

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue completes Volume 63 and reminds us that the end-of-year holidays are upon us. With that in mind, I wish all of you a terrific holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

The close of the year also reminds us that we need to send in our annual membership dues payment. Please remit your payments to the Treasurer, Chris Dahle, using the enclosed form. For those who receive only the electronic version of the journal, please use the application form under the Membership link on the Unit website, <http://www.biophilately.org>. Also, a reminder that our Study Unit accepts donations, which we use to defray costs of printing and mailing the journal, acquiring awards to present to Biology exhibits, and promoting the Unit's educational mission. Please consider adding a donation to your dues remittance.

This issue contains more story articles than our typical issue. Our Marine Invertebrate column makes an appearance after a short hiatus. The second installment of Vladimir Kachan's feature on Butterflies and Moths begins on page 225. Our Letters column is becoming rather sparse. Please keep your letters and e-mails coming. This sort of exchange is one of the primary goals of our Unit.

A report on SEAPEX 2014 begins on page 213. If you attend, or are involved with organizing a local, regional, or national show, especially one that includes exhibits, please send me a report.

As the journal editor, I am on various philatelic distribution lists and often receive messages about new issues. I try to use some of these to fill out pages that are partially blank because the preceding column did not take up an entire page. The new issue from Uruguay shown on page 228 is an example of this. When I received the notice about this issue, it contained only a picture of the item, a title, and the date of issue, plus the notice was in Portuguese because it came from an organization in Brazil named FILACAP. What happened next illustrates the power of the Internet and the extent of knowledge among our associate editors.

First, I was able to download a high quality image of the issue and crop it to place in the article. Next, though I understand some Spanish, I had to use the translation applications on the Internet to confirm the titles on the stamp images. Sometimes you can find details about new issues from the websites of the issuing postal authority. But unfortunately the information about this issue from *Correo Uruguayo* only listed the printing quantity and the names of the designer and printer.

The next task was to identify the subjects depicted on each stamp. The strawberry on the Family Agriculture stamp was easy, as was the Plains Zebra on the Biodiversity stamp. But what about the two birds, one on the stamp and one in the margin? I checked [birdtheme.org](http://birdtheme.org), but it only listed the flamingo. So, I contacted our New Birds editor, Chuck Braun, and he quickly came through with the identification of the hummingbird.

Being a collector of butterflies on stamps, I have an extensive set of references, which I consulted to identify the butterfly on the Environment stamp (this image shows the *lavinia* form of *Junonia evarete*).

Now about those plants. I consulted our Botany editor, Chris Dahle. He immediately identified the specimen in the margin and replied that he had emailed a botany professor in Uruguay who specializes in composites (whom he found via Google). No more than 20 minutes later, we had our reply from Dr. Mauricio Bonifacino of the *Facultad de Agronomía Laboratorio de Botánica*, in Montevideo, Uruguay, about the thistle species.

The Internet is a powerful research tool that all of us can use to understand more about items in our collections.

Jack Congrove

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