

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Another busy philatelic spring has kept my calendar full. As I write this, I just returned from the Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition (PIPEX) in Portland, Oregon. This is one of the American Philatelic Society's World Series of Philately shows, and despite its name it is a national level show. It gets its international appellation because it is sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, which includes groups not only from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, but also from British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

I served as the American Topical Association ambassador at PIPEX and along with other assistants, we signed up four new ATA members.

One other hat I have been wearing is that of co-chairman of the National Topical Stamp Show that will be held this year in the Portland area from 31 July to 2 August. The other co-chairman is Orlando Trier from the Oregon Stamp Society. See the news story about the NTSS on page 86. At PIPEX, we managed to recruit two additional dealers for the NTSS bourse. So, I can say PIPEX was a successful event from the ATA perspective.

In addition to my ATA duties, I have been deeply involved in organizing another national level stamp exhibition in Seattle. As you may recall from the announcement in the last edition, SEAPEX has been approved as the newest WSP exhibition by the APS. We have great plans for a terrific show. We already have more dealers committed than previous years and the applications for philatelic exhibits are arriving with increased frequency.

This year our theme celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which famously collapsed four months after it opened in 1940. We will have several bridge-themed events and displays as well as many interesting presentations and seminars. I cordially invite all of you to visit our show, which will be held 11-13 September at the Tukwila Community Center near the SeaTac International Airport. See our website at www.seapexshow.org.

This edition of the journal includes no Ichthyology or Herpetology columns. I am still looking for an associate editor for Herpetology. Some of the new issues listings are quite lengthy. The biology topic is currently the most prevalent one for new issues. Only celebrities on stamps come close to challenging it.

This edition concludes the four-part article on butterflies and moths by Vladimir Kachan. There is also an interesting article by Dr. Vic Eichler dealing with the contribution amphibians have made to the advancement of science.

I would like to see articles on subjects from our other departments. I am quite certain that every one of our members has a story about a subject on a stamp or group of stamps in their collections. Please write a few paragraphs about it and send them to me. Do not worry about formatting or grammar. I will take care of all that as editor. I just need your words.

Summer is nearing and this is the time of the year that many stamp collectors turn their attention to other activities, but it is also the season that hosts the most stamp shows. In addition to the NTSS, the APS StampShow will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 20–23 August.

I wish all of our members a safe and pleasant summer.

Jack R. Congrove

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