

ATA “TOPICAL TIDBITS” WINS MEDAL IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The American Topical Association won Second Place/Honorary Award Silver, with Special Prize, for its new series of philatelic youth materials, “Topical Tidbits,” in an international philatelic literature competition. Palmares have been posted for PROMO4YOUTH, a special division of the International Philatelic Literature Exhibition (IPHLA) held in Mainz, Germany, November 2-4.

“Topical Tidbits,” ATA’s online resource for youth, teachers, and philatelic youth leaders, was one of eleven entries in the noncommercial division of the IPHLA PROMO4YOUTH. First Place/Gold was awarded to BdPH (Germany) Department of Education and Youth; Stamp Camp USA received Third Place/Bronze.

The full IPHLA Palmares and the Jury Report may be viewed at www.iphla.de. An English translation of the Jury Report is posted on the ATA website, www.americantopicalassn.org.

Interested collectors, youth, and leaders can access all editions of “Topical Tidbits” (totaling 142 pages of stamp collecting activities during its first year) on the ATA web site. The six modules currently available are: Penguins; Fun Foods; One World, Many Stamps; Summer Olympics; Stamp Collecting; and Toys and Games. Web sites for the other PROMO4YOUTH entries can be found at www.iphla.de/pdf/promo4youth.pdf. A rich array of youth materials is available on the web sites.

“Topical Tidbits” is produced by ATA member Aimee Devine of Wisconsin. MaryAnn Bowman, also of Wisconsin, is the coordinator of ATA Youth Activities. ATA youth materials also include an “Introduction to Stamp Collecting” and dozens of topical album pages available on its web site at www.americantopicalassn.org/youth.

SEAPEX 2012

Jack R. Congrove, BU1424

As I am a long-time resident of The Great Northwest, I was easily able to attend SEAPEX 2012 held in Seattle, Washington, during 26–28 October. The show was sponsored by a group of western Washington stamp clubs. This was their first probationary year trying to become one of the World Series of Philately national shows and the first time the show expanded from two days to three days. They are still small, but getting off to a good start.

The show was held at the Seattle Center, site of the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair, and included a bourse with 20 west coast dealers and 142 frames of exhibits. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the fair and the city has held many commemorative events to celebrate the occasion. Appropriately, the exhibits contained one titled, *A Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of Seattle’s Century 21 Exposition*, by Arthur J. Cole. This interesting eight-frame display class exhibit received a silver award. It contained lots of original advertising and souvenirs.

The Grand Award was won by David McNamee’s five-frame postal class exhibit titled, *Tasmania’s First Numeral Obliterators & Provisional Cancellation 1853–1861*. Mr. McNamee is a highly experienced philatelic exhibitor and judge. You can find some of his exhibits dealing with Tasmania on-line at the AAPE web site, <http://www.aape.org/exhibits.asp>.

Two of the exhibits showed biological topics. In the postal class, a seven-frame exhibit titled, *Canada’s Wildlife Week Celebration*, by K. David Oldfield, received a vermeil award and also an AAPE Silver Award of Honor for excellence in presentation. In the thematic class, a three-frame exhibit titled, *Birds of North America as Depicted on the Stamps of Canada and the U.S.*, by David A. Manuwal, won a bronze medal.

Next year SEAPEX will occur on 1–3 November. I invite all of you to come enjoy the show along with the activities, cuisine, and natural beauty of The Great Northwest.