

### CLOSED ALBUM

#### IN MEMORIAM: DR. BEVERLY S. RIDGELY (BU61/LM61)

Dr. Beverly Sellman Ridgely, our longest serving Unit member, succumbed to old age on 25 October 2017, in Providence, Rhode Island. He was 96 year old, lucid to the end, and surrounded by his three children and their families.

He was born on 16 December 1920, in Baltimore, Maryland, where he excelled at lacrosse at the Gilman School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in 1943. Having attended Naval ROTC, he was commissioned as an ensign in the US Navy. During WWII, he served aboard the destroyer escort USS *Manlove* in the Pacific Theater, and later as an instructor at the Naval Training Station in Miami, Florida.

On 20 May 1944, he married Barbara Tomkins. They remained together for almost 70 years until her death in 2013.

After the war, he received one of the first Woodrow Wilson fellowships ever awarded and used it for graduate studies in the French and Classics Department at Princeton, receiving his Ph.D. in 1953. He immediately began instructing in the French Department at Brown University, becoming a tenured professor and remaining there for his entire professional career. He was a devoted supporter and faculty advisor to several Brown University sports teams.

To the surprise of many, he decided in 1980 to retire early in order to pursue avocations that interested him, one of which was philately. He became the foremost expert on bird stamps. He served as a Director of the Biology Unit between 1962 and 1966, and as a contributing editor of Ornithology listings for *Biophilately*, as well as authoring dozens of articles for the journal.

His interest in birds also led to travelling the world to check off more than 3,000 species from his life list, often with his wife in tow, and on special occasions with his son Robert, who became a professional ornithologist. In his later years, he worked with conservation organizations.

He is survived by his three children: Robert (Peg) Ridgely, Virginia Howe, and Peter (Debrah) Ridgely; six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

*[Ed. note: In the early years of the Biology Unit, many members were from academia. Our Secretary then was Dr. Willard F. Stanley, a biology professor at the State University of New York (Fredonia). He told a humorous story once about the name confusion involving Dr. Ridgely and another Unit member who was also a professor, Dr. Claude Weber from Switzerland. People who did not know them assumed that Beverly was a woman and Claude was a man, but the opposite was the case.]*

### BONES

*I came across this timeless observation in the PIPEX 2000 show program: It has been said that the membership of any organization is made up of four sets of bones:*

- There are the **wishbones**, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.
- Along with them are the **jawbones**, who do all the talking about the work and very little else.
- Another group is the **knucklebones**, who knock everything that anybody else tries to do.
- But the most valuable are the **backbones**, who get under the load and actually do the work.

*Take a look at yourself and determine which bone you are.*

**CLOSED ALBUM****IN MEMORIAM: DR. KENNETH P. PRUESS (BU349)**

Dr. Kenneth P. Pruess, age 84, of Lincoln, Nebraska, died 11 December 2016. Kenneth was Professor of Entomology Emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was born 21 June 1932 in Troy, Indiana, to Elmer and Clara (Grass) Pruess.

He graduated from Purdue University in 1954, and earned his M.S. in Entomology in 1955 and Ph.D. in 1957, both from The Ohio State University. His dissertation was titled, "Studies on the Clover Root Borer, *Hylastinus obscurus* (Marsham)."

He married Neva Currie on 15 June 1963. He worked at the University of Nebraska's North Platte Experiment Station from 1957–65, Entomology Department at UNL from 1965–97, and was Entomology Department UNL Emeritus from 1997 until the time of his death, continuing his research until 8 December 2016.

Throughout his career he conducted and published research on a wide variety of topics. He taught several undergraduate and graduate level courses and was active in graduate training, advising eight Ph.D. and nine M.S. students during his career. He was a quite popular teacher and combined classroom instruction with extensive field work.

He was a 60-year member of the Entomological Society of America and also a member of the Lincoln Stamp Club, American Philatelic Society, and the American Topical Association. Among his many interests were duck hunting, fishing, bowling, stamp collecting, and playing cards.

He served as Director of the Biology Unit from 1964–66 and 1972–85. He was Unit Vice President from 1985–89., and wrote several articles published in *Biophilately*.

He is survived by his wife Neva, their daughter Carleen (Ken) Coulter, his sister Ruth (Don) Johnson, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Cameron, and his parents.

[Ed. note: Thanks to Roberta Glatz (BU503) for forwarding Dr. Pruess's obituary by Professor Robert Wright, which appeared in *American Entomologist*, Volume 63, Number 4.]

## ATA FOUNDER

### IN MEMORIAM: JEROME D. HUSAK (1932–2018)

Jerome D. Husak, founder of the American Topical Association (ATA), the second largest philatelic organization in the US, died on 22 February 2018. He was 86.

Jerry was a teenager in Milwaukee in 1949, when he conceived of the idea of a society for topical collectors. He later wrote, “There must be others like myself,” I mused, “who are looking for guidance in forming a topical collection. Why don’t we get together and share our information through a united body of topical collectors?”

Thus, the ATA was born, literally, in Jerry’s bedroom, which became its first office. “Who knows,” he thought, “perhaps through the formation of the ATA, as many as 200 topical collectors might come together for mutual aid and exchange of information, ideas and stamps.” Within five months of its founding, the ATA had 408 members. In its 68 years, it has had almost 60,000 members from almost 100 countries. The ATA is the largest topical/thematic association in the world.

In his history of the ATA, Jerry wrote “The early days were not easy. Many people had to be convinced that topicals deserve a place in philately.” When the ATA affiliated with the American Philatelic Society in 1987, it became its largest affiliate. The Thematic Award at the APS StampShow is named for Jerry.

Jerry was ATA member #1 and the first recipient of the ATA’s Distinguished Topical Philatelist award for service to topical philately in general and to the American Topical Association in particular. He collected the topics Americana, Universal Postal Union, and Stamps-on-Stamps.

Jerry earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Business Administration. He worked full time for the ATA, as editor of its journal, *Topical Time*, until 1977, and as executive secretary until 1984. When Jerry retired from the association’s board of directors in 2008, he was given the honorary title of director emeritus. In 2012, the ATA board designated May 25 as an “annual National Topical Stamp Collecting Day, promoting topical stamp collecting as a vital dimension of the future of philately and honoring topical philately visionary and ATA founder Jerry Husak on his birthday.”

Jerry died in Sun City West, Arizona, where he lived since moving there from Milwaukee in 1984. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sally, who was a tremendous support in his ATA endeavors. Despite failing health, Jerry and Sally attended the ATA National Topical Stamp Show, in Milwaukee in 2011, the last one they attended. Up till then, they had only missed two of the organization’s 61 annual shows.

ATA past president, Jack André Denys, recalled Jerry’s thoughtfulness. “At my first board meeting in 1986, Jerry gave me a large poster, depicting the complex development of Great Britain’s 1966 Battle of Hastings stamps, the first ever to be printed in nine colors. I didn’t even think he knew me,” Jack said, “But he even knew my primary topical interest. That poster now hangs above the computer in my stamp den.”

Contributions in memory of Jerry Husak may be made to the ATA, P.O. Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918.



## BIOLUMINESCENT LIFE IDENTIFICATION

In the last edition (*Biophilately* Vol. 67, No. 1), we announced the issue of a pane of 20 stamps depicting subjects that display bioluminescence. Because none of the species were identified on the stamp, we tried to determine the identities. One stamp showed fungi based on a photograph by Taylor F. Lockwood. Lockwood has identified his subject as *Mycena lucentipes*. The *Mycena* genus contains about 500 identified species. At least 33 of these are known to be bioluminescent.