, Rocky River Civic Center's Memorial Hall, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio. Free parking, no admission, 30 frames of exhibits, 15 dealers, USPS substation and show postmarks. Contact: Cuy-Lor Stamp Club, P.O. Box 161064, Rocky River OH 44116.
Email: ***cuylorstampclub@hotmail.com***

Oct. 25-26, 2014, Wisconsin. Tosapex 2014, sponsored by the Wauwatosa Philatelic Society, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis, Wis. Features: dealer bourse, exhibits, postal station, commemorative cacheted cover, special show cancel. Contact: Carol Schutta.
Email: ***harryncarolschutta@gmail.com***

Nov. 1-2, 2014, Michigan. AAPEX 2014, Ann Arbor Stamp Club show. Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron Drive, Ann Arbor, Mich. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4, 29 dealers from 10 states; exhibits; youth table; cachetmakers Saturday; Peninsular State Philatelic Society Sat 2pm. Free parking and admission. Contact Harry & Dottie Winter (734) 761-5859.
Email: ***harwin@umich.edu***
Website: ***www.annarborstampclub.org***

Nov. 8, 2014, Pennsylvania. The 67th annual Johnstown Stamp Show, Senior Activities Center, 550 Main St., Johnstown, Pa., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Johnstown Stamp Club. Contact: Charles D. Holtzman, Jr. (814) 532-0199.
Email: ***chazhjr@msn.com***

Nov. 21-23, 2014, Illinois. Chicagopex 2014, Sponsored by Chicago Philatelic Society, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca, Ill., Contact: Robert Glass.
Email: ***boblglass@mac.com***
Website: ***www.chicagopex.org***

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

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A new addition to ATA's long-standing handbook series!

Christopher Dahle, Editor

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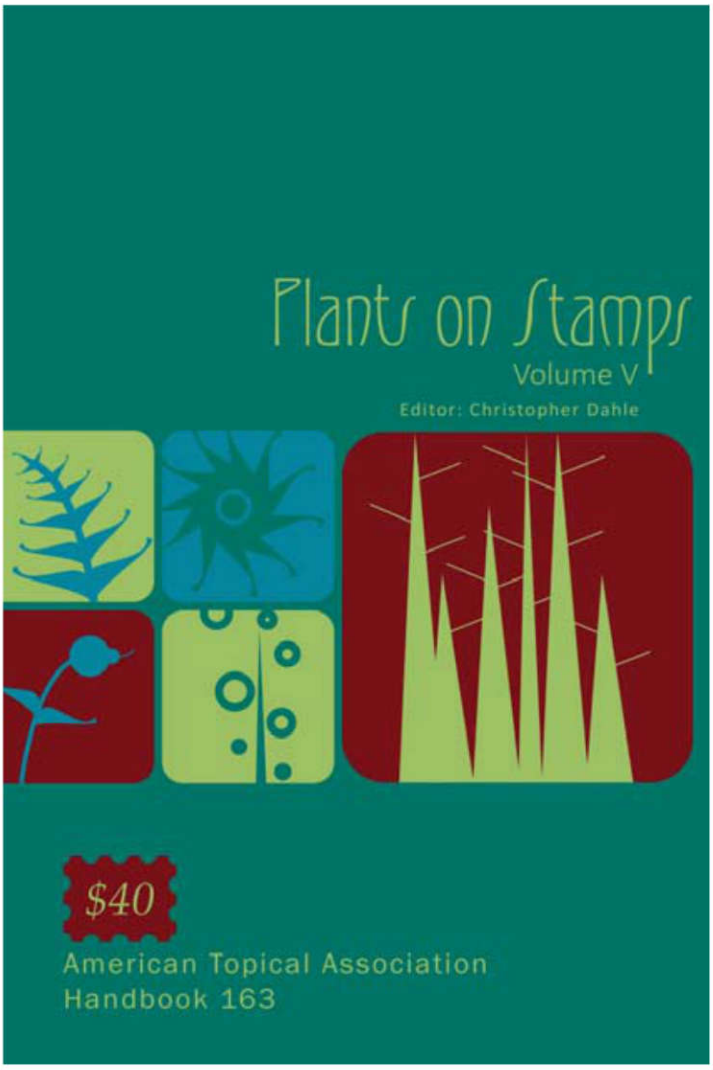

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1269	2002	10 d	*Malva sylvestris*	Malvaceae	Fl A
1270	2002	24 d	*Laurus nobilis*	Lauraceae	Fl A
1283	2003	5 d	*Ulva lactuca*	Ulvaceae	V A

Print copy, $35 to ATA members (shipping $4 US, $10 Canada, $17international) Electronic (DVD) contains *Plants I-V* plus *Orchids*, $30 to ATA members (shipping free if purchasing print copy also; otherwise $1 US, $2.25 Canada, $3 international)

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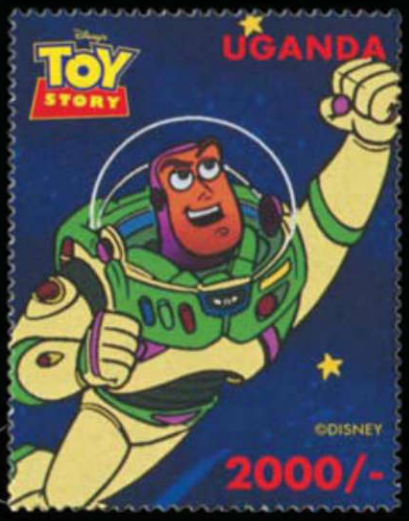

