

HAPPY MEMORIES: PART 2

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One way of accumulating material is to join a local stamp club and you can usually find out if there is one by asking a stamp dealer (if you have one nearby), or at the town office. I managed to find a club out of a list of several in the Toronto area. It was called the North Toronto Stamp Club and had periodic meetings at the Dewi Sant United Church.

My first meeting had an odd twist in that the collector sitting next to me asked what I collected. I told him that I collected “Topicals” and he turned his back as though I was some sort of alien being (apparently not uncommon in the early days of “Topicals”).

I told this story to a recent club meeting following our annual show and it produced much laughter! Recently, the club was putting on the annual show in conjunction with a coin club that operates in Toronto and I was invited to put my seven-frame Rhodesia exhibit in the “Court of Honor,” non-competitively of course.

A friend drove me to the show location as he was on the show committee and the frames were already being erected. When it came to putting up my pages, I found that these frames were taller than those I was familiar with and made an annoying discovery. I could not now reach as high as the top row, old age having advanced further than I thought. However, I managed by dropping my pages into the lower plastic strip and then pushing the page up in to the upper strip.

It was a very good show for a local stamp club and the judges had a tough assignment. A couple of weeks later, the crew got together for dinner before the post-exhibition club meeting, during which awards were handed out.

One thing has become apparent to me living here in Ontario and that is that a large percentage of collectors are only interested in Canada, although some collect other countries that were in the Commonwealth. There is quite a large number that collect Canadian revenues and a much smaller number collect “Thematics.”

Probably, an analysis of collectors in the U.S. would produce a similar picture. Many of the thematic exhibits that I see in shows are of an advance level, probably because judges at the shows always emphasize the inclusion of as many variations on the theme that the exhibitor can assemble and the skill shown in tying all the elements together.

NEWS OF NOTE

TOPICAL EXHIBITING SEMINAR

The American Topical Association (ATA) will offer a seminar on Competitive Thematic Exhibiting as an On-the-Road course at the joint NTSS-APS StampShow in Columbus, Ohio. It will be taught by Phil Stager, an award-winning thematic exhibitor, judge, and member of the Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ). Unit member and award-winning exhibitor Dawn Hamman says, “I took it at Sarasota. It was the best exhibiting class I have attended.”

The cost will be \$25 for APS members and \$95 for non-members. The fee for APS members is being subsidized. Course time is Thursday, 9 August, from 9 AM–6 PM. Location is the Greater Columbus Convention Center. You can register at the APS website (<http://stamps.org/on-the-Road-Courses>). Participants will receive a thumb drive in advance with files that they should review before attending the course. The registration deadline is 27 July 2018.

EDMONTON NATIONAL SHOW

The Edmonton Stamp Club sponsored their annual national stamp exhibition on 24–25 March 2018, at the Lion’s Recreational Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. The show organizers are to be commended for their successful effort to obtain youth and topical exhibits.

The exhibition was divided into National and Regional sections. The National section had 14 multi-frame, seven single frame, and two youth exhibits. The Regional section had three adult and two youth exhibits.

Kevin O'Reilly received a Large Gold award and Grand Award and Best British North America Exhibit awards for "A Postal History of Labrador Before Confederation." Joel Weiner received a Large Gold award and the Reserve Grand Award for "Cancellations used by the Allied Forces in Palestine during World War I 1917–1920."

Amelia Kelbert received a Gold award, the Best Youth exhibit, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) Youth Award, and the ATA Youth Award for "The World of the Monarch Butterfly." This was just one of many exhibits that featured biological topics.

Sam Chiu received a Gold award and the ATA First Award for "Frog and Toads, Their Relevance to Humans." Jan Brookes won Gold and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award for "The Evolution of the World Wildlife Fund Logo." Donna Trathen received Gold for "Horses: Origin, Breeds, and Roles." Alex Liusz Moser received a Large Vermeil and the ATA Youth Second award for "Time of Dinosaurs."

Ella Liusz Moser received a Large Vermeil in the Regional Youth section and an AAPE Silver Pin for "Animals All Over the World." Megan McLean won a Vermeil award in the Regional Youth section for "The Platypus."

DISTINGUISHED TOPICAL PHILATELIST

The American Topical Association's highest award, Distinguished Topical Philatelist, is being awarded this year to Cletus Delvaux. A 39-year ATA member, Delvaux is a prolific philatelic writer and editor.

A retired English teacher from Green Bay, Wisconsin, Delvaux has written more than 100 articles for *Topical Time*, *Linn's Stamp News*, and other philatelic publications. His primary topics are journalists, authors, and poets on stamps.

Delvaux has been president of the Journalists, Authors, and Poets on Stamps (JAPOS) Study Unit of ATA since 1993. In 2000, he also assumed the position as editor of the *JAPOS Bulletin*, and he writes extensively for that publication. He is a past president of the Green Bay Philatelic Society and edited its newsletter for 25 years.

The Distinguished Topical Philatelist award will be presented at the Celebration Banquet of APS StampShow-National Topical Stamp Show on 11 August in Columbus, Ohio.

