

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

ANNUAL DUES

In the December edition of the journal, we placed a reminder for all members to send in their dues for the upcoming year. Thank you to all who have accomplished that. However, the Secretary has had to send reminders to a few who have yet to respond.

This is the first time the Secretary has sent out an e-mail reminder. Previously, we have handled this via the postal system. This method did reveal that we do not have current e-mail addresses (and in some cases current mailing addresses) for some members because some reminders were returned as undeliverable.

As a result, we ask that all members with access to e-mail send a short message to the Secretary to update your e-mail and postal mailing addresses. His e-mail address is: *chris-dahle@fastermac.net*.

NEW MEMBERS

The Biology Unit welcomes the following new members:

1850	Vic Eichler, Three Rivers, MI	amphibians and reptiles (4)
1851	Pieter Strydom, Littleton, CO	flowers (2)
1852	Earle Hicks, Port Charlotte, FL	many topics
1853	Ben Burch, Berkeley, CA	paleontology, fauna (0, 3)

LETTERS

A thank you note from a former ATA President regarding the Biology Unit History publication.

“You ruined my day! I had all sorts of things planned, but your Biology History arrived and I became totally engrossed in it. What a fascinating study. I don't know how you did it. Even though I am not a member of the BU, I knew (know) so many of the people involved, and had a great time reading about them. It is not often that such an in-depth study is done on a group—and it is important that this type of history is preserved. Too often, as you well know, info gets totally lost. A remarkable study and I thank you for including me in your mailing.” —Donald W. Smith (ATA Past President)

More feedback on the *Biophilately* Index/Unit History publication.

“Please accept my congratulations on your marvelous history of the Biology Unit, which I read tonight after receiving *The Mother of All Indexes* in the mail today. I am inspired to attempt a bird-stamp-related article sometime in 2014! I am thinking about an article on the 27 species that are monotypic (only representative of their family) using the Clements/Cornell taxonomy.” —Peter R. Bono

[I am eager to receive such an article for publication. I think many members would find it interesting, including those who do not collect the bird topic. I encourage all of our members to submit even just a couple of paragraphs on a topic that interests them —Ed.]

“Thx for the *Biophilately* index. What an incredible resource – and what a huge amount of time, energy and patience to prepare it!” —Jack Andre Denys (ATA President)

Member suggestions.

“I didn't find [a renewal] form when I went to the website. The home page of the website has a main button called ‘Membership.’ Under that is one button which says ‘Application.’ In addition to having the renewal form with the current issue—which is accessible only if you login in with your membership credentials, I suggest adding a second link under ‘Membership.’ This link would say ‘Renewal’ and would cause the downloading of the Renewal form PDF.

“I note that the "Renewal" form doesn't contain the word 'Renewal' on it. Instead it is called a DUES NOTICE. Most people think about renewing their membership not being notified that dues are now due.

“[The form] doesn't contain a field where you can indicate what CALENDAR YEAR you are renewing for. For example, if you receive one of these in Sept 2013, you might not know if it was intended to prepay 2014 or to catch up and pay for 2013....” —Peter R. Bono

[Our webmaster has incorporated these suggestions. In the past, the lack of a distinctive form for renewal has sometimes caused us to mistakenly assign a new membership number to an existing member. —Ed.]

Member request to our Secretary.

“Chris, I received the package you sent to me and in reading over the materials am truly impressed with the completeness and passion that the members of the Biology Unit of ATA have provided to the Society. I had no idea that such an effort was underway in this world, but am truly grateful for the work of so many people over the past 62 years!

“The index to all 62 volumes is most impressive, and certainly useful for newcomers such as myself, and in reading over the history of the Biology Unit by Jack Congrove I can more completely understand the professionalism involved in directing the Unit to the present time.

“Now a question: How is it possible for me to access the articles indicated in the index to the 62 issues? As I am updating the checklist of amphibians for the Society, I particularly desire to be able to review articles that have been published in Section 2: Zoology/Amphibians (listed on page 81) and Herpetology (listed on page 91) of the complete index.

“I have checked with our local library for Scott catalogs and found out that they have only one catalog from 2010. I have need to find out the Scott (or other) numbers for several hundred amphibian stamps dating back several decades and obtaining the articles from earlier copies of Biophilately Journal seems like a wise way to go if that is possible. Are they possibly accessible online? I look forward to your comments regarding how this can be achieved.

“My interest in collecting stamps probably began when I was ten years old, which would have been exactly the same year as the first issue of *Biophilately Journal* was published. I can only imagine how much richer my experience would have been if I learned of the ATA way back then! But, on the other hand, with my professional career behind me, maybe I had to wait until the present time to delve into the topical collecting with the time and focus that I'm doing now.

