

NEWS OF NOTE

The Great American Stamp Show

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After canceling the joint show in 2020, the American Philatelic Society, the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society held the long-awaited show from August 12-15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago adjacent to O'Hare Airport). When the doors opened at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning there was already a large group of collectors waiting to get in.

There were three First Day ceremonies on Thursday. At the first one, the USPS unveiled the set of eight Back-yard Games. The Faroe Islands Post, Post Greenland and Postnord Denmark released a joint issue commemorating stamp engraver Czeslaw Slania's birth 100 years ago. The United Nations issued a commemorative stamp for Mother Teresa. Stamp engraver, Martin Mörck, who worked on the Slania and Mother Teresa stamps was scheduled to be at the ceremonies but he was unable to travel to the U.S.

On Friday the ATA held its annual membership meeting. President Dawn Hamman recounted what has

happened over the past year. Executive Director Jennifer Miller gave a report on how the ATA is doing, including an increase of 10% in membership from July 2020 to July 2021. Three volunteers, Ann Byerly, Lynn Vernon and Terry Watson were recognized with awards.



ATA Vice President Tom Broadhead addresses the annual meeting of the American Topical Association

The Biology Unit met for its usual Saturday morning annual meeting. There was a small group: Dick Roman, Dale Shively, Susan Jones, Van Siegling, Jean Wang, Laurie Ryan and Chris Dahle. Topics of discussion were legitimate stamp issues and the lack of topical dealers at the show.

The Biology Unit made three awards for exhibits again this year. The awards were generously donated by Susan Jones. Phil Stager won the first award with his exhibit "The Coconut Palm – Palm of Life and Palm of Commerce." It also won the NTSS Grand. The NTSS Reserve Grand and the Biology Unit second award went to Greg Herbert for "An Ancient Partnership, and Uncertain Future: Butterflies, Moths and Man." Susan Jones won the third award for "The Coelacanth and the Comores."



The Biology Unit Awards. First, third and second, (L.to R.)

As far as I could tell, everyone seemed to think the show went off well, especially considering that they had only 2½ months to prepare for it. There were no dealers offering new issues, and Stamp Smith of Kansas City was the only topical dealer on the floor.