See <http://americantopicalassn.org/awardsdtp.shtml> for further information about the award.



SEAPEX TO CELEBRATE WAC ANNIVERSARY

The Seattle Philatelic Exhibition (SEAPEX), an American Philatelic Society (APS) national-level stamp exhibition, will take place on 14–16 September 2018, at the Tukwila Community Center located just north of the SeaTac Airport at 12424 42nd Avenue South, Tukwila, Washington.

This year SEAPEX is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The WAC was created as an auxiliary unit in 1942, and converted as the active duty women's branch of the United States Army on 1 July 1943. About 150,000 American women served in the WAC during World War II. They performed mainly administrative duties in order to release men for combat related positions. The WAC was disbanded and women were integrated into other Army branches in 1978.

The show will host a special ceremony on Saturday honoring all women who have served in US military uniform. A special postmark and illustrated souvenir covers will also be available.

The show will feature 30 stamp dealers and 3,000 pages of competitive exhibits. The American Helvetia Philatelic Society and the United Postal Stationery Society will hold conventions at the show. Visit their website (<http://seapexshow.org>) for exhibit prospectus and application, event schedule, exhibit listing, links to the hotel, and other details.

MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB EXPO TO HAVE “BIRDS” AS A THEME

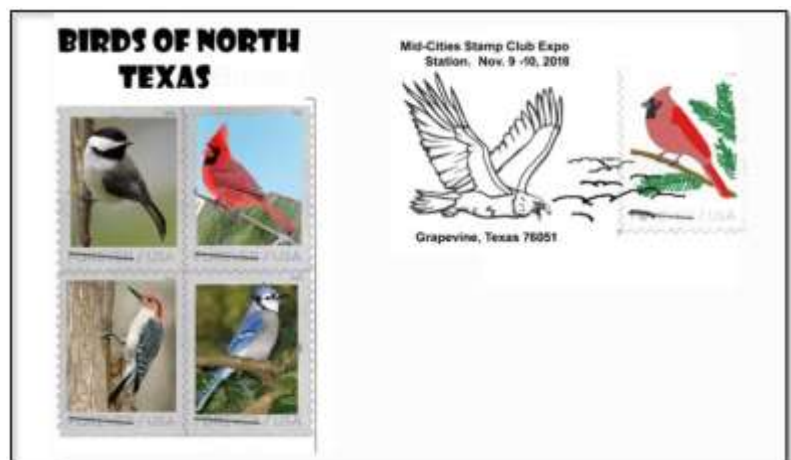
The Mid-Cities Stamp Club of Texas has announced a theme of Birds for their 2018 show on 9–10 November. As a result, the club is seeking exhibits with the topic of birds, for their competition. Frames are a very reasonable \$6 each, whether single frame or multi-frame, and three APS judges will be on hand to give exhibitors a chance to pick up some pointers on their exhibits without a large outlay of money. The club also has \$1 mini-entries of either one or four pages for a cash prize of \$10.

In addition to this special topical competition, the club is asking for the public to enter a single page with one or more photos taken by the exhibitor, to compete for a Most Popular Bird Photo contest. In order to best view photos, it is suggested that only one to three bird photos per page be submitted. There is no entrance fee for this side event.

Attendees to the Expo will be asked to vote for their favorite photo page. The Most Popular page will win an award in the form of a personalized sheet of legitimate U.S. Postage Stamps of the current rate of first class postage. Each stamp will depict the selected bird photo. If the page has two or three bird photos, the photographer will be asked to select the one that he or she would like to have made into these stamps.

Parking and admittance to the show is free. The show will have souvenir envelopes with a bird-related US Postal Service cancel and color cachet available for sale at the Welcome Table. The USPS will be selling the soon-to-be-released block of four stamps depicting four different birds. The show cachet will replicate the new stamps, but with photo images of those same birds in similar positions.

Members of the local Audubon Society will have a table at this annual show that also features 27 dealers, a large silent auction, youth tables, a beginner table, and a mixture pick where piles of stamps are available for only a nickel each.



The show will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center, adjacent to the DFW Airport. The show hours are from 9 AM to 5 PM on Friday, 9 November, followed by a \$25 per plate Awards Dinner, and from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, 10 November. For the stamp widows or widowers, the Grapevine Mills Mall is nearby and features a walk through aquarium, a huge food court, and a multitude of shopping opportunities.

For more information, the show prospectus and entry forms, go to www.mid-cities stampclub.com, or contact Ray E. Cartier at raycartier09@gmail.com.

ATA TO CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2019

Plans are already underway preparing for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the American Topical Association. The ATA was founded by Jerry Husak in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1949.

Look for announcements of special events and promotions throughout the year. The main events will take place at the 2019 National Topical Stamp Show. A special announcement will come soon about the dates and location of the show. (I know where it is, but right now I am bound by secrecy and must wait for the official announcement.)

A revised topical collecting handbook is in the works and you may expect to hear about other special publications and souvenirs.