

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Typically these days when you hear a TV or radio commercial for some new “miracle” medication, it ends with a bunch of lawyerese detailing all the side effects of actually taking the drug. Many of them sound as bad, if not worse, than the disease they purport to cure. Recently, I heard an ad describe effects that you should report to your doctor that included “impaired judgement.” I wonder, if your judgement is impaired, how do you know?

I received some sad news about the death of my friend and fellow Unit member, Bea Vogel. Her Closed Album report is on page 4. I was introduced to Bea at PIPEX in 2012, by ATA Executive Director Vera Felts. Bea was looking for someone to help her prepare her exhibit on Spiders, which I was more than happy to do. She was a brilliant scientist and exceptionally nice person, and I miss her.



As I write this, I have just returned from the American Philatelic Society AmeriStamp Expo (ASE) held in Mesa, Arizona. This year's event was the last winter show that the APS plans to hold. These events have been operating at a deficit for the past several years. The ASE has been the venue for the World Series of Philately Single Frame Champion of Champions (CoC) competition. The Single Frame CoC will hence forward be held in conjunction with a selected WSP show. Starting next year for the next three years, this show will be the St. Louis Stamp Expo. See page 24 for a description of the Cactus Flower first day ceremony held at the show.

On page 11 you will find an article about maximum cards (maximaphily). These items provide a neat way to expand your topical collection.

I would like to include more articles from our members, but you will notice that several included in this edition have been drawn from other sources. Come on out there! All of our readers have some material in their collection of which they are immensely proud. I am sure that many of our readers would like to hear about it. Send me some text descriptions and a couple pictures and I will take care of the rest (and I can probably get by without the pictures).

Also, you will notice that we have not had a new member during the past quarter. It is very likely that among other members of your club there is someone who collects a biological subject. Try to recruit them for the Biology Unit.

As spring arrives, the stamp show season gets into full swing. See page 6 for an event schedule. I hope to see you at one of these shows. If I am present, you can contact me through the people manning the ATA booth. In any case, you should stop by the booth and visit with the ATA ambassadors and other members. They usually have some special deals going and always have the latest information, publications, and gossip.

Best of luck in your collecting this year.

Jack R. Congrove

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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:
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