

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The first issue of *Biophilately* for 2015 begins appropriately with new features, new personnel, and exciting news. I would like to welcome Michael Kogan from Munich, Germany as our new Associate Editor for Paleontology. Michael produces and operates an extensive website that deals with both Paleontology and Philately at the following address: <http://www.paleophilatelie.eu>. We have been listing this site in our Reference section for a couple years.

Dr. Hans-Peter Schultze, our former Associate Editor, will continue to contribute to the journal. He is stepping down because he is deeply involved in publishing on some paleontology research. Dr. Schultze took over the Paleontology section from Wallace Ashby in 2006, when Wally became ill. We greatly appreciate his contributions and assistance and hope to see some more articles from him in future editions.

We are thrilled to break the news that Don Wright, one of the Unit Directors and Associate Editor for Entomology, has been selected as American Topical Association 2015 Distinguished Topical Philatelist. See the announcement on page 4. Twenty-eight of the 122 DTP recipients to date have been members of the Biology Unit, so our Unit can be justly proud of its contribution to topical collecting.

In addition, we have more breaking news on page 5 regarding the approval by the American Philatelic Society for the Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX) to become a World Series of Philately national show. Your editor is President of the Board of SEAPEX and we here in Seattle are excited about this recognition and challenge. I invite all of our readers to come visit our show scheduled for 11–13 September 2015. See the article for details.

Speaking of WSP shows, the National Topical Stamp Show is coming to the Portland, Oregon area this year to be held from 31 July to 2 August. There are some exciting developments regarding this show described on page 16.

In this edition we have omitted the New Issues listings for Fungi due to the dearth of issues lately, and also Ichthyology and Marine Invertebrates because of a lack of submissions. We more than compensate for these in quantity because of expanded listings for Herpetology and Paleontology.

We also have some interesting articles. Vladimir Kachan continues his four-part article on Butterflies and Moths and Donald R. Ager from the Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society has given us an article about exotic birds shown on Columbus-related issues.

It seems that 2015 is starting out in an exhilarating manner. Let's keep it rolling by submitting some of your own articles or observations. The next edition should contain the completion of the Butterfly and Moth article and we will have an article on penguins from another sister study unit, the Penguins on Stamps Study Unit.

Wishing you all a fun year with your collecting activities.

Jack Congrove

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Please see the Biology Unit website (www.biophilately.org) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to: Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402