

BIOLOGY UNIT HISTORY & JOURNAL INDEX

We recently received an email from one of our new members, Koenraad Bracke from Belgium. He has taken advantage of his membership to acquaint himself with our study unit by checking out the back issues of *Biophilately* on our website (www.biophilately.org) and reading about the history of the organization included in *The Mother of All Indexes*, which we published in 2013. Here is what he had to say:

“I have now been able to read the magazines on the website. Interesting - this chapter what X does in his free time. I will look if I can make this for my animals, too (owls, woodpeckers, spiders, ...).

“Is a membership listing (with collecting interests) included in one of the magazines? Or is this sent separately to members?

“I would like to contact Jean Stout regarding her cockroach exhibit on the website. I would also like to see the collecting interests of the other members.

“In the Unit History of 2013, I read the following:

The ATA celebrated its 50th anniversary during the NTSS at its birthplace in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 30 July through 1 August 1999. The Unit held its annual meeting on Saturday, 31 July at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel with 20 members and guests including international members from Canada and Germany and a guest from Belgium.

“The guest from Belgium—that was me. I also showed my “owls” exhibit there, next to the one of Frederick S. Ziemann who showed his “owls” for the last time and who won the Biology Unit Award. At that time as an exhibitor you could not get much explanation of the Jury—no points were given, only medals. We both received a gold medal, but no-one could explain why the one was better as the other. Fortunately, it seems that this has changed now in the US—they give points now, so now you can compare where you score better. Maybe after all these years I will participate again at one of the next ATA shows.”

Best wishes,
Koenraad

Koenraad has raised some points that should be of interest to many other Unit members. First of all, he inquired about a membership directory. The last such directory that we published was in 2013. There is more than one reason that we have not released a subsequent directory.

First of all, we have given our members the option to have their contact information and collecting interests made available in such a directory, or not. Because several members opted to be excluded from the directory, the officers decided that a directory would be of limited usefulness if it lacked a significant number of members.

Another more recent reason involves privacy concerns described on page 171. The Unit Board of Directors will be dealing with this issue and will be preparing a policy letter for release in the near future.

Second, Koenraad mentions an incident described in our Unit history published along with a comprehensive index of the first 62 volumes of the Unit journal. Every Unit member should be very proud of the activities and contributions that the members of the Biology Unit have made throughout its history. This publication not only describes these activities, but also provides statistical data and other consolidated information about the Unit and its members. I highly recommend that each member take some time to review this history and I am sure you will be just as impressed as I am with what a great organization we have.

When we published the index, we sent a copy to everyone who was a member at the time. If you have not received a copy, or have misplaced the one you got, you can download a copy of *The Mother of All Indexes* from the Home page on our website.

Last, we would like to invite Koenraad (and every other Unit member) to enter an exhibit at the NTSS (or whatever the new name will be) next year in Hartford, Connecticut. We need to show the APS and ADFCS what interesting and fun exhibits really look like.