

NEWS OF NOTE

BIOPHILATELY LITERATURE AWARD

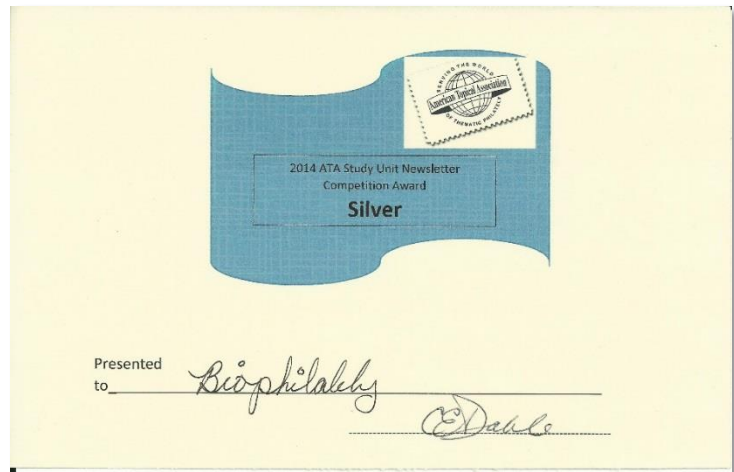
This year for the first time, the American Topical Association held a Study Unit Literature contest in conjunction with the National Topical Stamp Show. Only three other shows in this country currently hold philatelic literature exhibitions. They are the APS StampShow, CHICAGOPEX, and NAPEX. This new contest gives topical groups a chance to show their publications and get constructive feedback for improvement.

The idea for this contest was from our own Fred Skvara, who until this year was a member of the ATA Board of Directors. Sixteen of the 52 ATA study units submitted their newsletters or journals for judging. The publications were organized into three groups by membership size of each unit: Large (more than 200 members), Medium (50–200 members), and Small (fewer than 50 members). *Biophilately* competed in the Medium category.

Chris Dahle, who is an accredited philatelic judge, served as the Chief Judge. (Naturally he had to recuse himself when it came to evaluating our own journal.) The other members of the jury were Bruce Johnson, former Director of Units for the ATA, and Wayne Youngblood, noted philatelic author and Editor of *Topical Time*.

The quality of the entries was very high with all earning at least a Silver-Bronze award. *Biophilately* garnered a Silver medal. Three received Gold awards: *Ice Cap News* (American Society of Polar Philatelists), *The New Cartophilatelist* (Cartophilatelic Society), and *Enophilatelia* (Wine on Stamps Study Unit).

Judging this year was based on the rules for Literature exhibits provided by the American Philatelic Society. There was a lot of discussion among the study unit editors and members that these rules are not suited for the type of topical publications produced by the ATA study units. As a result, the ATA is planning to revise these rules for future contests.



The positive response to this first-time competition ensure that there will be more of these events at future shows.

NEW CHECKLIST

In the last issue, we reported on the new ATA topical checklist database. The ATA uses this database that contains almost 400,000 entries on stamps and almost 600,000 topical listings to produce tailored lists available to members. This project is the result of the work by Karen Cartier, with technical assistance from her son, Michael.

The checklists, available in a spreadsheet format or printed, include the country, date of issue, Scott number, denomination, and a description of the stamp subject. They are invaluable to topical collectors in researching and acquiring stamps. In some cases, meter stamps, postmarks, postal stationery and other items are included. The ATA will regularly update the lists, and members have the option to receive annual updates.

The latest iteration of the Checklist dATAbase contains a brand new checklist on Biologists. It is the only list added during the last month. It currently contains 2545 items. Below is an example of some of the A country listings. Note, many of the descriptions are very complete and contain a lot of information that would be helpful to members of the Biology Unit.

Checklists are available to ATA members at a nominal price. Cost is a penny per item on the checklist—with mini-lists for 50 cents and maxi-lists of more than 5,000 items for \$50.

Country	Year Mon Day	Denom	Scott	Description
Aegean Islands, Italian	1932	1.25l	26	Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo Botta (1766-1837), Biologist, Medicine, Poet
Aegean Islands, Italian	1932	100l	C14	"Notebooks" by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) Biologist, Anatomist
Afars and Issas	1972 Oct 05	20fr	C70	Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) - Pasteurization Process; Glassware, Mortar, Crystals, Biologist, Bacteriology
Afars and Issas	1972 Oct 05	100fr	C71	Jean-Marie Camille Guerin (1872-1961), Biologist, Veterinarian, Bacteriology, Leon Charles Albert Calmette (1863-1933), Biologist
Afars and Issas	1973 May 09	8fr	C83	Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543), Telescope, Biologist, Medicine
Afars and Issas	1973 Oct 12	10fr	C85	Edward Jenner (1749-1823), Mason, Physician, Discoverer of Vaccination, Biologist, Medicine, Bacteriology
Afars and Issas	1973 Oct 12	49fr	C87	Robert Koch (1843-1910); Tuberculosis Bacillus; Biologist, Bacteriology, Nobel Medicine (1905)
Afars and Issas	1973 Oct 12	85fr	C90	Andre-Marie Ampere (1775-1836), Biologist, Botanist
Afars and Issas	1975 Jul 24	150fr	C92	Andre-Marie Ampere (1775-1836), Biologist, Botanist
Afghanistan	1951 Nov 04	35p-125p	390-91	Ibn Sina Avicenna (980-1037), Doctor and Philosopher, Biologist, Surgeon, Astronomer; 20th Anniv. Of Founding of the National Graduate School of Medicine
Afghanistan	1982 Nov 24	7af	1018	Robert Koch (1843-1910), Biologist, Bacteriology, Physician; Tuberculosis Bacillus; Nobel Medicine Centenary
Afghanistan	1952 Jul 12	Various	B1-2	1000th Anniv. of Birth of Ibn Sina Avicenna (980-1037), Biologist, Surgeon and Philosopher, Astronomer, o/p with Anniv. Of Birth of Avicenna

