

EDITOR BIOGRAPHIES

This section continues our series of biographical information about our Associate Editors that we began in the Volume 62, Number 1. The Associate Editors continue a long tradition in *Biophilately* of providing research data and expert commentary on both philatelic matters and biological topics. Many of them are also authors of some of the checklists and handbooks published by the ATA.

Paul A. Mistretta

[Ed. Note: Dr. Paul A. Mistretta joined the Biology Unit in 1996. He took over as Associate Editor of the Fungi column from Norma McCumber in 2002.]

Paul was born in New York City, the second of nine children and has resided in six states all in the east. He received a B.S. in Biology from Fordham College in 1967, an M.F. in Forest Protection specializing in Forest Pathology from the Duke University School of Forestry in 1970, and a Ph.D. in Botany and Plant Pathology specializing in Mycology from the University of Maine in 1974.

From the viewpoint of his collecting interests, his degrees go a long way to explaining two of his topical interests: fungi on stamps, and trees on stamps.

Paul retired at the end of 2011 having worked just short of 35 years for the USDA Forest Service, first as an aerial observer detecting insect and disease damage to the timber resource of the National Forests in the Forest Service's Southern Region, then as a practicing Forest Pathologist, and finally as the Regional Pesticide Specialist for the Forest Service Southern Region.

A friend in his Boy Scout troop introduced him to stamp collecting when he was age 12 starting with a collection of US first day covers.

Paul is very active in philately. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society (including the American Philatelic Research Library and Writers Unit #30), the American Topical Association, the Germany Philatelic Society, the China Stamp Society, The Perfins Club (currently a Director-at-Large), and the Precancel Stamp Society. And, according to him, he unfortunately maintains collections related to all of these societal themes.

He has served as Editor of *The Perfins Bulletin* in two separate time frames (in the mid 1980s while still in graduate school, and more recently, from 2002–09) totaling about ten years. He has been Associate Editor of the Fungi New Issues column for the past 11 years. In addition, he is the author and co-author of numerous scientific publications dealing with timber and forestry diseases.

Paul makes his own albums for topicals and for revenues when commercial albums do not meet his needs, and he maintains extensive computer files related to stamps.

He is a voracious reader of philatelic and scientific publications related to his areas of interest, and also of fantasy and science fiction, among other genres. He has had a life-long romance with fine art and classical music and (he says) to avoid boredom in retirement, he has again started painting and dabbling in model railroading.

Paul and his wife have been married for 43 years and have four sons and two daughters and five granddaughters



Paul A. Mistretta

Michael J. Prince

[Ed. Note: Michael Prince joined the Biology Unit in 1978. He contributed his first article in 1983. In 1984, he began writing a column titled "Mammals Biographical," which was the mammal equivalent of the "New Birds in the Philatelic Aviary" column. In 2001, he took over the Mammalia New Issues column from David Meixner, who had become too ill to continue it. Michael lives in Aldershot, Hampshire, England. He is involved in local civic activities, but informs me he would prefer to keep his personal details private, so I will honor his request.]