

## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S CORNER

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

In the last issue, we sent notice that annual dues are payable. If you have sent in your dues already, thank you very much for your support and membership. If you have not yet made payment, or if you cannot recall, look on your **mailing label** to see the year for which you are paid up.

There is a renewal form available for download on the Membership page of the Biology Unit website ([www.biophilately.org/membership.html](http://www.biophilately.org/membership.html)). You can also fill out an on-line form at the website and make your payment using PayPal.

If you want to receive only an electronic copy of *Biophilately* via the website, the annual dues are only \$15. For delivery of the journal by surface mail, the annual dues are \$20 for US addresses and \$25 for international addresses.

### NEW MEMBERS

Regrettably, we have no new members to report in this edition. The Biology topic is immensely popular. It is likely that someone in your local club is a collector of something related to zoology or botany. Sign them up. Membership applications are on the website ([www.biophilately.org](http://www.biophilately.org)). Or you can contact the Secretary directly.

## NEWS OF NOTE

### TOPICAL STAMP MARKET

Herrick Stamp Company is one of America's most famous stamp dealers. They offer a new issues service among other things. They publish a stamp market report that includes a market strength grade (1 to 10) for various stamp collecting areas. See the entire report at their website ([http://www.herrickstamp.com/marketing\\_commentary.php](http://www.herrickstamp.com/marketing_commentary.php)).

They state that the stamp market has been stronger for the past few months and they have added topical stamps as one of their survey categories. They believe that thematics are an important part of the stamp market and that **topical** stamps, especially **Bird stamps**, are gaining popularity. New issue stamps with intricate and informative design details are also very strong.

At left is an extract of their report that shows the ratings for the past three Herrick surveys. The chart reflects what their customers order and how market prices are moving.

The chart indicates the market for topical stamps is stronger than any other category except British Colonies, where it is tied.

This should not be surprising, because topical collecting is popular with both beginning and experienced collectors. This information should encourage us all to look for other people interested in topical stamps and ask them to join the ATA and our own study unit.

COUNTRY	Apr '15	Feb '16	Oct '16
Africa	5	4	4
Asia	5	5	5
British Colonies	5	6	6
China Area	5	4	4
Europe	3	4	3
France & Colonies	3	4	4
Middle East & India	3	3	5
South America	5	5	5
United States	5	4	4
Worldwide New Issues	5	5	5
Topical Stamps	7	6	6

## ARTICLES NEEDED

Astute readers may have noticed that over the past several volumes we have published many articles from the same small set of authors. Of course, we greatly appreciate the contributions of these writers, but we would like to see **more variety and input from others**. We are sure all of you have something interesting to say and you are an expert in the area you collect.

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Therefore, we are challenging each of our members to send in at least **one short article for publication** in the upcoming editions of the journal. You could write about a particular stamp or set of stamps that you especially admire in your collection, perhaps how you came to acquire it, or something about the object it depicts.

You could write about a certain plant or animal, or group of plants or animals. We would very much like to see something similar to our “New Birds” column where you could focus on a specific stamp subject and describe its physical characteristics, habitat, and other ecological features, especially if it is a species new to philately.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th on the month preceding the edition date. The next deadline is 15 May for the June edition. Do not worry about formatting or grammar. That is what the editor is for. Also, do not concern yourself with placing any images “just so” in your article. Provide the images as separate files. The editor will have to reformat them to fit anyway. All we need are your ideas and verbiage.

### NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW

The American Topical Association, our parent organization, will hold its annual National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) on **23–25 June 2017**, at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The show themes for each day are: Nature (Friday), Culture (Saturday), and Technology (Sunday).

The show will feature an all-thematic philatelic exhibition, several cachet makers, and a 30-dealer bourse. Dealers will provide not only topical material, but also a wide range of other stamps, covers, and philatelic items. There will be meetings, seminars, activities and special tour events for your pleasure. Free parking, youth activities, and Stamps in your Attic appraisals also are offered.

On Thursday before the show, ATA is offering a half-day tour of Cedarburg including the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, Cedarburg Cultural Center, and Cedarburg Art Museum.

On Monday following the show, there is a full-day tour of New Glarus including the Swiss Historical Village and Museum and the Chalet of the Golden Fleece Museum. See the ATA website to register for the show and sign up for the tours (<http://americantopicalassn.org/ntss/ntss2017.shtml>).

The room rate at the show hotel is \$99 (plus ~15.1% tax) and is available by calling 414-764-5300 by 7 June 2017, or by selecting the direct link on the ATA website, which is easier. Give the group code **NTS**.

Your editor will be presenting a class at the show on **Making Your Own Album Pages by Computer**. This seminar will teach you how to use Microsoft Word to create your own tailored album and exhibit pages.

The Biology Unit will also hold a **meeting** at the show on Saturday at 10:00 AM.

### EXCHANGE REQUEST

*[We recently received this request from one of our writers.]*

My name is Vladimir Kachan. I am 58 years old and for 40 years I have collected philatelic materials of the world with butterflies and moths. I am a serious thematic philatelist, but only an amateur in the area of Lepidoptera. During 25 years, I created a Butterfly philatelic exhibit, which is unique in the world for the Butterfly theme and has been awarded an FIP Large Vermeil medal twice in World Philatelic Exhibitions PORTUGAL-2010 and PHILANIPPON-2011.

I look for and study old philatelic materials of the world with butterflies and moths and write philatelic articles with my research. More than 50 of my articles about butterflies and moths in philately have been published in thematic philatelic journals of the world. I write articles with the aim of popularizing the subject of Lepidoptera on stamps, cancels, and postal stationery.

I am looking for friends/philatelists to exchange thematic and philatelic knowledge and trade philatelic materials with butterflies and moths. I have duplicates of very many philatelic materials of the world with butterflies and other insects including postal stationery, FDCs, special cancels, meter marks, and mint stamp sets.

I can help in creation or improvement of butterfly (insect) philatelic exhibits. Perhaps in your philatelic club some thematic philatelists interest in butterfly (insect) topic?

Yours sincerely, Vladimir Kachan, Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus