

## NEWS OF NOTE

### ATA WEBSITE WINS APS AWARD

The website of our parent organization, the American Topical Association (ATA), received a Gold award in the 2017 American Philatelic Society Website Award Competition held during the APS StampShow in August. The award recognizes website excellence.



The judges for this competition were Judy Johnson, Manager of Membership Administration for the APS; Donald J. Chenevert, Jr., Chairman of the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship Advisory Board; and Lloyd A. de Vries, host of The Virtual Stamp Club and Associate Editor of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

The award includes a certificate and an electronic badge for display on the website. The ATA Webmaster, Amanda Morgenstern, is an award winning graphic artist and designer. She is also a Director on the ATA Board.

Some of the jury comments include: “Exceptional website. Up to date, colorful, informative, content rich, engaging...everything you want in a media resource.... Bonus points for downloadable kids pages! Excellent site overall.”

Take a moment to visit the ATA website at: <http://www.americantopicalassn.org/home.shtml>.

### DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST

The ATA is soliciting nominations for its highest award in 2018, the Distinguished Topical Philatelist. The honor is awarded to a person who has made significant contributions to topical philately, and to the ATA in particular.

Send a letter of recommendation describing the person’s contributions to Jean Stout, P.O. Box 98174, Pearl, MS 39298-8174, to arrive not later than 31 December 2017. The award will be presented at the joint APS-ATA stamp show in Columbus, Ohio, 9–12 August 2018.

### LETTERS

Dear Mr. Congrove, I received my latest *Biophilately* journal and was quite happy to see a new series included on “International Botanical Congresses” by Dr. John Gray. It appears a worthy follow-up to the wonderful series on “Alexander von Humboldt” by Dr. Lyman R. Caswell. A sincere thank you goes to both authors for thoroughly enjoyable and educational writing. Best regards, Fran Adams.

(*via email*) You have been sending me two extra copies of every issue of *Biophilately* for use at ATA tables at the ASDA show in New York and NOJEX in New Jersey. Over the past several years I think that I have only recruited one new member for the Biology Unit. I think we should stop sending me the extra two copies as it doesn't seem to be cost effective.... One of the problems with the print version of *Biophilately*, as has been mentioned at several of our meetings at NTSS, is that people who collect one biology topic do not want to receive a printed journal that includes a number of other biology topics. Regards, Fred Skvara.

[*Ed. Note. I can understand the views of these members. However, since this is a journal for the entire Unit, we must continue to publish the variety of topics we currently include. If members desire to receive only the portions of the journal in which they have an interest, then the website offers this option. Still, we will try to include interesting articles in a variety of subjects that may enlighten the reader even if they are not exactly in their area of collecting interest. As a modest proposal, if readers wish to see more articles about their topic, then they should submit some for publication.*]