

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am sure you noticed that the cover of this edition is different than usual. We have changed it so that we could print the photos in color taken by Dick Roman on his African trip. These will substitute for his Herpetology New Issues column. You can find his descriptions on page 239.

Despite my best laid plans, this issue was assembled in a rush. The joint ATA-APS stamp show in Columbus, Ohio, cut into my editing time. I went there with the intention of completing some of the work on the publication, but I was too busy the entire time to get much done. See the article about all the action at the eventful show starting on page 173.

It seems there is no expression for flocks of flocks of birds. The term flock implies that all birds in it are the same species. But we have multiple flocks in this issue as our Ornithology editor has apparently emptied his files of all the new issues that have accumulated over the recent past. As a result, we have 24 pages of avian new issues.

Speaking of birds, many of us have seen a murmuration. This is what scientists call a flock of hundreds or thousands of birds flying together in a whirling, changing pattern. This phenomenon has more to do with physics than biology. Studies have shown that it is controlled by three simple rules. Each bird is aware of the seven birds near it and by obeying these rules the flock appears to turn as a single entity. The rules are: Separation (avoid crowding neighbors), Alignment (steer toward the average heading), and Cohesion (maintain average position). These rules also have application in the drone industry.

Your editor entered *Biophilately* in the Literature exhibition at the ATA-APS stamp show and again it received a Vermeil award. We seem to be stuck at this level and would like to see some improvement. Each of you can help with this effort by submitting an article about some item in your collection, or some subject with a biological theme.

There was lots of big news out of the ATA-APS stamp show and one of the biggest is that the ATA and APS have decided to partner again next year with a joint show in Omaha, Nebraska. The synergy that developed between the two organizations manifested itself in a great increase in interest and attendance in this year's show. Hopefully that will carry forward to next year, because both organizations have a lot to offer each other.

The show this year exposed many dealers to the interests and sophisticated needs of topical collectors that I think surprised many of them. Possibly some thought that topical collectors just toy with the hobby and are not "serious" about the material they assemble. Anyone who has seen a topical exhibit knows that it features research much beyond the philatelic and scarce material that shows all aspects of philately.

Make your plans to attend the show next year, which is planned for 1-4 August 2019.

Jack R. Congrove



DUES RATES (US\$)

Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10
On-line membership	\$15

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
Half page insertion	\$10
Quarter page insertion	\$5

Please see the Biology Unit website (www.biophilately.org) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to: Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402