AMPHIBIAN HANDBOOK

A new ATA Handbook is in the works by Unit member Dr. Vic Eichler (BU1850) that will list amphibians on stamps of the world. The listing will include entries for almost 1300 stamps from 192 different countries. The author also has images of more than 90 percent of the items.

Dr. Eichler is requesting help from Unit members willing to assist in getting Scott catalog numbers for some of the individual stamps because he does not have access to the latest Scott Catalogues at his local library. Any member who can assist him will receive credit in the publication. Please contact him at: 10867 Dutch Settlement Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093, or by email at vic33@frontier.com.

Vic also collects coins with frog images on them, and he tells me that there are about three dozen countries that have issued such coins including the USA. On the back of our 2012 US quarter in the National Park series recognizing El Yunque Forest Park in Puerto Rico there is a small coqui frog, which is prevalent throughout the island and a symbol of the territory.

One of his favorite frog coins, though, is from Fiji. If you are interested in obtaining a listing of these coins, please contact Vic at the address listed above.



NEW INSECT HANDBOOK

Our own Don Wright, who is the Associate Editor for Entomology and also a member of the Unit Board of Directors, has just completed work on the fourth ATA handbook on Insects (HB164).

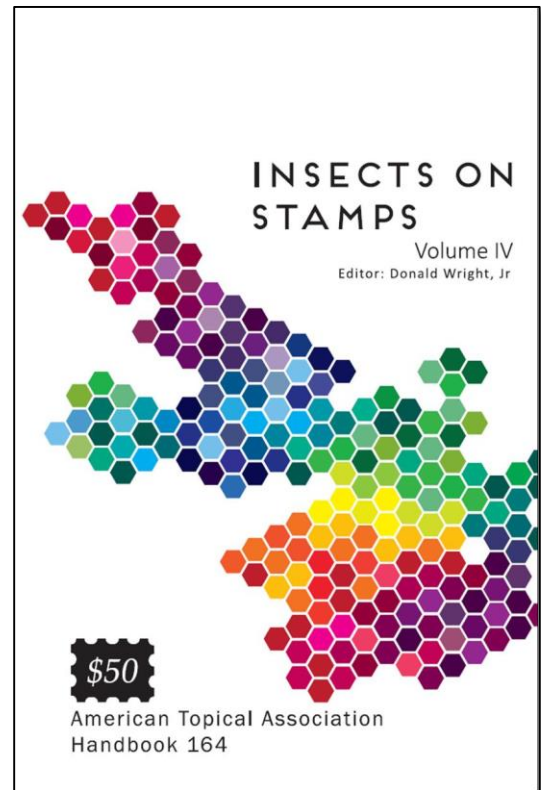
Volume 4 of *Insects on Stamps of the World* (2003–13) is expected to become available at the APS show in Hartford, Connecticut on 21 August. This ATA volume will list stamps by country of issue and by taxonomic order.

The ever increasing quantity of “stamps” from organizations like Stamperija, Ltd. and other non-governmental organizations has resulted in such non-catalog items being listed separately in this volume.

Additionally, ATA will be making available a compact disk containing all four volumes of the Insect handbooks merged into one. The advantage of this is that corrections, additions, and updated taxonomic changes to all previous volumes (1893–2013) will be included in one place. The disk will be searchable, as well, making it easier to find all information in one place. Volume 4 and the CD are available from the ATA.

At its annual meeting, the members of the Biology Unit voted unanimously to sponsor the publication of this handbook as a contribution to the ATA.

The attractive cover design is by Amanda Morgenstern.



TOPICAL TIME DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The American Topical Association (ATA) has released a complete digital archive of all *Topical Time* issues from 1949 through 2013. It contains 382 issues of the thematic journal, totaling about 34,272 pages, in electronically searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The Archive is housed in a 16-gigabyte wafer-style flash drive the size of a credit card. It plugs into Universal Service Bus (USB) ports on both Windows and Apple devices.



Topical Time Digital Archive

Topical collectors seem delighted with the comprehensive searchable index supplied with the Archive. The index has been prepared and refined during the last two years and is supplied in three different formats. There is ample space on the Archive flash drive to hold hundreds more issues of *Topical Time*. Archive users are downloading current and future *Topical Time* issues from the ATA website at www.americantopicalassn.org. Purchasers of the *Topical Time* Archive will have access to FlippingBook versions of every issue on a website.

ATA members contributing to the development of the *Topical Time* Archive are Myron Molnau (team chair), Dorothy C. Smith (indexer), Chris Steenerson and Todd Ronnei.

The comprehensive digital archive of *Topical Time* is available from the ATA Office for \$99 postpaid. Payment may be by check to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008, or PayPal to americantopical@msn.com. Call 618-985-5100 for more information or to pay by credit card.