

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I am listening to the birds sing and watching them find mates or build nests. The flowers are blooming, trees are leafing out. The geese are stopping traffic as they direct the little goslings across the street. Just waiting for the humming birds to arrive. Spring is here at last. The dogs and cats spend time outside now in the sun, no longer bored inside. Stamp shows are now in full swing as well. No more worry of snow storms to keep you away.

StampShow/NTSS is fast approaching. I hope you are planning to attend at least part of the weekend. Come support the Biology Unit and the ATA by helping out at the ATA booth. Our meeting will be 10AM on Saturday the 11th of August. Come and let us know how the study unit is doing.

The theme this year will be DRAGONS! Thursday morning will be a first day ceremony for four new dragon stamps. Although not real (or are they?), they have the attributes of real animals, mostly reptilian. Perhaps dragons are descendants of dinosaurs, or an early branch of reptiles. They were found in the sea, hidden in mountains, or flying through the air.

European dragons tended to be evil, while Oriental dragons were good. In China and Japan, they symbolized good fortune, and were Gods who cared for the people that worshipped them. We will certainly have fun with this theme.

Laurie J. Ryan



DRAGON STAMPS NEW ISSUE

The US Postal Service plans to release a set of four colorful stamps depicting dragons at the joint ATA-APS Stamp Show in Columbus, Ohio. The show runs 9–12 August 2018. The formal First Day ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, 9 August, at 12:00 PM. Each self-adhesive stamp bears the “Forever” rate denomination, which currently is 50 cents.

The stamps will be issued in panes of 16 showcasing four different designs. a green fire-breathing dragon towering over a medieval-inspired castle; a purple dragon with orange wings and sharp black armor on its back snaking around a white castle that evokes Camelot; a black dragon with green wings and green armor on its back swooping past a ship on the sea; and a wingless orange dragon weaving its way around a pagoda.



The stamps feature digital illustrations created by artist Don Clark of Invisible Creature studio. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps.

These designs are sure to be popular with cachet makers and collectors. The joint show will feature other dragon-themed aspects. The ATA is preparing a special Dragon topical checklist, which will be offered for sale to all show attendees. “We’re thrilled to have USPS unveil these great stamps with us in Columbus,” said Scott English, APS executive director. “There will be something for the whole family highlighting this cool theme. No experience necessary, so we hope you will join us!”