

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hopefully you will have the electronic version of this edition well before, but by the time you are reading the printed edition, the largest stamp show of the year, World Stamp Show-NY 2016, will be in full swing.

This eight-day show in New York City will feature more than 200 dealers from around the world and more than 4000 frames of exhibits. The American Topical Association will have a super booth at this show (#1276–1278) and members of the Biology Unit will be helping to staff the booth throughout the show. Please stop by to see us and pick up some freebies for members.

The ATA will also hold its **annual general meeting** at the show on Friday, 3 June from 1–3 PM in Room 1E06. I hope to see some of you there.

We have made a change to the method for receiving back copies of the journal. We have the latest editions on the website and plan to eventually add scans of all the back issues to permit downloading by the Unit members. In the meantime, we have discontinued the offer of having the Librarian produce hard copy pages. If you desire a copy of a past article, the Librarian will provide electronic copies via email on request.

I am looking for a contributor who can provide a column like the one we have describing “New Birds,” but for **Mammals**. The journal used to publish a recurring column titled “Mammals Biographical” that provided background information on the various mammalian species depicted on stamps. I think such a column would be useful and interesting. If you are interested in undertaking this endeavor, please contact me by email at jackcongrove@comcast.net, or write me at the address on the inside cover.

Also, I am seeking a contributor who can provide a recurring column on **Microbiology**. This is an area that has been seriously neglected throughout the entire history of this publication. But it is also a significant part of the biological sciences and has important applications in modern life (*cf.* Zika virus currently in the news).

The aviary door has been left open and flocks of birds have escaped. Glenn Mertz has captured them in his Ornithology listing in this edition. Glenn got tired of waiting for Scott Publishing to assign numbers and list these stamps in their catalogue, so he has updated the listing with a bevy of back issues, 34 pages worth.

Chuck Braun, who writes the “New Birds in the Philatelic Aviary” column, has recently been in the hospital. He is recovering and has provided his column, which he had assembled before his illness. New Birds has been a long-running and popular column since it was started by Gus Eglajs in 1976. We wish Chuck a speedy recovery.

Due to the length of the Ornithology list in this edition, I have omitted the Herpetology listing. We will catch up with these ectothermic tetrapods in the next edition.

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Chis Dahle, has provided his report of our financial situation on page 73. You will see that we have been spending more than we have been taking in. This is a situation that we literally cannot afford to continue. Thanks to all the members who have made donations in addition to their regular dues. Please consider joining their ranks and send in your own donation today.

Jack R. Congrove



DUES RATES (US\$)

Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10
On-line membership	\$15

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
Half page insertion	\$10
Quarter page insertion	\$5

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