

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I thought for my first President's message I would introduce myself. I think most members know me, or know of me. I have been an ATA member since 1997. I was shamed into joining ATA at Pacific '97. That is where I began collecting my beloved Hedgehogs on stamps. I attended my first National Topical Stamp Show in 1999, for the 50th anniversary of ATA. Shortly thereafter I joined the Biology Unit.

I live in Cincinnati with my menagerie of cats, dogs, and fish. I have been a docent at the Cincinnati Zoo, as well as volunteering at a cat and dog rescue. My father was a professor, I grew up seeing the world. I loved actually going to the places I had seen on stamps! With too many worldwide stamps being issued, I decided to go Topical. Most of my interests are biological; hedgehogs, wild cats, newts, puffins, meerkats, aquarium fish, and iris. I also love fencing, bagpipes, and of course beer and wine.

I look forward to the future of the Biology Unit. I would like to thank Alan Hanks for his service as President and wish him the best in "retirement." He has given so much to the ATA and the Biology Unit.

Laurie Ryan



### EMERITUS NARRATIVES

According to Article 3 of the Biology Unit Constitution, "retiring Presidents and Editors in good standing shall automatically have Emeritus status." Further, "Presidents and Editors Emeriti shall be honorary, non-voting members of the Governing Board, unless they are elected to another officer or director position." In accordance with this rule, our immediate Past President, Alan Hanks, has assumed a position on our board of directors.

Alan is in the process of taking care of some family matters. He will be continuing to write his travel tales and recollections of past ATA shows for inclusion in *Biophilately*. Look for them in upcoming issues.