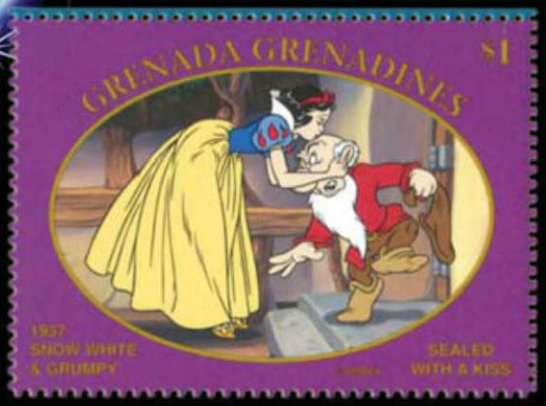

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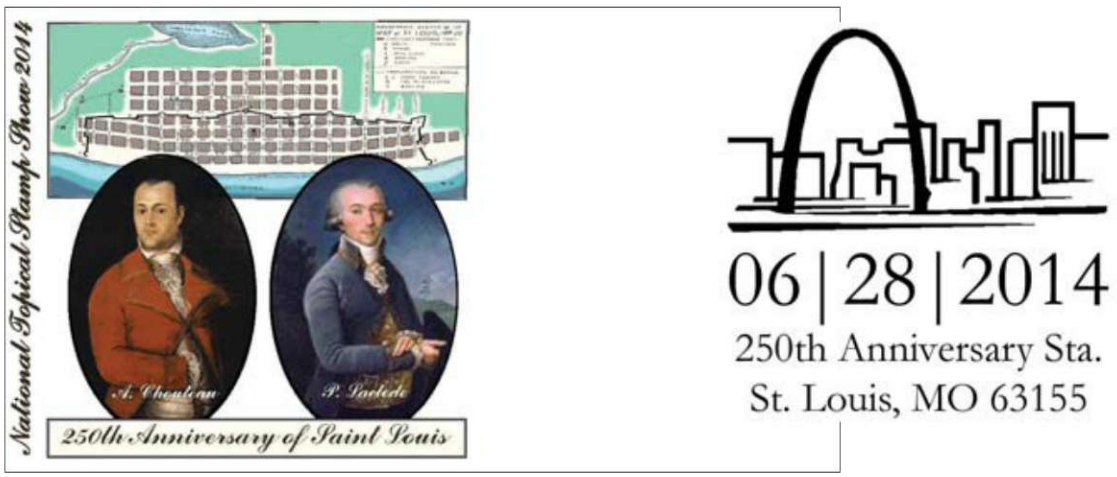
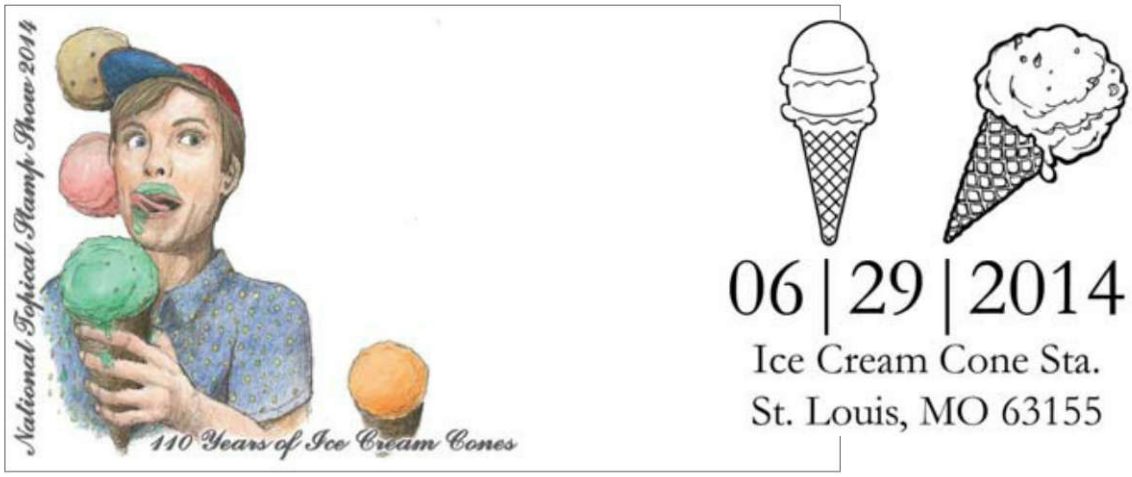
NTSS 2014 Cachets

The NTSS 2014 cachet artist was Thomas Minor. Tom designs the cachets for his local WSP show, the St. Louis Stamp Expo, and has a loyal following. Cancellations are by Chris Lazaroff, cachetmaker and former president of AFDCS. Thanks to Tom and Chris, who are both long-time members of ATA. See p. 34 of the July-August issue of *Topical* Time for more information.

— Order from the ATA Office —





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TOPICAL TIME

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NTSS 2014
Limited Edition Cachets

John Colasanti produced 25 numbered Limited Edition Cachets for ATA, and donated all the costs for production. John's work is much in demand among first day cover collectors. He won ATA's cachet contest in 2011 and is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American First Day Cover Society and current President of the Cachet Makers Association. A few complete sets are still available (three cachets, all with same number). If you want a matched set, do order soon! See p. 34 of the July-August issue of *Topical Time*.

American Topical Association

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