

EDITOR BIOGRAPHIES**Michael Kogan**

[Ed. Note: Michael Kogan recently joined both the American Topical Association and the Biology Unit. He has taken over as Associate Editor of the Paleontology column from Dr. Hans-Peter Schultze.]

Michael was born in Ukraine in 1971. His topical collecting interest is Paleontology and includes stamps and other philatelic material that depicts fossils, prehistoric flora and fauna, paleontologists, and contributors to paleontology.

He found his first fossil (the tooth of a prehistoric fish) when he was about 12 years old. This find led him to a local natural history museum where he discovered more about prehistoric life in the region. One of the museum employees explained his fossil and he began looking for more. After a while, he had a collection of ammonites, belemnites, petrified wood, and teeth of prehistoric fishes, and he dreamed of becoming a paleontologist.

At about the same time, he started collecting stamps depicting dinosaurs, fossils, and paleontologists, although few of this topic were available then. After finishing school, his family decided to move to Germany. The emigration process was not easy, especially moving to a country with a different culture and language. Along with adapting to these changes came military service, study in college, marriage, and getting a job—not much time left for a hobby.

Michael now works as freelance electronic engineer and hardware designer in Munich, Germany, and still keeps an interest in paleontology. A few years ago, he and his teenage daughter found his old stamp-album and became interested in stamp collecting again continuing with the paleontology topic. Now both are collecting stamps.

Michael manages a website at <http://www.paleophilatelie.eu> where he shares his knowledge about the topic and has created a thematic philatelic catalogue. He is active on Facebook and dozens of international forums under nickname Paleophilatelist. He speaks several languages including English, German, Russian, and Hebrew, and understands Ukrainian. He considers himself multicultural and open to other opinions and is always eager to hear from another collectors, especially those who have similar collecting interest.



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