“Sending best wishes, with thanks for all you sent.” —Vic Eichler

Response from Chris Dahle: *Our Unit librarian, Mark Reineke (mikadoate@sasktel.net) may have access to the articles you are interested in. I am also copying to Jack Congrove because he located a complete set of the journals while compiling the index. I don't know if any one library has a complete collection of the journals. My collection goes back to 1983, and I would be glad to send you electronic copies of any articles. The Postal History Foundation's (PHF) Peggy Slusser Museum in Arizona has issues of Biophilately from 1960 to present as well as Biology and Biological Tid-Bits starting in 1951. The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania (part of the American Philatelic Society) has an online catalog that shows holdings in 10 philatelic libraries and has copies of the journal from 1951-1986. The APRL will charge for lending or photocopying. I don't know what the lending opportunities are for the PHF library.*

The 2010 Scott Catalogue in your library should list all stamps from the first issues of each country through issues of 2009, so you should be able to find many of the Scott numbers using that reference. You should also ask the ATA for a copy of Handbook 91, Fishes, Amphibia and Reptiles on Stamps of the World published in 1977. That should have a list of amphibians to that date. That should also give you a starting point for the update. Don't hesitate to ask if you have more questions. We'll do our best to get answers.

[We are in the process of scanning all back issues of the Unit journal into electronic format to provide access to all the articles and checklists in past editions. At almost 14,000 pages, this process will take us a little time, especially since most of the scans we currently have are not searchable and we want to do them over to enable search capability. —Ed.]

A portion of an open letter to the Editor of *Linn's Stamp News* from one of our Associate Editors regarding a change in their policy that will affect many of us who are interested in finding out about new issues in our topics.

“I’d like to make a few comments regarding the disappearance of this [New Issues listing]. As you know, I write for a Journal, *Biophilately*, a part of the ATA. From this New Issues section, I was able to get advance listing of what countries were issuing what stamps and the listing of what each issue consisted of, which alerted me to issues having birds as part of the issue. There are other writers that author other sections of this journal, which is published quarterly to collectors who subscribe to *Biophilately*. We have authors for Botany, Fungi, Mammalia, Ornithology, which I author, Ichthyology, Invertebrates, Herpetology, Entomology and Paleontology. They all rely on the New Issues to get advance notification of upcoming issues to inform members who collect any of these items.

“Not knowing what upcoming issues are being released by all the postal administration countries in the world, will cause many collectors to be unaware of when these countries will be issuing items that they collect. Collectors are a very peculiar lot and like completeness to what they collect....

“In addition, Scott Catalog is not going to take care of the reasons I’ve listed above, because Scott does not list every release each month. Some country listings don’t get listed for over a year. Some countries Scott has problems even knowing what is being issued and when to even get listed in their catalog. I can probably name at least eight to ten countries that have not been updated for more then (sic) three or more years.

“This decision to drop the New Issues section and to rely on *Scott Stamp Catalog* to be the one to herald what new issues are out there is a very big step backwards to the stamp collecting community and the collectors. I’m sure that there are dealers who also rely on the New Issues section to know what to order for their customers collecting interest from these countries. Many dealers do not have an automatic agreement contract with these countries to forward them new material. They rely on the New Issues section in *Linn's Stamp News* and then make their determination of what material to purchase. They know what interests the majority of their collectors they deal with, but without knowing what is being issued will only hurt their sales to their collectors because they were not aware of the material available.

“It would appear the *Linn's Stamp News* does not know as much about the stamp collecting community and it's collectors as they think they do. This decision was very poorly thought out.” —Glenn G. Mertz

More on this same subject from the editor of another ATA study unit journal.

“Dear Linn’s, Using the excuse (*Linn's*, 3 February 2014, p. 50) that ‘preparing these [New Issues] listings takes up an enormous amount of time’ (I’m sure it does; so what? That’s your job, and it’s time well spent!), and that ‘the New Issues listings, for all intents and purposes, were duplicating a great deal of the content in the New Issues Update’ (not true), are pretty lame excuses for eliminating the New Issues feature altogether! My primary ‘intent and purpose’ in faithfully checking the weekly New Issues listings is to learn who designed the stamps, how they were printed, what entities printed them, and how many stamps were included in the press run—where can I find that information in the monthly New Issues Update? Answer: I can’t. You have eliminated one of the primary reasons that I even bother to subscribe to Linn’s. Bad move, people, bad move!” —Bruce L. Johnson, Editor *Philateli-Graphics*, Graphics Philately Association

[Like most business decisions, I am sure there were cogent arguments on both sides. Perhaps the editors misapprehended the interest in this column among the community. Its loss will make it more difficult to find out about new issues and their related details for our journal. Fortunately we have been gathering and publishing details in Biophilately about the many websites (see page 62) that provide this information, so there are still resources available to help our readers and associate editors. —Ed.]